

Item No. 3



**For Action
with Confidential Attachment**

Appointment of Members to the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT)

Date: November 12, 2019
To: TTC Board
From: Deputy Chief Executive Officer - Operations

Reason for Confidential Information

This report deals with personal matters about an identifiable person, including municipal or local board employees.

Summary

This report is seeking the Board's endorsement of the appointment of candidates to the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT), commencing their term on January 1, 2020 and ending December 31, 2022. In addition, this report seeks to appoint to re-establish a membership pool.

Applications for consideration were received following two information sessions held at Toronto City Hall at the end of July 2019. Interviews were conducted in August 2019, and the successful candidates were interviewed and evaluated by a four-member panel, including staff representatives from the TTC, personnel from the City of Toronto, and ACAT's current Chair.

Changes are also recommended to the ACAT new member recruitment process on a one-year trial basis in 2020, in order to broaden the pool of potential applicants and remove barriers to joining the Committee.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the TTC Board:

1. Approve the appointment of the five candidates named in the Confidential Attachment, for a term starting on January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2022.
2. Approve the appointment of the candidates named in the Confidential Attachment for a term starting on January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, to re-establish a pool to draw from in the event a member does not accept or complete their term.
3. Authorize the public release of the names of the appointed candidates upon approval of the confidential recommendations.
4. Approve changes to the ACAT new member recruitment process in 2020 for one-year on a trial basis, as outlined in this report.

Financial Summary

This report has no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2019 Operating budget. Funding at essentially the same levels will be included in the proposed 2020 and future years Wheel-Trans Operating budgets.

ACAT Budget Summary 2019 to 2021

	2019 Approved Budget	2020 Proposed Budget	2021 Outlook
Meetings	43,450	46,030	46,300
Courier Services	3,600	3,670	3,750
ACAT Recruitment Advertising	29,220	28,000	28,560
Captioning Services	12,500	12,000	12,000
Total	88,770	89,700	90,610

Equity/Accessibility Matters

ACAT was established in 1992 to provide a mechanism for ongoing public participation on matters pertaining to accessible public transit in the City of Toronto. Such matters include the removal of barriers to accessibility and improving the customer experience for persons with disabilities and seniors.

ACAT is comprised of fifteen members, of which at least eight must meet the definition of disability under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Several kinds of disabilities may be represented by these persons, including but not limited to: physical or mobility, visual, hearing, communication, learning, mental health (psychological/psychiatric) and intellectual/developmental disabilities. In addition, the Committee also seeks representation from the seniors' community and advocates for persons with disabilities or who have demonstrated knowledge of and interest in accessible transit issues.

Decision History

At its November 30, 2016 meeting, the Board approved amendments to the ACAT Terms of Reference to update ACAT's membership requirements in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code definition of disability as well as to increase the maximum number of advocates for people with disabilities on the committee.

[http://www.ttc.ca/About the TTC/Commission reports and information/Commission meetings/2016/November 30/Reports/6 Amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Advisory Commi.pdf](http://www.ttc.ca/About_the_TTC/Commission_reports_and_information/Commission_meetings/2016/November_30/Reports/6_Amendment_to_the_Terms_of_Reference_for_the_Advisory_Commi.pdf)

Issue Background

Reporting to the TTC Board, ACAT's role is:

- to represent the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities and seniors who use TTC services;
- to provide advice to the TTC Board and TTC staff on the provision of accessible public

transit;

- to advise the TTC on policy issues for service pertaining to the interest of persons with disabilities and seniors; and
- To support TTC staff in providing consultation, education, and advice related to persons with disabilities, seniors, and the community-at-large.

In keeping with the ACAT Terms of Reference, Section 2.2, membership is comprised of 15 individuals who use TTC services and represent a broad spectrum of persons with disabilities, seniors and advocates for persons with disabilities. Members must be residents of the City of Toronto and appointments are for a three-year term with one third of the members retired and replaced each year.

A pool of two to three people is also established each year to draw from in case an ACAT member cannot complete their three-year term. Pool members participate on one ACAT subcommittee as a means to learn more about the Committee and to keep current on ACAT activities. If not selected to replace an ACAT member during the year, pool members may reapply again for membership for the following year.

Comments

2020 New Member Recruitment

The candidates recommended in this report were interviewed by a selection committee comprised of a staff member from the City of Toronto, TTC staff, and the current ACAT Chair. All candidates recommended are fully compliant with the aforementioned terms of reference, including the amendments made to the Terms of Reference to expand ACAT eligibility so that the Committee is representative of people with disabilities beyond the physical, sensory, and communication disabilities that the Committee has traditionally focused on.

Advertisements were placed in the StarMetro (commuter news) information was posted on the TTC website, shared across the TTC's social media channels and distributed to Toronto Public Library branches across the city. The City's Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC) was also requested to advise its members about the sessions.

The advertisement invited interested persons who have knowledge of and an interest in accessible transit issues to attend an information seminar in order to receive an application and obtain information on ACAT's mandate and activities. Two sessions were held in July 2019 at Toronto City Hall. Attendance to at least one session was mandatory, as per the ACAT Terms of Reference.

Changes to New Member Recruitment Process in 2020

The TTC Board-approved ACAT Terms of Reference (ToR) governs the annual application process for new membership in the Committee. In order to broaden the pool of potential applicants for ACAT membership and eliminate barriers to joining the

Committee, TTC staff and the current ACAT Executive recommend implementing several changes to the ToR on a trial basis in 2020.

Currently, the ToR requires all applicants to attend an in-person information session prior to applying for Committee membership. Starting in 2020, while information sessions will still be held, attendance will no longer be mandatory. The information sessions will also be held more than one week apart, to help ensure that potential applicants are able to attend due to planned vacations, unexpected illnesses, etc.

Furthermore, in response to customer feedback, applications for membership will be made available online; however, potential applicants will need to review and agree to mandatory screening questions before gaining access to the application. Staff will also make available improved information about the Committee, including frequently asked questions about ACAT member responsibilities and the time commitment required to be an ACAT member.

The trial changes will be evaluated in terms of information session attendance, applications received, and customer feedback, and Staff will provide a recommendation with respect to making these changes permanent as part of the appointment of new ACAT members for 2021 in late 2020. TTC Staff met with ACAT Executive on July 21, 2019 to collaboratively develop this proposal and later presented the proposal to ACAT on August 29, 2019.

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Signature

Kirsten Watson
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Attachments

Attachment 1 - Confidential Attachment