



**City of Greater Sudbury's  
Sustainable Mobility Advisory Panel**

To assist staff and Council in implementing a vision for a holistic approach to a multi-model transportation system where citizens can walk, cycle and/or use public transit efficiently and safely to get to their destinations.

Clerk's Services  
Tom Davies Square  
200 Brady Street  
Box 5000, Station A  
Sudbury, ON  
P3A 5P3

Monday, March 21, 2013

**RE: Transit Stroller Policy Presentation to the Operations Committee**

To the Clerk's Services Representative:

The Sustainable Mobility Advisory Panel (SMAP) is the community's advisory panel for creating a safe and efficient way to walk, cycle and take transit in the City of Greater Sudbury. We are mandated with several objectives, one of which is to assist staff and Council in implementing the recommendations made within the Sustainable Mobility Plan. Council received this plan in 2010.

Currently, the transit policy in the City of Greater Sudbury insists that caregivers must remove their children from strollers, and then fold strollers before boarding the bus. As infants and children are people with limited or no mobility, a stroller is often the only way they are able to navigate a city. Carrying a folded stroller, a child, a diaper bag and other items such as groceries onto a bus is often a dangerous situation where a caregiver risks dropping and/or injuring the child. Most often, the caregivers using transit are living on a low income and have no other options than to bring their child with their stroller onto the bus. Recognizing these, and many other scenarios, the Sustainable Mobility Plan (2010) recommended that a new policy should be implemented that would allow caregivers to keep their children seated and secured in their stroller while riding transit.

SMAP has conducted thorough research into the policies of 38 transit systems in Ontario, and has found that allowing children to remain in their strollers on transit *is* the consistent policy. Of the 38 Transit systems examined only 9 systems insist caregivers remove their children from their strollers and of these 9 only 3 were in cities with a population of 150 000 or more. These 3 cities are: Oakville, London and Sudbury. Of these 3 cities only Oakville and Sudbury have 100% accessible buses. Most of our northern counterparts, such as North Bay, Sault



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Ste. Marie and Thunder Bay allow children to remain in their strollers while riding a bus.

Transit management has endorsed the policy and has recommended that we bring this issue to the Operations Committee. This is consistent with the Operations Committee objectives which includes: to review proposals for new policies and for amendments to existing policies that pertain to either the Infrastructure Services Department or to the Environmental Services Division.

While only Samantha Baulch, Chair of SMAP, will be presenting, both the Children and Youth Roundtable Advisory Panel and Friends of Sudbury Transit (an organization made up of Greater Sudbury Transit Riders) have endorsed a change in the stroller policy. Samantha will present the current policy, the policies of the other transit systems in Ontario, why changing the current policy will improve City of Greater Sudbury Transit and a recommend change to the policy.

We understand that the next Operations Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Tuesday, April 2 and the next meeting after this is on Monday, April 15. We would be available for either one of these meetings.

Thank you for reviewing SMAP's request.

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