

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 22L-0344CP

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF ALPINE TAXI/LIMO, INC., DOING BUSINESS AS ALPINE AND/OR GO ALPINE FOR AUTHORITY TO TEMPORARILY INCREASE THE SCHEDULED AND SHUTTLE FARES NAMED IN PASSENGER TARIFF, COLORADO PUC NO. 11 ON LESS THAN 30 DAYS NOTICE.

**COMMISSION DECISION GRANTING TARIFF CHANGES
ON LESS-THAN-STATUTORY NOTICE**

Mailed Date: August 31, 2022

Adopted Date: August 31, 2022

I. BY THE COMMISSION

A. Statement

1. On August 1, 2022, Alpine Taxi/Limo, Inc., doing business as Alpine and/or Go Alpine (Alpine Taxi/Limo) filed an application for authority to publish a supplement to Passenger Tariff, Colorado PUC No. 11 to become effective on less-than-statutory notice. The supplement will increase the fares for scheduled and call-and-demand shuttle service.

2. Alpine Taxi/Limo, under Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) PUC No. 26246, may provide these scheduled and call-and-demand shuttle services:

a) Transportation of passengers, in call-and-demand shuttle service between all points in the County of Routt, State of Colorado;

b) Transportation of passengers, on schedule, between all points within a 35-mile radius of the intersection of U. S. Highway 40 and Mount Werner Road at or near Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

c) Transportation of passengers, in call-and-demand shuttle service between all points in the County of Routt, State of Colorado, on the one hand, and all points in the State of Colorado, on the other hand.

d) Transportation of passengers, on schedule, between Denver International Airport and Steamboat Springs, Colorado, via Interstate 70, U.S. Highway 40, and

Colorado Highways 9 and 131; serving the Shell Station at or near the intersection of Interstate 70 and Kipling Street in Wheat Ridge, Colorado, as an intermediate point; serving all intermediate points in Routt County Colorado, serving Silverthorne and Kremmling, Colorado, as additional intermediate points and serving all other points in the County of Routt, State of Colorado, as off-route points.

3. In this Application, Alpine Taxi/Limo proposes to add a fuel surcharge of a \$1.00 per person, per one-way trip for call-and-demand shuttle and scheduled shuttle between any point in the Steamboat Springs, Colorado, City limits and the Yampa Valley Regional Airport (YRVA), and a fuel surcharge of \$3.00 per person, per one-way trip for all call-and-demand shuttle and scheduled service between Steamboat Springs and Denver International Airport. Alpine Taxi/Limo requests that these fuel surcharges remain in effect for a period of 90 days.

4. In support of the request for the fuel surcharge, Alpine Taxi/Limo states:

Go Alpine proposes to charge a \$1 fuel surcharge per person for each one-way trip, for all scheduled and call-and-demand shuttle service between the Hayden Airport and Steamboat Springs (an average 24 mile one-way trip) and a \$3 fuel surcharge per person for each one-way trip, for all scheduled and call-and-demand shuttle service between the Denver International Airport and Steamboat Springs (a 180 mile one-way trip). As the largest market segment, thus greatest user of fuel, of Go Alpine's business the sustained increased fuel prices have impacted the financial sustainability of these two services. The company purchases all of the fuel used by company vehicles, which has increased by 32% since the first week of January 2022 according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (Exhibit B attached hereto). Exhibit B uses data taken from the U.S. Energy Information Administration website, which compiles weekly retail gasoline prices, in this case specifically the Rocky Mountain Region, from 1994 through 2022. Using the most recent data, it is apparent that the increased fuel prices have been sustained for almost all of 2022 thus far, and with a few short periods of decline, have been on the increase since the Spring of 2020. As Exhibit B shows, the average cost of retail fuel for the first week of January 2022 within the Rocky Mountain Region was \$3.476, whereas the first week of July of 2022 was recorded at \$5.115, over a 47% increase in costs.

5. On August 29, 2022, Alpine Taxi/Limo submitted an exhibit that provided additional financial information regarding "the current cost of fuel per one-way trip from

Steamboat to YVRA and from Steamboat to DIA, and the cost per one-way trip 6 and 12 months ago”.

6. The Commission is aware that the retail price of gasoline and diesel has increased significantly since January of 2022. The Commission is also aware that Alpine Taxi/Limo purchases the fuel that is used to provide the scheduled and shuttle services between Steamboat Springs and the YVRA and between Steamboat Springs and Denver International Airport. Therefore, since January of 2022, Alpine Taxi/Limo has been required to pay a larger percentage of the revenue received from providing the scheduled and shuttle services for the purchase of fuel.

7. Rule 6208(d) of the *Rules Regulating Transportation by Motor Vehicle, 4 Code of Colorado Regulations 723-6*, states:

Proposed Tariffs must be filed on a form approved by the Commission and shall be complete, providing all of the information required by the form. Proposed Tariffs shall provide for 30 days’ notice before they are in effect, unless the Commission has approved an application for less than statutory notice to shorten this time period, or as otherwise ordered by the Commission.

8. In consideration of the financial information submitted with this application, the Commission finds that Alpine Taxi/Limo has shown good cause to approve the proposed changes to Passenger Tariff, Colorado PUC No. 11 on less-than-statutory notice for a period of 90 days.

II. ORDER

A. The Commission Orders That:

1. The Application filed on August 1, 2022, by Alpine Taxi/Limo, Inc., doing business as Alpine and/or Go Alpine is deemed complete.

2. The Application for authority to publish a fuel surcharge supplement to Passenger Tariff, Colorado PUC No. 11 on less-than-statutory notice filed by Alpine Taxi/Limo, Inc., doing business as Alpine and/or Go Alpine on August 1, 2022, is granted.

3. Alpine Taxi/Limo is authorized to file, on not less than one day's notice to the Commission, a supplement to Passenger Tariff, Colorado PUC No. 11, attached as Appendix A and made a part of this Decision.

4. The advice letter and supplement to Passenger Tariff, Colorado PUC No. 11 shall be filed as a new proceeding within ten days of the effective date of this Decision and shall be effective for a period of 90 days.

5. The 20-day time period provided by § 40-6-114(1), C.R.S., to file an application for rehearing, reargument, or reconsideration shall begin on the first day after the effective date of this Decision.

6. This Decision is effective on its Mailed Date.

**B. ADOPTED IN COMMISSIONERS' WEEKLY MEETING
August 31, 2022.**

(S E A L)



ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

Doug Dean,
Director

THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

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JOHN GAVAN

MEGAN M. GILMAN

Commissioners