



# Ministerie van Toerisme, Economische Zaken, Verkeer en Telecommunicatie

Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic and  
Telecommunication

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## MORATORIUM POLICY: PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION LICENSES - BUS, TAXI, & T'S

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### 1. PURPOSE

This policy establishes the conditions for the establishment of a moratorium on the issuance of Public Transportation Permits, which includes, Bus Permits, Taxi Permits, & T Permits (Tour bus T's).

### 2. APPLICATION

This policy applies to all new applications for a Bus, Taxi, and T Permits. All pending applications submitted prior to the establishment of the moratorium will not be affected.

### 3. LEGAL AUTHORITY

Public transportation is governed by the National Ordinance Public Transportation and the Island Decree of August 24<sup>th</sup>, 1970 and this policy.

### 4. GOALS & PRINCIPLES

The Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Transport and Telecommunication (TEZVT) believes that in the general interest and preservation of the public transportation sector, it is necessary to impose a moratorium.

- To prevent over saturation: The last published official census of 2001, the population of St. Maarten was 30,594. The official estimate of the population as of 1 January 2010 was 37,429 for a population density of 1,100 inhabitants per km<sup>2</sup>. There is sufficient population density combined with the number of bus (including G's and T's) and taxi operators, to serve the market.
- To prevent harm: The existing Legislation that dates to 1969 and 1970 does not adequately regulate and protect the industry. For instance currently a license is granted without any restrictions, there are no officially established routes and bus operators are not required to operate on specific designated routes. The result is that only lucrative routes are serviced, and less lucrative routes are left unattended. Adding additional operators will only serve to harm the industry.

### 5. POLICY

1. As of February 18, 2014 a moratorium is established for the issuance of all new bus, taxi and T permits
2. This moratorium does not affect already issued licenses that may become available due to the death of the license holder or if the license is retracted.
3. The moratorium does not affect those applicants that applied prior to the establishing of the moratorium. Pending request will be processed and the applicants informed accordingly.
4. All new request are valid for a period of 6 months. However a request is no longer considered pending once it has been handled. Therefore, applicants are required to reapply.
5. In the event the moratorium is lifted or amended the public will be notified via the local media (print & digital) and the government website.
6. No G plates will be issued for Tour Operations.



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7. Implement this moratorium was decided after consideration of:
- a. The fact that the government needs time to review the developments within public transportation and any new and additional entry of operators into the market;
  - b. The fact that the government needs time to verify the impact of the current composition of the public transportation industry, its penetration and the quality of its service on the economy of St. Maarten;
  - c. The fact that the Government has to prepare a new public transportation legislation and policy with particular attention to the services offered and in which areas, to determine to which extent the needs of consumers in St. Maarten are satisfied and to which extent the economic growth is driven on St. Maarten.

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