

**BEFORE THE WASHINGTON
UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

In the Matter of the Petition of	DOCKET TC-240259
BML Investments LLC d/b/a Wenatchee Valley Shuttle, Chelan Trolley Co.	ORDER 01
Relating to Partial Discontinuance of Service Authorized by Certificate of Convenience and Necessity No. C064605	GRANTING PARTIAL DISCONTINUANCE OF SERVICE

BACKGROUND

- 1 On April 16, 2024, BML Investments, LLC d/b/a Wenatchee Valley Shuttle, Chelan Trolley Co. (BML Investments or Company) filed with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (Commission) a petition requesting the Commission grant a partial discontinuance of service authorized by certificate of convenience and necessity C064605 (Petition).
- 2 In its Petition, the Company states that it cannot sustain passenger service between Wenatchee and the Spokane Intermodal Center, with stops at Pangborn Airport East Wenatchee, Quincy, Ephrata, Moses Lake, Ritzville, and the Spokane International Airport. The Company states that since the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, ridership has decreased to the point that BML Investments can no longer sustain the financial losses incurred while operating this route. In the previous six months, ridership numbers provided by the Company show a total of 164 passengers have utilized this route.
- 3 BML Investments initially notified the Commission of the Company's intention to discontinue the Wenatchee to Spokane Intermodal Center route in a tariff revision filing contained in TC-240179 on March 15, 2024. Commission staff (Staff) informed the Company that a separate filing for the discontinuance of service would be required to amend certificate C064605 before the tariff revision could be considered.
- 4 On March 20, 2024, BML Investments informed customers of the Company's intention to discontinue service on this route. The notice was posted in the Company's vehicles, Office, and on their website.

- 5 Potential passengers affected by a loss of this service will still be able to obtain transportation via Greyhound Lines Inc. (Greyhound) for service at all stops between Wenatchee and the Spokane Intermodal Center with the exception of Ephrata. Passengers originating in Ephrata will need to travel roughly 20 miles to Moses Lake for Greyhound bus service. According to BML Investments, only 10 passengers utilized the Company's service to travel to or from Ephrata over six months.
- 6 WAC 480-30-186(2)(c)(ii) provides that the Commission may attach conditions to any grant of discontinuance of operations that it deems necessary to protect the rights and interests of the public.
- 7 Staff reviewed BML Investments' Petition for partial discontinuance of service and recommends that the Company's Petition be granted.

DISCUSSION

- 8 We agree with Staff's recommendation and grant the Company's Petition approving the partial discontinuance of service authorized by certificate of public convenience and necessity C064605. The COVID 19 pandemic severely upset the means and habits of travelers and thus drastically altered the economic conditions for regulated passenger transportation companies. In light of these adverse and unfortunate circumstances, the Commission finds that it is consistent with the public interest that the Company be allowed to discontinue providing regulated auto transportation service from Wenatchee to the Spokane Intermodal Center including all stops between.

FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

- 9 (1) The Commission is an agency of the State of Washington vested by statute with the authority to regulate the rates, rules, regulations, practices, accounts, securities, transfers of property, and affiliated interest transactions of public service companies, including auto transportation companies.
- 10 (2) BML Investments LLC is a regulated passenger transportation company and subject to Commission jurisdiction.
- 11 (3) Under WAC 480-30-186, an auto transportation company must request approval from the Commission to discontinue some or all of its operations. The Company

must provide 30 days' written notice to the Commission and the public before the effective date of the discontinuance.

- 12 (4) This matter came before the Commission at its regularly scheduled meeting on April 25, 2024.
- 13 (5) After review of the Petition filed in Docket TC-240259 by BML Investments LLC d/b/a Wenatchee Valley Shuttle, Chelan Trolley Co., on April 16, 2024, and giving due consideration, the Commission finds that that the Petition s is in the public interest and is consistent with the purposes underlying regulation and applicable statutes. Accordingly, the Petition should be granted.
- 14 (6) Staff's determination and the Commission's review neither approves nor disapproves the reasonableness of any fees, charges, rates, purchase price, or accounting allocations.

ORDER

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

- 15 (1) The Petition by BML Investments LLC d/b/a Wenatchee Valley Shuttle, Chelan Trolley Co. to partially discontinue auto transportation service authorized by certificate of public convenience and necessity C064605 is granted.
- 16 (2) BML Investments LLC d/b/a Wenatchee Valley Shuttle, Chelan Trolley Co. must cease the portions of operations associated with this Petition.
- 17 (3) Certificate of public convenience and necessity C064605 is amended as provided in Appendix A to this order.
- 18 (4) BML Investments LLC d/b/a Wenatchee Valley Shuttle, Chelan Trolley Co. must maintain its passenger transportation and charter and excursion permit in good standing with the Commission.
- 19 (5) The Commission retains jurisdiction over the subject matter and BML Investments LLC d/b/a Wenatchee Valley Shuttle, Chelan Trolley Co. to effectuate the provisions of this Order.

20 The Commissioners, having determined this Order to be consistent with the public interest, directed the Secretary to enter this Order.

DATED at Lacey, Washington, and effective April 25, 2024.

WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

JEFF KILLIP
Executive Director and Secretary

APPENDIX A

BML Investments LLC
d/b/a Wenatchee Valley Shuttle
1511 S. Wenatchee Ave
Wenatchee, WA 98801

Certificate No.
C064605

PASSENGER SERVICE BETWEEN: Pangborn Memorial Airport East Wenatchee and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, with intermediate stops at Wenatchee, Peshastin, Cle Elum, North Bend and Bellevue, by reservation only.

All passengers must originate in Wenatchee.

AND

Charter and Excursion Services in the state of Washington, including services limited to specific auto transportation services granted with forbearance from rate and service regulation under RCW 81.68.015 in Docket TC-131111, Order 01, as follows:

BETWEEN: Wenatchee and Peshastin and sporting events occurring at T-Mobile Park in Seattle.

AND

BETWEEN: Wenatchee and Peshastin and sporting events occurring at Lumen Field in Seattle.

Charter and Excursion Services in the state of Washington, including services limited to specific auto transportation services granted with forbearance from rate and service regulation under RCW 81.68.015 in Docket TC-240084, Order 01, as follows:

Daily Passenger Service between Memorial Day and Labor Day Weekends:

BETWEEN: Wineries, Hotels, and downtown locations, between Siren Song Winery, Chelan, WA and Wapato Point Cellars, Manson, WA. Via S Lakeshore Rd along US-97 and WA-150.

TC-240259

April 25, 2024