



# WESTPORT CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
COMMISSION ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

110 Myrtle Avenue, Westport, CT 06880

April 26, 2023

RE: Westport Transit FY 23-24 Budget Restoration

Dear Members of the RTM:

Westport's Commission on People with Disabilities (CPD) supports the full restoration of \$291,231 to the Westport Transit's Proposed FY23-24 budget to continue the Wheels2U service. Wheels2U offers an on-demand format that provides essential public transportation for commuters not qualifying for the ADA Paratransit Door-to-Door Service and has the potential to improve transit services throughout Westport.

In fact, we would advocate for exploring additional funding to expand the Wheels2U program to enhance flexibility within the current Westport Transit system and improve the ADA Door-to-Door service. With affordable housing on the rise and people returning to the office, we should be removing barriers to public transportation, not reducing services.

A vote to restore Westport Transit's budget opens pathways to economic growth, including equal access to employment and enhanced opportunities for social connection, health, and wellness. For example, the Commission's Employment Is For Everyone initiative, endorsed by the First Selectwoman's office, relies on the availability of public transportation, and Wheels2U is an essential component of the program's success.

Providing all residents with the freedom of mobility through public transit is paramount to the safe and equitable experiences we strive to provide for our friends, families, neighbors, and colleagues.

Thank you for your consideration,

Westport Commission on People with Disabilities

*The Commission on People with Disabilities' mission is to ensure that "Westport is a Town where people with disabilities have the equal opportunity and the support to enjoy full and equal access to lives of independence, productivity, inclusion, and self-determination." The Commission's role is to look at all aspects of the Town and its resources, engaging in public dialogue and creating opportunities for understanding, advocacy, and community responses to the needs of all of its residents, including individuals with hearing, visual, intellectual, and physical challenges.*