



**TTC Advisory Committee
on Accessible Transit (ACAT)**

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C-2

September 4, 2013

Councillor Adam Vaughan
Chair - Disability Issues Committee
City of Toronto
10th Floor, West Tower, City Hall
100 Queen Street West
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

**PRESENTED TO
THE COMMISSION**

Dear Councillor Vaughan:

SEP 25 2013

Re: Improving Access to Transit Stops for People with Disabilities

As the 2013 Chair of the TTC Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT), I am writing to request your assistance in removing obstacles on City sidewalks. These obstacles interfere with people who have mobility difficulties, particularly when they are travelling to transit stops.

This concern has arisen related to a review undertaken by our members of the recently reconstructed sidewalks associated with the streetcar tracks on Roncesvalles Avenue. ACAT provided recommendations during the design of the Roncesvalles Avenue streetscape related to the interface between TTC streetcars and the sidewalk/bicycle lane arrangement. Some of our suggestions are reflected in what was actually constructed and some are not. ACAT does appreciate that the design of such facilities involves trade-offs between different road users.

However, in our review of the end result of the reconstruction of Roncesvalles, it became apparent that the sidewalks, generally, on Roncesvalles Avenue may be hazardous for people using a mobility device and for people with vision impairments. As transit stops are typically at high-activity locations, the problems we observed are more frequent in the vicinity of transit stops. City sidewalks, including those on Roncesvalles Avenue, are full of obstacles such as planters, light standards, garbage receptacles, newspaper boxes, hydrants, signs, benches, trees, sewer grates, and hydro poles with wires. Many of these are inconsistently placed. At times, bicycles are attached to planters and garbage cans. In the winter, these obstacles may hinder snow removal. The grill work around trees is a hazard for people using canes or wheels. (See photos attached)

More than ten years ago, members of ACAT and TTC staff met with City of Toronto staff regarding access problems at transit stops. In 2008, this issue was presented again to City staff and, in 2011, the ACAT Service Planning Subcommittee submitted more documents to the City. These obstacles continue to clutter sidewalks, creating barriers to travel and to board transit vehicles.

ACAT is asking you, the City of Toronto Disability Issues Committee, to review the accessibility standards for sidewalks, particularly in the vicinity of bus/streetcar stops. Also, we ask you to advise staff in these departments and City Council to remove the barriers faced by people with disabilities when travelling on city streets. Please address these concerns about Roncesvalles Avenue as well as other locations where clutter and street furniture impede the mobility of people with mobility and/or vision difficulties, especially where they are accessing transit stops.

If ACAT can be of assistance in this endeavour, please let us know and we would be happy to meet with you to discuss the issue further.

Thank you for reviewing this important issue that has become a barrier to accessible transit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Marley', written in a cursive style.

Angela Marley
ACAT Chair

Attachment: Photos

Copy: TTC Board Members
TTC CEO Andy Byford

Garden Ave., N.S. planter, tree, garbage rec., metal barrier, 3 paper boxes, hydro pole, shelter, tree, TTC stop, planter



Grenadier Rd. N.S., planter back of yellow tactile, sewer grate, tree, garbage rec. Paper box, hydro pole, shelter, sewer grate, tree, planter.



Fermanagh Ave., N.S., planter, sewer grate, fire hydrant, garbage rec., tree, hydro pole with wire, shelter, sewer grate, tree, light standard with TTC sign, planter.



Howard Park N.S. planter front of yellow tactile, tree, garbage rec., tree, shelter, hydro pole with TTC sign and wire, planter



Dundas W. SS; planter, light standard, garbage rec., shelter, 2 hydro poles, fire hydrant, light standard with TTC sign, 2 hydro poles, planter back from yellow tactile



Dundas St. N.S., planter little behind tactile, light standard, hydro pole, light standard with TTC sign



Howard Park SS, light standard, electric pole, newspaper box, light standard with TTC Sign, planter



Grenadier Rd. S.S. planter, light standard, garbage rec., sewer grate, grate in path, shelter, Canada Post, hydro pole, light standard with TTC Sign



Fermanagh Ave. S.S. planter, light standard, garbage rec., shelter, hydro pole, light standard with TTC sign, sewer grate, planter



Garden Ave., S.S. planter behind tactile, light standard, hydro pole, sewer grate, ½ shelter, light standard with TTC stop, planter



Marion Ave., SS. Planter, light standard, garbage rec., shelter, light standard, hydro pole, planter



Marion Ave., N.S., planter, tree, garbage rec., tree, shelter, hydro pole with TTC sign, planter

