



**For Action
with Confidential Attachment**

Appointment of Members to the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT) 2025

Date: December 3, 2024
To: TTC Board
From: Chief Transportation and Vehicles Officer

Reason for Confidential Information

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

Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek the TTC Board's approval for the appointment of five members to the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT) commencing January 1, 2025, and ending on December 31, 2027. In addition, this report seeks to re-establish a membership pool of four additional members in the event that any ACAT member does not accept or complete the term.

The appointments are required to fill five vacant positions on ACAT, resulting from the retirement of current Committee members.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the TTC Board:

1. Adopt the recommendations contained in Attachment 1 and authorize the public release of the names of the appointed candidates upon approval of the confidential recommendations.

Financial Summary

Approval of the recommendations in this report does not result in any incremental financial impact. The TTC's 2024 Operating Budget includes \$120,000 to cover meeting and captioning services costs in support of ACAT's annual activities. The funding level will be included in TTC's 2025 Operating Budget submission and is sufficient to provide ongoing support to ACAT.

The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

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. With the recommendations of our Racial Equity Office, we have updated our application and recruitment process to attract candidates from the Indigenous and Black communities and racialized people with disabilities.

ACAT is comprised of 15 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

The Board approved amendments to the ACAT Terms of Reference on June 23, 2022, which addressed modern corporate terminology and more inclusive and equitable language, provisions for electronic participation and remuneration details. The amendments also included having a member of the TTC's Human Rights and Investigations Department participate in the four-person selection panel instead of City of Toronto personnel.

[Staff Report – Amendment to the ACAT Terms of Reference, June 23, 2022](#)

[Decision – Amendment to the ACAT Terms of Reference, June 23, 2022](#)

Issue Background

Mandate of the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT)

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;
- Provide advice to the TTC Board and TTC staff on the provision of accessible public transit;
- Advise the TTC on policy issues for service pertaining to the interest of persons with disabilities and seniors; and
- Support TTC staff in providing consultation, education and advice related to persons with disabilities, seniors, and the community-at-large.

Committee Membership

The ACAT Terms of Reference, section 2.2, membership, requires that the Committee be 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. The application and recruitment process has been updated based on recommendations from the Racial Equity Office to include and expand outreach to Indigenous, Black, and racialized people with disabilities.

A pool of individuals is also established each year to draw from in case an ACAT member cannot complete the three-year term. Pool members participate on one ACAT subcommittee 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

Retiring Members

The following ACAT members, appointed for a term from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2024 are retiring this year:

- Anita Dressler
- Bobbi Moore
- Erica Tanny
- Howard Wax
- Wangari Muriuki

In appreciation for their service on the Committee, the TTC Board will acknowledge the contributions of the retiring ACAT members by presenting them with an In-Appreciation plaque.

Recruitment of New ACAT Members

Advertisements were placed in local newspapers (Etobicoke Guardian, North York Mirror, and Scarborough Mirror), posted at library branches and a news release was issued. Online marketing included Toronto.com and Metroland Media, posting information on the TTC website, sharing information across the TTC's social media channels, and internally on MyTTC | Now, MyTTC | Weekly and MyTTC | SAP Jam. Information was also posted on subway platform screens, promoted to Wheel-Trans customers (Wheel-Trans Self-Booking site, Interactive Voice Response and Ride Line), shared with ACAT members by e-mail to share with their networks, put in the TTC Stakeholder Newsletter, and shared through organizations that serve people with disabilities.

The advertisement invited interested persons who have knowledge of and an interest in accessible transit issues to review the new member content posted online in order to receive an application and obtain information on ACAT's mandate and activities.

The candidates recommended in this report were interviewed by a selection committee comprised of TTC staff and a member of the ACAT Executive. All candidates recommended fully comply with the appointment requirements as set out in the Terms of Reference.

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Signature

Rich Wong
Chief Transportation and Vehicles Officer

Attachments

Confidential Attachment 1