

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TAXICAB COMMISSION
NOTICE OF EMERGENCY RULEMAKING

The District of Columbia Taxicab Commission (Commission), pursuant to Sections 8(b) (1) (A) of the District of Columbia Taxicab Commission Establishment act of 1985, effective March 25, 1986, (D.C. Law 6-97 and D.C. Official Code § 50-307 (b) (1) (A) (2001), hereby gives public notice of its emergency rulemaking action taken on April 5, 2005, to add a fuel surcharge to the current rates for taxicab service in the District of Columbia. By its emergency rulemaking action the Commission voted to increase the fuel surcharge to one dollar (\$1.00) per taxicab trip effective at 12:00 a.m., May 2, 2005 for a period of one hundred twenty (120) days, unless terminated by the Commission.

The emergency rulemaking action will offset the recent increases in the cost of gasoline. It is the Commission's view that the substantial increases in the cost of gasoline creates an emergency that affects the public health, safety and welfare because taxicab operators will not be able to meet their public service obligations by providing a vital transportation service. The substantial increases in gasoline will cause many taxicab operators to leave the industry or discontinue providing taxicab service because it would be difficult for them to earn a fair rate of return on their investment. Consequently, these operators will not be able to meet the basic health and welfare needs for themselves and their families.

In addition, many senior citizens who are unable to use mass public transportation rely on taxicab service for medical and dental care needs, extended health services such as medical prescriptions and physical therapy, nutritional needs, social and other supportive services, will be unable to meet their needs without adequate taxicab service. The Commission finds that these and other circumstances affecting the taxicab service provided to the public creates an emergency that affects the public health, safety and welfare that warrants immediate action.

The Commission has determined that its emergency rulemaking action will be reviewed within 120 days of its effective date to determine if adjustments to the surcharge are warranted. The emergency fuel surcharge is not to be used to increase rental, leasing, association or other fees imposed upon taxicab operators. It is a specific fuel surcharge designed to help taxicab operators in offsetting the increase in the cost of gasoline.

Accordingly, the emergency rule surcharge will become effective at 12:01 a.m., Monday, May 2, 2005, and will remain in effect until midnight Tuesday, August 31, 2005, unless terminated prior to that date by the Commission. The emergency fuel surcharge in effect during this period adds one dollar (\$1.00) to the current zone rates below:

No. Zones	Current Fares	Fares Plus Surcharge
1	\$ 5.50	\$6.50
2	7.60	8.60
3	9.50	10.50
4	11.40	12.40
5	12.80	13.80
6	14.10	15.10
7	16.20	17.20
8	17.20	18.20