

December 18, 2008

Stephen Kingsberry  
Director Delaware Transit Corporation  
900 Public Safety Blvd.  
Dover, DE 19901

RE: Paratransit Services

Dear Mr. Kingsberry,

The Delaware Developmental Disabilities Council strongly supports statewide paratransit service for Delaware's disability community. We understand that Paratransit services complement a fixed route bus system. However, many communities in Delaware do not have a fixed route system. Without an accessible transit service, many individuals with disabilities would not be able to be active members of their communities. People living from New Castle to Smyrna would be without transportation service and those living in most areas south of Dover would be without transportation service. This is a large geographic area of Delaware and affects our largest growing areas in the state.

Our constituency relies on paratransit service for employment, medical appointments and social activities. The disability community often cannot utilize regular means of transportation, one of which is non-accessible and cost-prohibitive taxi service. If taxi service is available in an area, it is very expensive even with discounts offered by Delaware Transit Corporation. A majority of Delaware's disability community are dependent upon government benefits and restricted by tight budgets. Many taxi services do not have lift equipped vans, and people that rely on power wheelchairs and scooters typically cannot ride in a regular car due to their disabilities and/or the size of their technology.

Statewide Paratransit service has brought national positive attention to the Delaware Transit Corporation. As in many of our endeavors within the disability community, transportation should be an example for the national community.

Please feel free to contact our office with any concerns or questions at 739-3333. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Jamie Wolfe  
Chair

cc. Governor-elect Markell Transition Team  
Joint Finance Committee  
Director Office of Management and Budget  
State Council for Persons with Disabilities  
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens