



ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE

Title: Emergency Expansion of Shared Riding

Series/Number: AI-2016-002

Approved: March 15, 2016

Revised: N/A

Effective: March 16, 2016 at 12:01 a.m. to
March 17, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

I. BACKGROUND

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority has announced that all Metrorail service will be suspended beginning Wednesday, March 16, 2016 for emergency inspections. *See* http://www.wmata.com/about_metro/news/PressReleaseDetail.cfm?ReleaseID=6082. Metrorail will close at its normal time, 12:00 a.m. midnight, on Tuesday, March 15th, and will reopen at 5:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 17th.

The Metrorail shutdown is expected to place an extraordinary strain on the local transportation system. To assist commuters, residents, and visitors in the District of Columbia and surrounding communities during the 29-hour shutdown, the D.C. Taxicab Commission is authorizing an emergency expansion of “shared” riding as follows: a DCTC-licensed operator may organize and start a shared ride at any point within one (1) mile of a Metrorail location or to any designated taxicab stand. Licensed taxicab operators may act as starters by organizing any two (2) or more passengers at these locations into a single shared ride, where the passengers provide common or different destinations. Group rides – which are organized by passengers – are not affected by this administrative issuance.

There shall be no “surge” or other demand-based pricing for shared rides under this administrative issuance; all rides shall use the standard, metered taxicab rates in 31 DCMR § 801. In acting as starters, operators will be held to regulatory standards for grouping passengers objectively based on destination. *See* 808.2. Operators may work cooperatively to organize rides based on destinations, but no operator shall solicit or accept any payment in addition to the metered fare. *See* § 801.1.

Discrimination in providing service, including discrimination based on destination, is prohibited. Passengers wishing to file complaints may visit <http://dctaxi.dc.gov/service/complaint>.

This administrative issuance shall be effective upon posting on the Commission’s website. The Commission finds the action herein is required to protect passenger and public safety, and for consumer protection, during the emergency shutdown of Metrorail. *See* § 701.3.

II. PURPOSE

To expand the use of shared riding on an emergency basis from Wednesday, March 16, 2016 at 12:01 a.m. through Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 5:00 a.m. A shared ride shall be considered within the scope of this administrative issuance if the ride begins during the effective period.

III. POLICY

During the effective period, a DCTC-licensed taxicab operator may organize and start a shared ride at any point within one (1) mile of a Metrorail location, or at any designated taxicab stand. Operators may organize any two (2) or more passengers at these locations into a single shared ride, where the passengers provide common or different destinations. Operators may work cooperatively to organize rides based on destinations, but no operator shall solicit or accept any payment in addition to the metered fare. *See* § 801.1.

Shared rides shall be charged as follows: as each passenger reaches his or her destination, the metered fare shall be paid by the passenger(s) leaving the taxicab, at which time there shall be a new flag drop and the passenger(s) remaining in the group shall pay in the same manner until the last passenger(s) arrives at his or her destination and the final metered taxicab fare is then paid. There shall be a new flag drop for each leg of the trip. *See* § 801.8. All trips shall use the metered taxicab rates in 31 DCMR § 801.7.

For purposes of shared rides under this emergency administrative issuance only, operators may ask passengers their destination prior to the passenger entering the vehicle. Operators may not ask passengers their destination prior to the passenger entering the vehicle except where a shared ride is being formed pursuant to this administrative issuance. *See* § 819.9.

Group rides are not affected by this administrative issuance. No operator shall refuse to transport a pre-formed group at any time. *See* § 808.1.

IV. DEFINITIONS

“Group riding” - a group of two (2) or more passengers, composed by the passengers, prior to the booking of a trip, where the trip has common or different destinations.

“Shared riding” – a group of two (2) or more passengers arranged by a starter at a location designated in an administrative issuance, where the trip has common or different destinations.

V. AUTHORITY

District of Columbia Taxicab Commission Establishment Act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986, D.C. Official Code § 50-307(c)(1), (c)(12), (c)(13), and (c)(19); 31 DCMR §§ 701.3, 801.1, 801.7, 801.8, 808.1, and 819.9.

VI. PROCEDURES

None.