



Monday, July 31, 2017

The Honourable Tracy MacCharles
Minister of Government and Consumer Services
Minister Responsible for Accessibility
Mowat Block 6th Floor, 900 Bay Street
Toronto, ON M7A 2E1

Dear Minister:

Re: Review of the Accessibility Transportation Standards

We are writing to provide feedback from The Regional Municipality of York regarding the proposed initial recommendations to the Transportation Standards under the *Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation* (O.Reg. 191/11), as posted for public input on May 19, 2017.

York Region supports the proposed initial recommendations as they pertain to conventional and specialized transit providers. York Region does not license taxicabs, and, therefore, cannot comment on the recommendations in this area.

The proposed focus on training, public education and outreach is necessary to reach the long-term objective of the Transportation Standards "to make transportation services under provincial and municipal jurisdiction in Ontario accessible for people with disabilities." York Region Transit (YRT/Viva) continues to educate and increase awareness of its accessible services through marketing campaigns, community outreach plans and the travel training program. Subjects covered include education on how to board and de-board a vehicle, use of priority seating areas and accessible features on our vehicles.

The proposed amendment for conventional transit providers to make information on the use of their services available is a best practice York Region supports. Though not required by law, the Region's myRide Travel Training Program has been in place since 2007 with positive results. This travel training program empowers people of all ages and abilities to use transit independently. The travel training program was developed with input from people with disabilities and continues to be delivered in partnership with agencies that serve people with disabilities.

York Region also strongly supports the recommendation for the Province to implement and manage a universal identification card for persons with disabilities to be used as proof an individual requires a support person. It should build on existing identification mechanisms currently in place, such as the Ontario Photo Card or the Ontario Health Card. This was a recommendation that York Region made when the Transportation Standards were first in development.

The proposed recommendations reflect York Region's long standing commitment to meet and exceed the accessibility standards of the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)*. York Region continues to support the objectives and spirit of the AODA and is committed to the successful implementation of all new requirements under the Act. We are pleased to express our support for recommendations on the Transportation Standards and appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,



Katherine Chislett
Commissioner
Community and Health Services
The Regional Municipality of York



Paul Jankowski
Commissioner
Transportation Services
The Regional Municipality of York