

Not 'wheelchair bound'

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Re: "These good intentions are just too expensive" (Editorial, Jan. 4).

People are not "wheelchair bound." We are not "bound" to wheelchairs any more than you are "bound" to your shoes. For most us, wheelchairs are liberating tools that assist with getting around.

In 1988 when I was part of the Regroupement des consommateurs de Montreal, the city gave the same financial issues as excuses for not adapting the metro. The group had proposed a detailed action plan, including that all existing metro stations be made accessible one station at a time, and that all new stations be made accessible from the start. We estimated then that cost would double or triple if we waited, given that the majority of people were then baby boomers in their late 20s to 40s and would eventually require access to the metro, if they were to continue using it. Otherwise the number of commuters using the subway would decrease due to its inaccessibility, with a drop in fare revenue.

An accessible subway is useful to more than just wheelchair users; it benefits all who have difficulty with stairs and escalators (people carrying packages, baby strollers, etc.).

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