



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 9, 2006

The Honourable Harinder Takhar
Minister of Transportation
77 Wellesley Street West
3rd Floor, Ferguson Block
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Minister:

I would like to bring to your attention some questions and concerns raised by the City of Mississauga's Accessibility Advisory Committee regarding motor vehicle safety inspections and municipal licensing inspections of accessible taxicabs. We believe that other municipalities would be interested in your responses to these issues.

The first question is whether the Ministry of Transportation Passenger Compliance Officers would participate in municipal level taxicab vehicle inspections since inspectors in most municipalities are not mechanics and rely on outside licensed mechanics, engineering inspectors and other government departments to ensure vehicle safety standards. It was noted by staff that Mississauga was not unique in this situation and that it was a Province-wide problem.

Concerns have been raised as to the validity of Mechanical Safety Inspection Certificates submitted to municipal staff. It has been observed by staff that when taxicab operators submitted their vehicles for inspection with a safety certificate, there were items found that made the vehicle unsafe and had the staff simply accepted the certificate at face value, unsafe vehicles would have been operating on the roads. Instead, we recommend that certified or approved inspection stations that check the taxicabs for both mechanical fitness and CSA D409 and HTA O.Reg 629 compliance be established by the Ministry.



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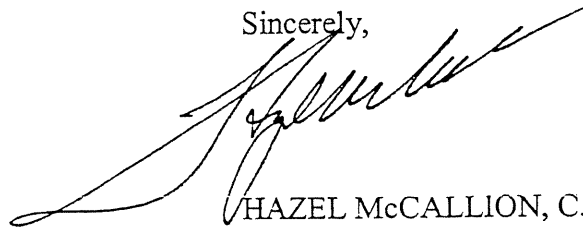
Our Accessibility Advisory Committee and municipal staff believe that the other items that make the vehicle CSA D409 and HTA O.Reg 629 compliant should be inspected on an annual basis. For example, how often do Ministry inspectors check the fitness of an accessible ramp? Our disabled community depends on the adequacy of these standards as well as their maintenance.

Staff of the Enforcement Division, Mobile Licensing Enforcement Section have listened to the concerns of our Accessibility Advisory Committee and over the past year have reviewed and corresponded with the Ministry of Transportation, Passenger Compliance Office to invite enforcement officers to attend the Inspections of the Special Accessible Taxicabs to inspect the vehicles for Regulation 629 and the CSA D-409 compliance. In working more closely with the Ministry, our staff will be able to obtain the necessary information to develop a more intensive and complete inspection of the Accessible Taxicabs. It is the hope of our Accessibility Advisory Committee that other municipalities that license accessible taxicabs will do the same.

Staff have also been proactive by providing the industry with educational materials with the latest regulatory requirements for Accessible Taxicabs.

I look forward to hearing from you in response to the concerns of our Accessibility Advisory Committee and how the Provincial inspectors can work more co-operatively with municipal inspectors to enhance passenger safety for our disabled community members.

Sincerely,



HAZEL McCALLION, C.M.
MAYOR

cc: Martin Powell, Commissioner, Transportation and Works
Elaine Buckstein, Director, Enforcement
James Bisson, Manager, Mobile Licensing Enforcement
Brenda Luckhurst, Committee Co-ordinator
Accessibility Advisory Committee, City of Mississauga
Accessibility Advisory Committees of Ontario