

Ministry of Economic
Development, Trade
and Employment

Office of the Minister

8th Floor, Hearst Block
900 Bay Street
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Telephone: (416) 325-6900
Facsimile: (416) 325-6918

Ministère du Développement
économique, du Commerce
et de l'Emploi

Bureau du ministre

Édifice Hearst, 8e étage
900, rue Bay
Toronto ON M7A 2E1
Téléphone: (416) 325-6900
Télécopieur: (416) 325-6918



C-1

April 7, 2014

Mr. Vincent Rodo
Chief Financial and Administration Officer
Toronto Transit Commission
1900 Yonge Street
Toronto, Ontario
M4S 1Z2

Dear Mr. Rodo:

The Honourable Glen Murray, Minister of Transportation, has shared with me your letters regarding recent Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) Board recommendations. I appreciate the board's decision to implement support person fare requirements under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA).

I am pleased to provide clarification regarding the Transportation Standard under the Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR). Under the IASR, "support person" is defined as a person who accompanies a person with a disability in order to help with communication, mobility, personal care or medical needs or to help with access to goods, services or facilities. Section 38 of the Transportation Standard requires that no specialized or conventional transportation service provider can charge a fare to a support person accompanying a person with a disability, should they need one.

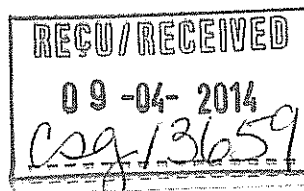
Also under Section 38 of the Transportation Standard, it is the responsibility of the person with the disability to demonstrate their need for a support person to travel with them and to ensure that they have the appropriate designation for the support person. The standard does not prescribe a specific process or eligibility criteria for this designation.

The support person designation that allows a support person to travel without paying a fare is given to the person with a disability; it is not given to the support person. A person with a disability who requires a support person while travelling must demonstrate the need to the conventional or specialized transportation service provider. How the person with a disability demonstrates this need is at the discretion of each provider.

The Transportation Standard provides transportation service providers with the flexibility to determine how to designate passengers who need to travel with a support person. Each service provider may establish its own designation processes.

PRESENTED TO
THE BOARD

APR 30 2014

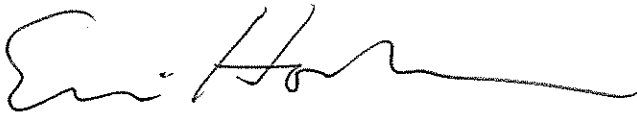


.../2

With regard to your point about funding, the Government of Ontario does not provide funding to implement accessibility standards under the AODA. Flexibility is built in to the requirements to give all public transportation service providers across the province the ability to come up with solutions that best meet their needs and those of their customers. The requirements of the IASR are being phased in to give organizations time to integrate accessibility into their regular business planning, and so that investments are spread out over a number of years.

I applaud the TTC's recent implementation of a Support Person Assistance Card that allows support persons travelling with people with disabilities to access their services free of charge. I look forward to continuing to work with the TTC to enhance accessible transportation for people with disabilities as we move toward our goal of an accessible Ontario by 2025.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Hoskins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

c: The Honourable Glen Murray