

## Public input wanted on accessible transportation plan

Peel Region is inviting current and future clients, caregivers, social service providers and advocates to take part in the planning for accessible transportation services in Peel.

Anyone who is interested in shaping Peel's Accessible Transportation Master Plan is welcome to attend an open house this coming Monday (June 17). It will be from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m at Century Gardens Community Centre at 340 Vodden St. East, in Brampton. Attendees are invited to learn and provide input on such topics as electronic fare payment, travel training, eligibility requirements and a rider Bill of Rights. The Region will use the feedback from the process to clarify the vision, plan for the future of accessible transportation and recommend specific improvements.

The master plan is scheduled for completion in summer 2014.

In 2012, TransHelp had approximately 12,000 clients and more than 450,000 trips were provided. The number of clients increased by 140 per cent and 74 per cent more trips were provided since 2007. Peel needs to be positioned for growth and compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. To accomplish this, the Region will consider the full menu of service delivery options and new approaches to providing the best possible accessible transit service to people who need it the most.

“The Region is exploring ideas on how to collaborate with our transit partners while also investigating options to meet the growing demand for accessible transportation in the years to come,” said Regional Manager of Accessible Transportation Mark Castro. “The open house event gives residents an opportunity to learn about potential solutions and tell us what they think. This is a chance for the public to work together with the Region to shape the future of accessible transportation in Peel and have their voices heard.”

The Region is committed to providing accessible transportation services, but needs public input on how best to balance the financial constraints while maintaining an appropriate level of service for the next 20 years. The plan will provide recommendations and strategic direction based on sound financial analysis, industry best practices and customer feedback.

Attendees can meet the people who work behind the scenes providing accessible transportation services in Peel.