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## Petition in Support of ATS Master Plan – Eligibility and Registration Policy Revision for Accessible Transportation Services Hamilton, Ontario February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

 Whereas Hamilton City Council in 2008 has passed a motion to revise the Eligibility Criteria for DARTS satisfying Human Rights and AODA regulations in order to create a fair and equitable transportation system for all Hamiltonians;

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- Whereas Accessible Transportation Services in Hamilton includes D.A.R.T.S., Taxi Scrip, and accessible conventional fix-route transit, and the capping of Provincial funding in 1995 resulted in changes to the eligibility policy, so that from that point forward, only those applicants with disabilities who were non-ambulatory were granted D.A.R.T.S. service and all ambulatory applicants were eligible for only the Taxi Scrip program, which for many applicants was not a viable option;
- Whereas D.A.R.T.S. applicants with Developmental Disabilities have few viable options for transportation due to the high cost and limited amount of Taxi Scrip available and the inability of people who truly require D.A.R.T.S. to obtain that service due to their functioning level;
- Whereas Taxi Scrip, a reduced-fare taxi system, is a sometimes unsafe, completely inadequate, and very costly D.A.R.T.S. alternative;
- Whereas the challenges for implementing these changes will require significant growth in service levels to include ambulatory passengers, the Developmental Services Transportation Committee (DSTC) stands ready to assist in the co-ordination and support of an equitable and safe system for everyone;
- Whereas section 15(1) of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms states: Every individual is equal before and under the law and has the right to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law without discrimination and, in particular, without discrimination based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, sex age or **mental or physical disability**;
- Whereas all human beings have the right to work, to move around their community and seek meaningful activities for themselves;

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Name	Address	Signature
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