

**From:** [PF-Mailbox-01](#)  
**To:** [Norio, Ann-Marie](#); [Trennum, Matthew](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Online Form - Enquiry from Region website  
**Date:** Thursday, November 18, 2021 12:52:48 PM

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**From:** Niagara Region Website  
**Sent:** Thursday, 18 November 2021 12:52:39 (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
**To:** Clerks  
**Cc:** webincoming  
**Subject:** Online Form - Enquiry from Region website

## Enquiry from Region website

To reply, copy the email address from below and put into 'To'. (if resident entered their email address)

name

Amy Romeo

phone

[REDACTED]

email

[REDACTED]

municipality

St. Catharines

other mun

subject

Letter of Support for Consolidated Transit Model

comments

Please include this letter of support in the agenda for the Special Regional Council meeting scheduled for November 25, 2021. Dear Regional Council, I fully support a move to consolidate transit in the Niagara Region. For many residents, including those with disabilities, a consolidated transit model will provide life-changing access to employment, recreation, and resources. As you consider the proposed model, please keep our most vulnerable residents in mind. So often, people with disabilities are overlooked and left

out of important decisions that deeply affect their ability to survive and thrive. It is critically important that people with disabilities are consulted and represented on the Advisory Board. Please also reflect on the fact that people with disabilities are not, as a rule, single adults with caregivers. We, too, can be caregivers with responsibilities. We can be parents, even single parents, and grandparents with small children in our care. And we don't all have access to, or require, attendants and helpers. I am a single mother with a disability and I rely on Paratransit for almost all of my transit needs. Many of my trips include my toddler-aged child. She was the first baby to ride Paratransit and she tested the rules/protocols, which led to safety modifications. Paratransit has been accommodating and willing to work through new challenges as they arise. My only major criticism is that Paratransit buses require a car seat, which is not currently provided, and I have to drag a car seat around with me when traveling with my child. It's a lot for a person with a physical disability to manage and I hope to see positive changes in the future. As you consider consolidation, I want you to know that Niagara Specialized Transit does not allow me to travel with my child, which means that I can't take her anywhere outside of St. Catharines. I can't even take her to Niagara Falls to see the Christmas lights on display. It's deeply painful, as a parent, to deny my child common childhood experiences because of lack of access. I also want you to be aware that transit payment options offered on the big buses are not always available on Paratransit buses, which is discriminatory. I recently enquired about purchasing a day pass, which is only sold on the bus, and was informed that Paratransit drivers don't have the ability to sell day passes. That needs to change. All transit needs to offer and accept all forms of payment. Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me. I'm always happy to share my lived experiences in the name of progress. Sincerely, Amy Romeo

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reply  
yes

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