

**From:** Ian Gillis  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 16, 2024 7:04 PM  
**To:** Council Agenda <councilagenda@london.ca>  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Disability and public transport

\*\*\*I hereby grant permission to add the following comments to the council agenda, under the Subsidized Transit Program Update From the Community and Protective Services Committee\*\*\*

Dear Council,

As someone with lived experience of disability, I wish to add my voice to others of the community asking for consideration and accommodation in making transit fares deeply affordable for disabled persons.

You may be aware that disabled persons are often caught in a financial double bind, as income opportunities are few and far between, and federal and provincial programs which provide income to disabled persons invariably do not even attain the poverty line.

In addition, disabled persons frequently have to contend with expenses for assistive equipment or medical needs not covered by any government.

As an example, a vehicle adapted for wheelchair user transport may cost double or even triple the price of the same (non adapted) vehicle model; for this reason it is out of reach for many people.

I hope these points bring to the fore the importance of public transport for the disabled, in reality it is the only viable option for those wishing to travel around the municipality.

Public transport must be accessible in both physical and financial terms, to be truly inclusive for all residents of London.

I thank you for your sincere consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ian Gillis