



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 17, 2010

TO: All Members of the Delaware State Senate
and House of Representatives

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell *DM/Kit*
Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

RE: S.B. 242 [DTC Schedules & Routes]

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed S.B. 242 which would require DART to publish all route, schedule and fare information for public transit routes on a website maintained by the Delaware Transit Corporation (DTC) to be available for download by the public and third parties at no charge. SCPD endorses the proposed legislation and has the following observations and recommendations.

There is a national initiative to prompt transit agencies to publish routes and schedules in “open data” format. The national campaign has resulted in approximately 102 out of the 767 transit agencies in the United States opting to publish routes and schedules in such format, including SEPTA in Philadelphia, the CTA in Chicago, and the MTA in New York. It allows consumers to combine schedule data and Google maps to create step-by-step directions using public transportation. Data can also be downloaded to cell phones to allow users to determine the closest stop to a user’s location, quickest route to a destination, and time the next bus will depart.

In particular, persons with mobility impairments would benefit from facilitated access to readily-available information on schedules and connections. Conceptually, the bill could be improved by incorporating a requirement that “accessibility” information also be included in the data base. For example, whether a bus stop is accessible via curb cuts and the availability of a lift on buses on a fixed route would be useful information. In addition, DTC may want to consider evaluating the feasibility of Geo Tracking systems.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our position or recommendations on the proposed legislation.

cc: The Honorable Jack A. Markell
Mr. Brian Hartman, Esq.
Governor’s Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council