

City of Hamilton AODA Success Stories Presented by Terri Wallis (Member, Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities) May 13, 2015

Introduction

- Hamilton is a wonderful place to live, even more so for those of us with disabilities.
- The reasons for this success:

Our AODA mandated Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities (ACPD), in the area of transportation. And also with the guidance of city staff and support of city Council, in implementing many AODA regulations, ahead of schedule.

Some of our successes

- 100% low flow wheelchair accessible buses
- Hamilton is much closer to becoming a barrier-free city
- Audible bus announcements in 2012Fare parity

LOW FLOOR BUSES

 Every City bus in Hamilton has a low floor, wheelchair ramps at both the front and rear doors and 2 wheelchair

compartments.



ACCESSIBLE BUSES

 Destination signs, on buses, are being changed from large yellow to small white pixels.



ACCESSIBLE BUSES

 There is a voluntary fare for passengers who use mobility devices or who are CNIB registered.



BUS STOP DESIGN

- An audit of city bus stops was conducted.
- New and completely accessible bus stops and bus shelters were designed with input from the Advisory Committee for Persons

with Disabilities.



BUS STOP DESIGN

 Bus stops that were not accessible are now being updated with the new designs or moved to more accessible

locations.



ACPD INPUT

- When the City purchases new buses, our ACPD is asked for input concerning the design of the new vehicles.
- Our opinions are respected and our suggestions are taken seriously.
- Staff endeavour to accommodate everyone's needs, making the use of the HSR a positive and comfortable experience.

URBAN BRAILLE

 Urban Braille, a way-finding system created in Hamilton, uses visual and tactile clues in our sidewalks to help not just those with vision loss, but everyone get to and from their destinations safely and independently.



URBAN BRAILLE

 The sidewalks show clear paths of travel, warn of obstacles and intersections, indicate street names, driveways, doorways, secondary routes and of course bus stop locations.



TAXIS

- Hamilton now has on-demand wheelchair accessible taxis.
- If you have time considerations, are going somewhere buses don't or just want privacy and quiet, you can call either one of Hamilton's taxi companies.
- A vehicle will arrive at your door. Professionally secure your mobility device and get you to your destination for the same meter fare that anyone else would pay.

Taxi Script

- Taxi Script is a payment option available to qualified passengers, with disabilities.
- \$24 gives you \$40 worth of taxi fare, you can just use like money to pay your fare, just like you would money.

CONCLUSION

- All these services are the result of many years of hard work, persistence and dedication.
- Making sure that AODA standards are met or exceeded means that persons with disabilities will experience the same quality and quantity of service everyone else enjoys.
- And that we are treated with respect and dignity, and that our human rights are upheld.

CONCLUSION

- When you improve life for persons with disabilities, you also improve life for our family, friends and everyone else we interact with.
- Improving the quality of life for persons with disabilities, improves the quality of life for all.

The AODA has been thoughtful, practical and extremely beneficial, not just for persons with disabilities, but for all Ontarians. This level of success could not have been achieved without the AODA.