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SERVICE DATE - NOVEMBER 14, 1997

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

DECISION

STB Finance Docket No. 33471

COACH USA, INC.—CONTROL EXEMPTION—AIR TRAVEL TRANSPORTATION, INC.;  
AIRLINES ACQUISITION CO., INC.; AND  
TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC.

AGENCY: Surface Transportation Board.

ACTION: Notice of Filing of Petition for Exemption.

SUMMARY: Coach USA, Inc. (Coach), a noncarrier in control of 28 motor passenger carriers at the time it filed its petition,<sup>1</sup> seeks to be exempted, under 49 U.S.C. 13541, from the prior approval requirements of 49 U.S.C. 14303(a)(5), to acquire control of Air Travel Transportation, Inc.; Airlines Acquisition Co., Inc., and Transportation Management Services, Inc., motor carriers of passengers.

DATES: Comments must be filed by December 15, 1997. Petitioner may file a reply by December 24, 1997.

ADDRESSES: Send an original and 10 copies of comments referring to STB Finance Docket No. 33471 to: Surface Transportation Board, Office of the Secretary, Case Control Unit, 1925 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20423-0001. In addition, send one copy of comments to Petitioners' representatives: Betty Jo Christian and David H. Coburn, Steptoe & Johnson LLP, 1330 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036.

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<sup>1</sup> Coach currently controls the nation's second largest group of motor passenger carriers. See Coach USA, Inc.--Control Exemption--America Charters, Ltd., STB Finance Docket No. 33393 (STB served Oct. 3, 1997), slip op. at 1. In addition to the instant petition, Coach has three other pending petitions: Coach USA, Inc. and K-T Contract Services, Inc.--Control and Merger Exemption--Gray Line Tours of Southern Nevada, STB Finance Docket No. 33431 (STB served Aug. 22, 1997), in which it seeks an exemption to acquire control of one additional motor passenger carrier, Coach USA, Inc., and Leisure Time Tours--Control and Merger Exemption--Van Nortwick Bros., Inc., The Arrow Line, Inc., and Trentway-Wagar, Inc., STB Finance Docket No. 33428 (STB served Aug. 12, 1997), in which it seeks to acquire control of three additional motor passenger carriers, and Coach USA, Inc.—Control Exemption—Browder Tours, Inc. and El Espresso, Inc., STB Finance Docket No. 33506 (STB filed Oct. 31, 1997), in which it seeks to acquire control of two additional motor passenger carriers.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Joseph H. Dettmar, (202) 565-1600 [TDD for the hearing impaired: (202) 565-1695.]

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Coach, a noncarrier, seeks an exemption to acquire control of three motor carriers of passengers: (1) Air Travel Transportation, Inc., d/b/a Atlanta Airport Shuttle (MC-166420), a Georgia-based carrier that primarily operates airport shuttle service to and from Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport; (2) Airlines Acquisition Co., Inc., d/b/a Airlines Transportation Company (MC-223575), a Pennsylvania-based carrier that primarily operates airport shuttle service to and from Greater Pittsburgh Airport and Allegheny County Airport; (3) Transportation Management Services, Inc., d/b/a Lenzner Coach Lines (MC-237433), a Pennsylvania-based carrier, which is affiliated with Airlines Transportation Company and which operates charter motorcoach service, contract service, sightseeing service and tour service.

Coach reported, at the time it filed this petition for exemption, that it controlled twenty eight motor carriers of passengers. Coach states that its acquisition of control of the three motor carriers through the acquisition of their stock will not inhibit competition or reduce transportation options available to the public. Coach states that the three carriers do not compete with any Coach-owned carrier.

Petitioner also claims that the acquisition of control of the three carriers will allow each carrier to offer improved service at lower costs made possible by the coordination of functions, centralized management, financial support, rationalization of resources, and economies of scale that are anticipated from the common control. Coach also states that all collective bargaining agreements will be honored, that employee benefits will improve, and that no change in management personnel is planned. Additional information may be obtained from Petitioners' representatives.

A copy of this notice will be served on the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division, 10th Street and Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20530.

Decided: November 3, 1997.

By the Board, Chairman Morgan and Vice Chairman Owen.

Vernon A. Williams  
Secretary

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