

October, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Councillor Karen Stintz, Chair  
Toronto Transit Commission  
Toronto City Hall  
100 Queen Street West, Suite B32  
Toronto, ON M5H 2N2  
[councillor\\_stintz@toronto.ca](mailto:councillor_stintz@toronto.ca)

**Re: Accessible Bus Route Needed at Eglinton E. & Rumsey Rd.**

Dear Ms Stintz,

The Disability Issues Committee provides advice to City Council on the elimination of barriers faced by people with disabilities and acts as a liaison with external bodies on barriers to participation in public life and to the achievement of social, cultural and economic well-being of people with disabilities.

The Committee also provides advice to City Council about the requirements and implementation of accessibility standards and the preparation, implementation and effectiveness of accessibility reports as required by the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 (AODA).

We are writing to bring to your attention a serious transportation barrier related to the Eglinton Ave. East and Rumsey Rd. bus stops. This is the nearest bus stop to a hub of medical service centres used by people with disabilities. These services include:

- Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital
- The Cardiac Centre at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute
- The Neuro Rehabilitation Centre at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute
- Lyndhurst Centre, Toronto Rehab, University Health Network
- Spinal Cord Injury Association of Ontario

The Eglinton Ave. East and Rumsey Rd. bus stops are 5 blocks away from these centres. This barrier negatively impacts on the ability of people with disabilities to access social, cultural, economic and therapeutic businesses and services in the area.

A challenge for many people with disabilities to get to many of the medical and social service agencies in the Bayview and Eglinton area is the five block walk in from the Rumsey Rd. and Sutherland St. stops as well as a five block walk in if people access these services from Bayview Ave. This is too great of a distance for many people with disabilities to manage, especially in extreme temperatures, snow and inclement weather.

**We are requesting a new accessible bus route, or amendment to an existing bus route serving the Eglinton Ave. East and the Rumsey Rd. area.**

Currently, one of these bus stops is accessible and the other is being made wider for people with mobility devices. We support this work and urge that it continue: it will be helpful for those travelling within the immediate area. However, it will not remove the barrier to reach key destinations, as outlined above.

Furthermore, with ever-increasing demand for Wheel-Trans, rides lasting 90 minutes or more have become the norm. People with disabilities are increasingly trying to use other accessible transit options due to difficulties using the over-subscribed, underfunded Wheel-Trans service. Most people with disabilities undergoing rehabilitation simply will not have the stamina to travel 3-4 hours (round trip) and manage intensive physical therapy as well.

Since so many significant medical services and disability-specific services exist in this area, it is essential that accessible transportation be provided. **An accessible bus route that comes closer to these services would reduce barriers related to travel time and accessibility.** Please feel free to contact me should further clarification be required.

A map of the area is being included for your viewing.  
<https://maps.google.ca/maps?client=safari&oe=UTF-8&q=Eglinton+ave+and+rumsey&ie=UTF-8&hq=&hnear=0x89d4ccd7859d3cfd:0x65965f905794d3b9,Eglinton+Ave+E+%26+Rumsey+Rd,+Toronto,+ON+M4G+1R1&gl=ca&ei=INVSUvO0A4PlyQGPkIDQCg&ved=0CCwQ8gEwAA>

Your serious consideration of this request is appreciated.

Sincerely,

City of Toronto  
Disability Issues Committee

c: Advisory Committee on Accessible Transportation (ACAT)