

MEMORANDUM

TO: Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

FROM: Sharon Doyle, Manager Mobility Plus

DATE: September 11, 2009

RE: **Mobility Plus/OPTA Workshop of Ontario Specialized Transit Properties**

On Wednesday, June 26, 2009, Mobility Plus, along with the Ontario Public Transit Association (OPTA), hosted a workshop at the Safety Village in Bruce's Mill for specialized transit properties across southern Ontario. OPTA is the provincial association for public transportation that represents the views of the membership to government and agencies.

Thirty-four people attended, representing 17 transit agencies from as far west as Windsor, as far east as Ottawa and as far north as North Bay. Representatives from the Ministry of Transportation, Metrolinx, and the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) also attended.

Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, Commissioner of Transportation Services opened the session by welcoming the attendees to York Region and the Safety Village in particular. She emphasized the importance of specialized transit to the communities they represented and applauded them for the work they do on the passenger's behalf.

The agenda was aggressive and included a wide range of topics:

- Eligibility;
- Travel training;
- Customer complaint process;
- Securement;
- Security;
- AODA update;
- Accessible vehicle joint procurement through Metrolinx and
- Contracting out (advantages and disadvantages)

The meeting was an excellent opportunity to encourage and foster good communication. Ideas were brainstormed and contacts were made for future discussions. The attendees were thankful for the opportunity to attend and appreciated the effort put forth by OPTA and the Region in

hosting the event.

York Region Transit has been very supportive of these workshops and has hosted the event for the past two years.

SD/sd