

7/14/10 - FWD'D TO  
TPC MBRs + STAFF

**Benishek-Clark, Anne**

---

**From:** Gary Poulson [garypoulson@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 14, 2010 10:08 AM  
**To:** Benishek-Clark, Anne  
**Subject:** Fwd: Public comment on Metro stroller policy enforcement

Anne--would you forward this email to Chuck and members of the TPC, thanks Gary

----- Forwarded message -----

**From:** Ludmila Mikulasova <[lmikulasova@hotmail.com](mailto:lmikulasova@hotmail.com)>  
**Date:** 2010/7/14  
**Subject:** Public comment on Metro stroller policy enforcement  
**To:** [garypoulson@gmail.com](mailto:garypoulson@gmail.com)

Dear Mr. Poulson,

I was unable to attend the public hearing on Tuesday evening to provide my comments, so I am providing them in this letter. Please forward this to all the appropriate recipients.

I am the mother of a 1 year old and am a frequent bus rider with a stroller. I understand the concerns about safety and space on the bus, especially for wheel chairs. I would like to start by saying I think accommodating a wheelchair passenger should be the priority. However, I think it is a bad idea to enforce this stroller policy all the time for a number of reasons.

- 1) It will turn away parents and young children from transit and cause undue hardship on those passengers. It is far too difficult and not practical to take an infant or toddler out of the stroller, fold it, hold the infant, and hang onto the folded stroller, and almost impossible if you have bags of some sort (diaper bag, grocery bag, work backpack). By enforcing this policy, parents will avoid riding the bus because of this hardship. I am a choice rider and have other means of transportation in some cases (car), and would avoid taking the bus if this policy is enforced. Other people I have spoken to about this would do the same. But this is especially unfair to those who have no other means of transportation. And imagine the situation with a parent with 2 children.
- 2) It won't save much space on the bus. You have to put the folded stroller somewhere and can take nearly the same amount of space as an unfolded stroller.
- 3) There are no significant safety benefits that are worth the hardship imposed on parents with young children. In fact, it seems to endanger both the child and possibly other passengers even more. I understand there was a case where a stroller tipped over when the bus was turning. This is rare, and parents can hold onto the stroller (and this usually doesn't happen when curves are taken at appropriate speeds). It seems less safe holding the infant while trying to hold other items, the folded stroller in particular, which will not stand on its own and could hurt other passengers in an accident. It may be very difficult or impossible to continue holding either the infant or the stroller. If the infant/toddler is strapped into a stroller, even if it tips and slides, it is safer for the infant than falling loose out of the parent's arms. Again, with two children this raises greater safety issues if one can't be strapped in a stroller.

I recommend continuing the current practice, and enforcing the policy only when necessary (i.e. when there is no room for a wheel chair and one needs to be accommodated). I have used transit in other large cities, and have seen children in strollers. I am from Europe, and in many countries there, transit systems (and

other public services) go out of their way to accommodate parents with young children. Many families use transit as a choice there. As Madison tries to increase transit use and improve transit services, it is critical to accommodate all passengers, especially this large group. Making transit use much more difficult and inconvenient for this group is moving in the opposite direction.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and considering public input in this decision, and I hope to continue using transit with my child regularly and see other parents and children continuing to use transit.

Sincerely,

Ludmila Rao

---

Your E-mail and More On-the-Go. Get Windows Live Hotmail Free. [Sign up now.](#)