

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In re Application of)	DOCKET TC-131850
)	
SHUTTLE EXPRESS, INC.,)	ORDER 01
dba Shuttle Express, Go Shuttle)	
Express, Limos by Shuttle Express,)	ORDER APROVING FLEXIBLE
and Downtown Airporter)	FARE TARIFF
)	
for a Flexible Fare Tariff)	
.....)	

BACKGROUND

- 1 On August 21, 2013, the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) adopted and amended rules in WAC 480-30 relating to passenger transportation companies in Docket TC-121328. The rules became effective on September 21, 2013.

- 2 One of the new rules, WAC 480-30-420, Fare Flexibility, allows an auto transportation company to offer flexible fares for regulated services. The rule change allows a company operating under a flexible fare tariff to charge any fare up to a maximum fare, calculated as 25 percent over the published or base fare in the company’s tariff prior to Commission approval of the flexible fares.

- 3 On September 27, 2013, Shuttle Express, Inc. (Shuttle Express or Company) filed with the Commission revisions to the Company’s currently effective Tariff No. 10 requesting to implement fare flexibility. Shuttle Express proposed to implement flexible rates for all of its routes and services. The requested effective date for Tariff No. 11 was October 27, 2013.

- 4 The Company filed revised tariff sheets on September 30, 2013, better illustrating its base and maximum fares.

- 5 Commission Staff reviewed the filing and agrees that the revised tariff sheets accurately depict the Company’s established base fares and allowable maximum fares under WAC 480-30-420. Staff recommends that the Commission approve a flexible rate tariff for Shuttle Express and allow the revised tariff sheets filed on September 30, 2013, to become effective on October 27, 2013, as requested.

DISCUSSION

6 The Commission agrees that Shuttle Express has demonstrated that its proposed flexible fare tariff complies with WAC 480-30-420. The maximum fares listed do not exceed 25 percent of currently approved and published fares. Under our new auto transportation company rules, no further review is required.¹

7 By approving a flexible fare tariff for Shuttle Express, the Commission is not approving or establishing any specific fare. Our approval empowers Shuttle Express to charge varying fares as determined by actual market conditions. We are granting the Company discretion to charge any fare it deems appropriate, up to the maximum fare. Thus the Company, not the Commission, will establish the specific fares charged to customers.

8 The Commission will monitor the implementation of this flexible fare tariff to ensure that Shuttle Express is providing service to the satisfaction of the Commission. We remain sensitive to the needs of auto transportation customers and trust that implementation of flexible fare tariffs will continue to provide fair, just, and reasonable rates for them.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (1) The Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, regulations, and practices of public service companies, including auto transportation companies.
- 10 (2) Shuttle Express, Inc., is an auto transportation company and a public service company subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) On September 27, 2013, Shuttle Express, Inc., filed a flexible fare tariff. On September 30, 2013, Shuttle Express, Inc., filed a revised flexible fare tariff replacing the tariff filing the Company made on September 27, 2013.

¹ Companies authorized to charge flexible fares must use the fares to recover all costs associated with providing passenger service, including, but not limited to, fuel costs, tolls, ferry fares, surcharges, and taxes. Any fuel surcharge in effect at the time a company is authorized to charge flexible fares will be canceled and is not included in the base fare. See WAC 480-30-420(4) and (11). At this time, Shuttle Express does not have a fuel surcharge in place.

- 12 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on October 10, 2013.
- 13 (5) Shuttle Express, Inc., has demonstrated that its proposed maximum fares do not exceed 25 percent of base fares.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 14 (1) The revised tariff revisions Shuttle Express, Inc. filed in this docket on September 30, 2013, shall become effective on October 27, 2013.
- 15 (2) In providing notice to consumers or in its advertising, Shuttle Express, Inc., shall not state or imply that the Commission approved or established any specific fare.

DATED at Olympia, Washington, and effective October 10, 2013.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

DAVID W. DANNER, Chairman

PHILIP B. JONES, Commissioner

JEFFREY D. GOLTZ, Commissioner