

TWCA Toronto Women's City Alliance

Making Equality Matter.

July 8, 2014

To City of Toronto Planning Staff and Michael Hain

TWCA is concerned with the needs, including those relating to transportation, of diverse women and girls in Toronto. As women and girls represent more than half of the population of Toronto, their needs should not be ignored. Movements of people are not homogeneous, they differ according to mode, ability, age, time, social role and status, destinations, culture and more. Transportation and Social equity therefore intersect.

Following are 3 specific concerns common to most diverse women and girls:

Affordability: Women generally and senior, immigrant, shift working and other minority women particularly, live on lower incomes than men. They therefore rely more on transit, walking, cycling, rather than cars.

Care giving: Most care giving is done by women. Care giving trips mean trips with children, frail elderly, equipment such as strollers, walkers and shopping carts; Care giving trips also are mostly linked or multi-destination trips that integrate paid employment with care giving and domestic needs.

Safety: Most women feel and generally are more vulnerable, esp. in the public realm. Toronto has addressed this issue in a cutting-edge document: Toronto Safer City Guidelines, which Council had adopted in the 1990's.

Many of the proposed Official Plan policies, such as the Complete Street, Transportation Demand Management and Mobility Hub concepts can effectively address the socially significant issues of women and other vulnerable groups with minor modifications, but only if these are explicitly legitimized:

Below, we are offering detailed wording to incorporate the above concerns into the proposed Official Plan Policy Amendments:

Affordability:

in policy 2.2.1, Transportation and Land Use Integration, insert "**and equitable**" between ... a more socially cohesive, and city;

to read: "a more socially cohesive and equitable city..." and,

in policy 2.2.1 (a), insert "**and affordable**" between ...good and transit...

to read "...good and affordable transit..."

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Caregiving:

in policy 2.4.3. (b) Transportation Demand Management, add a subsection (v)
to read: "**(v) recognize the transportation implications of diverse travel patterns, such as those of caregivers, shift workers and other vulnerable groups.**"

Safety:

in policy 3.1.1 (5) Public Realm, insert a new subsection after (i)
to read: "**(ii) ensuring the safety of vulnerable groups such as women, children and other minorities, by implementing the Toronto Safer City Guidelines, or an updated version thereof.**"

Regula Modlich
on behalf of the
Toronto Women's City Alliance Planning Team

P.S. - Original in Mail