

**PENNSYLVANIA
PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION
Harrisburg, PA 17105-3265**

Public Meeting held February 20, 2025

Commissioners Present:

Stephen M. DeFrank, Chairman
Kimberly Barrow, Vice Chair, Dissenting
Kathryn L. Zerkfuss
John F. Coleman, Jr.
Ralph V. Yanora

Emergency Temporary Authority Application of Commonwealth Transport, LLC, for the right to begin to transport, as a common carrier, by motor vehicle, persons in Paratransit service to individuals seeking medical treatment in a hospital, care facility or doctor's office as well as behavioral health treatment in a hospital , care facility or doctor's office from points in the counties of Berks, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York, to points in Pennsylvania, and return.

A-2025-3053237

RATIFICATION ORDER

BY THE COMMISSION:

On February 7, 2025, Chairman Stephen M. DeFrank issued an Emergency Temporary Authorization Order (ETA Order) in response to Commonwealth Transport, LLC's (Company) Application that was filed on February 5, 2025, pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 3.383, whereby the Company sought emergency temporary authorization (ETA) to provide paratransit services to individuals seeking medical treatment in a hospital, care facility or doctor's office as well as behavioral health treatment in a hospital , care facility or doctor's office from points in the counties of Berks, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York, to points in Pennsylvania, and return. (ETA Application). On February 6, 2025, the Applicant submitted additional information at the above-captioned docket in order to

supplement its ETA Application. In this supplement, the Applicant stated that it is seeking emergency temporary authority to provide paratransit transportation services in Southcentral Pennsylvania to individuals who require behavioral health, emotional health and mental health services who are wheelchair bound and non-ambulatory and also persons who are 17 years old and younger and who are engaged in the juvenile justice system and require medical services or are seeking behavioral health treatment in a hospital, care facility, or doctor's office. Subsequently, as required by 52 Pa. Code § 3.383(c)(4), the Company filed an application seeking permanent paratransit authority with the Commission on February 7, 2025 at Docket No. A-2025-3053301.

Since the Company does not currently hold PUC operating rights to provide paratransit services anywhere within the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the ETA Order granted, in part, and denied, in part, the Company's ETA Application seeking emergency temporary authorization. Specifically, the ETA Order denied the Company's request to provide paratransit services from points in the counties of Berks, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York, to points in Pennsylvania, and return, to individuals who need behavioral health, mental health and emotional health services or who are wheelchair bound and non-ambulatory, and individuals who are dependent on Medicaid or Medicare coverage to receive health care and access to health care services, specifically transportation to receive services. Upon review of our motor carrier database, the Commission verified that there are a plethora of active and existing carriers in Southcentral Pennsylvania that are available to render paratransit services to individuals needing such transportation services.

Conversely, review of Commission certificated service providers verified that there is a shortage of existing and active carriers in Southcentral Pennsylvania who are available or capable of rendering paratransit services for juveniles entering the justice system who are in dire need of medical health, behavioral, mental and emotional health services. In order to prevent delays in commencing operations to provide paratransit

services to this traditionally underserved and overlooked population of Pennsylvanians, the ETA Order granted the Company limited ETA so that it could provide paratransit services from points in the counties of Berks, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York, to points in Pennsylvania, and return, only to juveniles engaged in the juvenile justice system who require medical health, behavioral health, emotional health, and mental health services.

Accordingly, upon review of the circumstances surrounding the issuance of the Emergency Temporary Authority Order, we conclude that it is in the public interest to make such action the action of the full Commission; **THEREFORE,**

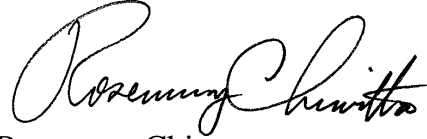
IT IS ORDERED:

1. That the Emergency Temporary Authority Order issued to Commonwealth Transport LLC on February 7, 2025, is hereby ratified.

2. That pursuant to 52 Pa. Code § 3.383(c)(4)(iii)(B), Commonwealth Transport, LLC's limited emergency temporary authority to provide paratransit services from points in the counties of Berks, Dauphin, Lancaster, Lebanon, and York, to points in Pennsylvania, and return to juveniles engaged in the juvenile justice system who require behavioral health, emotional health, and mental health services shall remain in effect pending disposition of Commonwealth Transport LLC's pending application seeking permanent paratransit authority at Docket A-2025-3053301.

3. That granting limited emergency temporary authority to Commonwealth Transport LLC as specified in the February 7, 2025 Emergency Temporary Authority Order will have no bearing on the Commission's decision concerning Commonwealth Transport LLC's pending application for permanent authority at Docket A-2025-3053301.

BY THE COMMISSION



Rosemary Chiavetta
Secretary

(SEAL)

ORDER ADOPTED: February 20, 2025

ORDER ENTERED: February 20, 2025