



Detroit Department of Transportation

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TO: Council President, Mary Sheffield, District 5, City of Detroit

FROM: G. Michael Staley, Interim Executive Director of Transit
City of Detroit, Detroit Department of Transportation



DATE: July 11, 2024

RE: Response re: Child Safety Seating on DDOT Buses

Dear Council President Sheffield,

In response to your memo dated June 18, 2024, regarding child safety seating on buses, the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) offers the following response:

The current policy for child seating, as outlined in the DDOT General Rules and Instructions for TEO's, does not require children 8 years of age or less than 4 feet 9 inches be seated with a parent/guardian/other. Our current policy only indicates that the aforementioned demographic may ride free of charge if accompanied by a full-fare paying adult.

DDOT follows the industry practice where passengers who board the bus with strollers or car seats typically remove the child from the stroller or seat and stow the stroller or seat so that the aisles are not obstructed. The child is held in the arms or with assistance by their parent/guardian/other who also boarded the bus.

Generally, car seats require the complementary use of anchor points and seat belts to be used safely. Our coaches are not equipped with either, rendering the use of car seats aboard our fleet as less safe than if the child were removed and secured in the arms of the parent/guardian/other. Permitting the use of car seats without restraints would subject the organization to unnecessary liability.

Thank you for your inquiry into this matter. If DDOT can provide additional information, please contact my office.

Thank you,

Michael Staley
Interim Executive Director of Transit
City of Detroit

DocuSigned by:
G. Michael Staley
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cc: Todd Bettison, Deputy Mayor, City of Detroit
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison, Mayor's Office