

ACPD Wheelchair & Scooter Safety Working Group – Proposed Roundtable Discussion

Proposed Draft Letter to the Wheelchair and Scooter Safety Working Group.

The Advisory Committee for Persons with Disability's Wheelchair and Scooter Safety Working Group would like to invite you to participate in a Round Table Discussion on-----, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., in Rooms 192/193, City Hall, Hamilton.

This second event has been organized in an effort to discuss second-level solutions, so that we may better advise Council on how the City can improve the quality of life for persons with disability when they are in an urgent situation.

Please r.s.v.p. to this event by sending an e-mail to loren.kolar@hamilton.ca, by-----.

Wheelchair and Scooter Safety Working Group of ACPD (Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities)

Identified goal:

Collaboratively develop community practice/procedure to ensure persons using wheelchairs or scooters will have:

- In an urgent situation, mobility device delivered or repaired in an appropriate timeframe.
- access transportation 24/7
- assistance if trapped with no option to circumvent without assistance
- unable to continue activities of daily living due to wheelchair/scooter breakdown.

Examples of issues:

- Wheelchair/scooter stuck in snow, stuck in pothole/broken sidewalks/construction site/elevator/locked doors-need rescue

- wheelchair/scooter tipped over or fallen from step/sidewalk/etc.-need rescue
- wheelchair/scooter mechanical failure in community/at home/school/place of employment/elevator/HSR bus/DARTS bus (need to know how to release the chair and or may not be able to push the chair due to potential back injury)
- person is possibly exposed to weather, vulnerable to crime, defenseless, in an isolated area, unable to call for help, may need washroom facilities, if at home cannot reach telephone, go to bed, reach a blanket or sweater, reach medications
- able to call for assistance but 24-hour repair is unavailable and perhaps unaffordable
- able to call for assistance but 24-hour wheelchair transportation is unavailable
- person in wheelchair or scooter must be transported to a healthcare facility but wheelchair is left behind
- There is a medical situation and the person using a wheelchair or scooter is taken to a healthcare facility but the mobility device is left behind.
- Chair has mechanical failure in the community or in the home
- ride didn't arrive, locked out, school, work, meeting/church etc. finished early or DARTS delivered the person early.
- Stranded, ride didn't arrive, locked out of school or work or meeting or church etc. Finished early or darts delivered the person early.
- Trapped-elevator not working, doors locked, unable to open door.

Identified issues:

- Ambulances not equipped to transport wheelchairs or scooters.
- DARTS, Vets and HSR drivers not allowed to push a power chair/scooter due to safety issues.
- 24/7 Wheelchair Transportation Not Available in Hamilton.
- Financial inability of individuals to pay for urgent/emergency service.

Wheelchair and Scooter Safety Working Group Roundtable (second session)

- (a) That a Roundtable Discussion event with Service Providers to discuss how the City of Hamilton can assist persons with disabilities when they are stranded or in an emergency situation; and,
- (b) That the draft letter of invitation to the wheelchair/scooter group roundtable be approved.