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June 7, 2023

Leslie S. Richards
Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107

Dear Leslie S. Richards:

The cornerstone of any society is how well it supports its young and its elderly. In Philadelphia, SEPTA's Customized Community Transportation, or CCT, program services residents of Philadelphia that are 65 years or older by providing over 350,000 rides to senior citizens and residents with disabilities a year. This crucial program allows seniors and those with disabilities to maintain independence as they age throughout life.

Currently, for an individual to access SEPTA Paratransit Service, individuals seeking to partake in the CCT program must mail in an application and go to an assessment site for an in-person functional assessment. Requiring travel to an assessment site for those who have already expressed an extra need during travel is problematic. Senior citizens and those with disabilities should have other options to apply or reapply for the CCT program that does not necessitate travel to a designated site so far from their home. Currently, disabled riders and seniors must call and make an appointment before traveling to Center City Philadelphia to have their CCT card renewed.

We urge SEPTA to make the CCT application process mobile, improving accessibility to those who need to use such services. Transportation should be accessible and available to all who need it. People living with disabilities, whether physical or cognitive, struggle with navigating and using many forms of transportation. Requiring individuals to travel to an in-person assessment serves as a barrier to access this essential service.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter. Our hope is that making the CCT application process more accessible will allow disabled riders and seniors to enjoy this much needed program and continue to live a more independent life.

Sincerely,

Anthony Bellmon
State Representative
203rd Legislative District