



PHOTO COURTESY M LUKSHUMAYEH

Contractor to face action by LTA

Letter from Helen Lim
Acting Director, Media Relations
Land Transport Authority

WE REFER to Mr M Lukshumayeh's letter "Placement of signs a risk to pedestrians" (Aug 5) and thank him for bringing this matter to our attention.

Our investigations revealed that the warning signs placed on the footpath (picture) were for cabling works, commissioned by SingTel, near the junction of Guillemard Road and Lorong 22 Geylang. The road works were completed on Aug 3.

We agree with the writer that road safety cannot be compromised. We therefore require all contractors carrying out road works to put measures in place to safeguard our road users.

We will take action against the contractor responsible for this safety lapse and will remind agencies and contractors who carry out works on our roads to exercise vigilance in ensuring the safety of all road users.

We thank Mr Lukshumayeh for his feedback.

To solve travel woes of disabled ...

Letter from Kwan Jin Yao

AGAINST the backdrop of an ageing population, the introduction of all-day concessionary travel on public transport and reduced fares for senior citizens is a move in the right direction.

Nevertheless, as pointed out by Public Transport Council chairman Gerard Ee in the report "All-day concessionary travel, lower fares for senior citizens" (Aug 6), more must be done to gradually provide the necessary financial assistance and infrastructure for the disabled.

The fact is that, while day-to-day journeys are relatively affordable – notwithstanding the recent 1-per-cent hike – and accessible for Singaporeans in general, measures targeted at the disabled have been lamentable.

As a starting point, Mr Ee's proposition for the ministries and corresponding stakeholders to clearly define the population of the disabled community – psychological, physiological and other impairments – is well-intentioned.

Not only would it be more convenient, after the study and definition, to implement respective strategies for different groups of disabled individuals, but would also gather a critical mass for discussion.

This can be done by gathering stakeholders from the disabled community, including but not limited to voluntary wel-

fare organisations, government agencies, healthcare experts and transport providers.

Collectively, they would be able to identify areas for improvement, analyse case studies from overseas and decide upon appropriate concessionary plans.

For instance, inspiration can be drawn from Japan, which introduced medical disability passes and documents to ease the process for obtaining concessionary passes from transport operators. The benefits vary according to the disabilities, which have been carefully categorised.

Still, solving the conundrum of concessionary travel for the disabled is but the tip of the iceberg; in terms of infrastructure, more concrete blueprints must be put in place to holistically enhance the travelling experience for these members, which may even benefit senior citizens.

This can include specifically-designed train carriages for proper wheelchair or disability access, appropriate seats or areas designated on buses, sound systems on buses to alert the visually-handicapped, et cetera.

Identifying problems and formulating solutions would be made more meaningful if feedback is solicited from the disabled or elderly passengers themselves.

The impetus for change is upon us, and when given the opportunity, we must do our utmost to help this segment of commuters, encouraging them to travel freely and be more active and productive in their daily life.

Extend travel help scheme for handicapped to sports, treatments

Letter from Edmund Wan
President, Handicaps Welfare Association

THE Handicaps Welfare Association (HWA) shares the sentiments expressed by the letter writer in "Subsidise trips for treatment, too" (Aug 10).

HWA appreciates the National Council of Social Service's efforts targeted at those who need to go to work or school.

Many of our members have benefited from its subsidy scheme, which is designed

to address the immediate and daily transport charges incurred by them.

We would, however, welcome an extension of the scheme or the introduction of a new one to help in areas such as travel for treatment and sports.

We hope the current subsidy scheme could be extended to HWA members who use our specially adapted buses to commute to and from work and school. Such trips should be likened to disabled people taking taxis.

Govt has a responsibility to help the handicapped with transport

Letter from Francis Valentine Tan

I REFER the letter "Use logic, not just emotions" (Aug 10).

It is logical to say that nobody asks to be handicapped; it is as emotionally challenging for such persons as it is for their family.

Not all handicapped persons need subsidies for public transport. However, there are many who do, as their individual or family income may be enough to just make ends meet.

Public transport, being a public good, must remain affordable for every citizen.

Subsidy schemes for specific groups ought to be made easily accessible regardless of whether they are illiterate or otherwise.

A good number of handicapped citizens work for a living, and most of them are paid lower than their peers who are blessed with a healthy physique.

Though it may be right to argue that everyone has equal rights, not everyone is born equal.

The Government has a social responsibility to aid such unfortunate citizens to adapt well in our society. A mere S\$10 may be small change to one, it may be the cost to feed another's family for a couple of days.



OLYMPUS TOUGH
Take a shot. Enjoy the world.

TG-310 **\$368**

TG-610 **\$498**

TG-810 **\$598**

Enjoy free gifts worth \$191



BEST BUY



XZ-1

Usual Price \$748 **Now \$698** + Free Gifts worth \$211

Please check with your local authorized dealers for more information or call Olympus Customer Service Center 1800-659 6787.

Connect with us on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OlympusImagingSingapore>

www.olympusimage.com.sg