

John Mazzella and family
9 Queenston Cres.
Woodbridge, Ontario
L4L 4A1

June 11th, 2004

Attn: Elma Stevenson

Subject: Review - Cross Boundary Trips of Specialized Transit

Dear Chairman and Members of the Transit Committee,

I'm writing to you to bring to your attention my son's specific transportation challenges with YRT's specialized Transit.

Our son Franco will be graduating at the end of June from Richmond Hill High School. Franco has been accepted at Seneca's Vocational Program. Starting in September, he will require transportation to the Newnham Campus. He would have to travel from Woodbridge to one of the cross-border transfer points (possibly Steeles and Don Mills) and pick up Wheel Trans that would take him to Seneca's campus a few kilometres down the street at Finch and Hwy 404.

As parents, our first concern is safety. For some disabled individuals, transferring is not a problem; for others (like our son Franco) it could pose a challenge.

Transferring to Wheel Trans would also add a long time to the duration of the trip; our initial estimate is that it would take 1 1/2-2 hours for the trip.

As parents and concerned taxpayers, we understand that the Transit committee has to manage its budget effectively and at the same time address the concerns of the Transit patrons. In the case of the Disabled, I think we need to be aware of the daily challenges they face. Cross boundary transfers are a major challenge and need to be addressed.

We feel that paying an extra ticket for a trip south of the Steeles makes sense. We don't think it makes sense to transfer and complete a trip that may only be a few more kilometres (1-5).

Let me bring to your attention a clear disconnect: Franco can travel from Woodbridge to the mall in Aurora (approx. 42 KM) with one trip (one ticket), yet he's required to transfer at Steeles and Don Mills to go to Seneca (approx. 22 Km).

A progressive approach to contain the cost of cross-boundary trips would be graduated fares; we are for it.

Dear Chairman and Members of the Transit Committee, we want to thank you all for giving us the opportunity to voice our opinions on this very important issue that is so close to our heart. We look forward to hearing from you soon. We trust your decision will be favourable to the disabled of the region of York.

Sincerely,

The Mazzella Family
John, Marisa and Franco