

# The Importance of Proactive Accessibility In Rapid Transit for London

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# Introduction

- Define Proactive Accessibility
- Discuss my Personal Experience
- Risks of Inaccessibility
- Benefits of Accessibility
- Region of Waterloo Examples
- 3 Step Solution to Proactive Accessibility
- Recap and Conclusion

# Proactive Accessibility

- Inviting active participation from people with disabilities from the birth of a project to a commitment towards upgrades and long term maintenance
- Welcome in accessibility at every step of the way from people who have experienced disability first hand in our municipality

# Personal Experience

- Sustained an Injury in 2012 meaning 2 years of wheelchair use and life long chronic pain
- Approximately 15 330 (21 %) of Londoners Identify with a disability (Statistics Canada 2006).
- AODA standards do not work due to honour system and a lack of awareness

# The Risk of Inaccessibility

- IT DOES NOT MATTER IF ABLE BODIED ENGINEERS THINK A STRUCTURE IS TO CODE! IF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES DO NOT FIND IT ACCESSIBLE WE WILL NOT USE IT AND THAT TRANSLATES TO LOST POTENTIAL RIDERSHIP AND REVENUES FOR LONDON!

# The Benefits of Proactive Accessibility for All

- Everyone will require accessible transportation at some point
- According to a Forbes formula, Londoners with disabilities could generate approximately \$94.3 million
- Accessible Design works for everyone!

# Region of Waterloo Awning Shelters Early Concepts



# 3 Step Solution to Implementing Proactive Accessibility into LRT or BRT

- Step 1: Do better to involve local AODA advocates and members of communities with people who identify with a disability
- Step 2: Get involved! Use a wheelchair for a day!
- Step 3: Use person first language



# Recap

- Number 1: PA Facilitates Belonging for people with disabilities in London
- Number 2: If you don't build it for accessibility, we won't use it
- Number 3: Barrier free Ontario by 2025 (7.5 years away)
- Number 4: Welcoming ridership from disabled community means more potential revenues
- Number 5: PA RIGHT NOW = Long term sustainability for London

# Conclusion

With your help, I know we can ensure that this exciting and important idea for the city of London can be one that generates huge revenues for the city of and that fosters connection and a sense of belonging for all of us here regardless of ability. Accessibility equals sustainability. Thank you for your time.