

11. THE COMMISSION RECOMMENDS THAT CONNDOT AUTHORIZE CONNECTICUT TRANSIT AND OTHER STATE SUBSIDIZED BUS OPERATORS TO ACCEPT AN ADA CERTIFICATION CARD IN COMBINATION WITH A PICTURE-BEARING IDENTIFICATION CARD AS ADEQUATE PROOF OF QUALIFICATION FOR A DISABILITY REDUCED FARE.

Current policy calls for disabled riders to acquire a specific Connecticut Transit eligibility card in order to qualify for a reduced transit fare. The Connecticut Transit photo ID card requires a separate medical documentation of the disability, a \$5.00 fee and a trip to Connecticut Transit to get the photo taken and card issued. Most of the riders who would qualify to the reduced fare and thus need the CT photo ID card already possess an ADA certification card qualifying them for ADA complimentary paratransit services. The ADA certification process involved medical documentation of the person's disability. Of course, each medical documentation process also involves the fees charged by the doctors. The ADA card does not include a photo of the person being certified.

Rather than require disabled riders to acquire a separate card involving a second medical certification process, payment of the card issuance fee and a separate trip for the card, acceptance of the ADA certification card in combination with the display of a picture identification to prove the presenter of the ADA card is indeed the person to whom it was officially issued, would meet the needs of the transportation provider to guard against fraudulent use and would save the rider time, inconvenience and money. A check by the Commission with six various bus operators found all six in agreement that this system was workable from their perspective. The Commission urges ConnDOT to approve this arrangement for qualification for disability reduced fares and to authorize its subsidized providers to honor ADA certification cards presented in combination with photo identification as proof of qualification for the reduced fares.