



# MARY FRAGEDAKIS

City Councillor, Ward 29



February 23, 2015

Chair & Members  
Executive Committee  
100 Queen Street West  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

## **Re: DI1.5 Ticketing of Wheel-Trans Vehicles**

A number of incidents have been reported indicating that service to persons with disabilities who are relying on Wheel Trans services are being negatively impacted due to the current focus on rush hour route ticketing and towing.

While this level of focus and enforcement is very important to address the chronic congestion issues facing the city, it appears to have had an unintended effect of impacting individuals who would typically park their Wheel Trans bus, van or contracted taxicab to enter buildings to retrieve persons waiting for their service. The drivers of these vehicles have either received tickets, or are feeling prohibited from providing the proper level of service (i.e. posting their "missed pick-up" notices) due to the threat of impoundment.

The City of Toronto bylaw governing the parking of vehicles during rush hour routes is found in Chapter 950 Traffic and Parking. It is noted that taxicabs, limousines, and school buses, are not prohibited from stopping "while actually engaged in loading or unloading" of passengers.

It is common practice that persons with disabilities are often waiting indoors for the arrival of their transportation, and often require assistance entering and exiting the taxicabs. It is unclear if these activities are considered in the context of "actually engaged in loading or unloading".

It is important that the efforts to address congestion do not continue to have the unintended consequence of having people with disabilities and/or mobility issues missing medical appointments, job interviews or being stranded.

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Though I am pleased the Disability Issues Committee has made a recommendation on this issue, I think those recommendations can be strengthened. I spoke to the mover of the motion, Councillor Mike Layton, and he agrees with my request that the Executive Committee revises the Disability Issues Committee request to:

1. City Council direct the General Manager of Transportation Services, in consultation with Toronto Police Service, to review the current by-law provisions and establish a protocol to ensure that persons providing transportation services to persons with disabilities are not ticketed with a parking offence while actively engaged in activity away from the vehicle and report back to the Executive Committee on May 26, 2015.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary Fragedakis  
City Councillor  
Ward 29 Toronto-Danforth