

Public Transportation:

- The requirement to have a door-to-door service operating throughout the Municipality every day is unrealistic given the geographical size of rural municipalities like MODY. The requirement to have 2 vehicles operating at a total of 78 hours weekly would be cost-prohibitive.
- Developing a plan to evacuate people with disabilities during an emergency may pose difficulties in that it will be hard to identify who needs the assistance, and there will likely not be enough accessible vehicles.
 - **Note from CAO** – The NS Department of Emergency Management has mandated that all municipalities will have a Vulnerable Persons Registry. The Municipality will have a responsibility to support those persons. People not on the registry must have a personal emergency plan or call 9-1-1 for help.
- There is a recommendation to the Government of Nova Scotia to make sure transportation providers have enough funding to meet these new rules. Does this apply to Municipalities? Will there be funding from the Province to assist with this? Who funds the door-to-door transportation service?
- There is a concern about the recommendation that every public transportation provider has to have thorough training covering a range of topics. It also says that this training must be refreshed every 3 years and must be designed with input from people with disabilities. This is going to be a difficult initiative to track.
- The recommendation to have enough accessible transport for people with disabilities has no way to measure.

Information & Communications:

- Overall support for the draft recommendations.
- There is a recommendation that people with lived experience must be involved in the training of staff and that this must include people who face communication barriers. There should be a recognition that rural municipalities face issues in finding people with lived experience locally who are interested in being involved. There will most likely be an added expense to bring in someone from HRM. And how can we track the refresher every 2 years?

- Putting the Accessibility Policy into practice will be a big job as it will require hours and resources. It will be updated as required.

Motion:

“I move that Council respond to the NS Accessibility Directorate’s call for feedback on the draft recommendations for the Public Transportation and Information & Communications standards outlining support and specific concerns as presented.”