

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION REPORT NO.

MEETING DATE: JANUARY 31, 2007

SUBJECT: ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT SERVICES PLAN – 2006
STATUS REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Commission:

1. Receive this report for information noting that:
 - the attached report describes the status of the TTC's current activities to improve the accessibility of TTC facilities and services. It is the third annual update of the more-comprehensive *Accessible Transit Services Plan – Year-End 2003 Status Report*, which was received by the Commission in February 2004;
 - the report fulfils provincially-legislated requirements for an annual documentation of the TTC's accessibility plans and major initiatives;
 - the new Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) requires that all transit services and facilities be accessible by 2025. The TTC's current plans, as outlined in the attached report, will meet or exceed this goal;
 - all the TTC's accessible transit service plans and updates are available on the TTC's web site so the public can see the progress being made each year towards the TTC's accessibility goals; and
2. Forward this report to the City of Toronto, the Ontario Ministries of Community and Social Services, Transportation, and Public Infrastructure Renewal, the Ontario Human Rights Commission, and the Greater Toronto Transportation Authority.

FUNDING

This report has no effect on the TTC's operating or capital budgets. Funding for committed accessibility improvements is already included in the TTC's budgets.

BACKGROUND

The TTC has committed to making its services accessible to all people, including people with disabilities, and has initiated various programs to reach the goal of making all services and facilities accessible. In 1989, the Commission adopted the recommendations of the *Choices for the Future* report for the development of twenty key accessible rapid transit stations to be served by the TTC's Wheel-Trans to-the-door service, however, the TTC has exceeded that station accessibility objective, as a total of thirty stations will be accessible by early 2008, including all of the originally-identified "key stations". Furthermore, the TTC has improved the quality of to-the-door specialized transit services, and has increased the number of accessible conventional buses to the point that the majority of the fleet now consists of accessible vehicles. Many new accessibility features will be incorporated into the new subway train design that is now under development, and specifications are now being developed for a new generation of accessible streetcars.

The Province of Ontario's *Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001* (ODA), and the more-recent *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005* (AODA), require that transit properties produce annual accessibility plans. The TTC prepared a comprehensive report on accessibility, entitled *Accessible Transit Services Plan – Year-End 2003 Status Report*, which was received by the Commission in February 2004. Updates of this plan were provided in October, 2004 and November, 2005. These documents are available on the TTC's web site at:

www.toronto.ca/ttc/schedules/service_reports.htm#accessibletransitservicesplan

The purpose of this report is to provide a status update on current TTC activities in making the system accessible, and to respond to the legislated requirement for an annual report.

DISCUSSION

The TTC's goal is to make all its facilities and services accessible to people with disabilities.

At the conclusion of the Easier Access II program in early 2008, over 40% (30 out of 69) of the TTC's rapid transit stations will be accessible. This is 50% more accessible stations than the targets established in the *Choices for the Future* report. In 2007, the Easier Access III initiative, to make all the remaining rapid transit stations accessible, will be underway. A phased approach to accessibility improvements will be implemented for more than 1/3 of the Easier Access III stations. This means that, with all of the bus fleet to be accessible in approximately four years, transfers between the accessible buses within the bus bays of stations can be facilitated even before all the elevators and other features are installed at all stations.

In 2008, over 75% (approximately 1,250 out of 1,600) of the bus fleet will be accessible. TTC plans also call for the replacement of the current streetcar fleet, as soon as possible, with low-floor accessible "Light Rail Vehicles". To date, there is no funding approval for this program.

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA) provides for the development of accessibility standards that will lead to accessible services and facilities being in place throughout

Ontario by 2025. The TTC's accessibility plans will meet or exceed this goal. The TTC's specialized Wheel-Trans buses, Community Buses, key stations, and the majority of the bus fleet are accessible now. The remainder of the buses will be accessible by 2010, the rest of the stations will be accessible by 2020, and the streetcar system will be accessible by 2024 or sooner, assuming that the necessary funding will be provided for these programs.

The Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT) provides the TTC with expert knowledge and experience with respect to mobility issues. ACAT has assisted staff with the various accessibility improvements noted in the attached report. In the past year, ACAT provided advice on the staged implementation of accessibility features at stations. ACAT has also identified accessibility features that the TTC will consider in the design of the new subway train. ACAT will also be participating in the assessment of accessible streetcars and other major future initiatives.

In accordance with the TTC's accessibility goals and objectives, as outlined in the original *2003 Accessible Transit Services Plan* and in the subsequent status reports, the TTC's operating and capital budgets include requests for the funding required to achieve the goal of accessibility of public transit in Toronto.

January 18, 2007

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Attachment: Accessible Transit Services Plan - 2006 Status Report