



For Action with Confidential Attachment

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

Date: January 10, 2019
To: TTC Board
From: Chief Executive Officer

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, 2019 and ending December 31, 2021. In addition, this report seeks to appoint to re-establish a membership pool.

Applications for consideration were received at the end of October 2018 following two information sessions held at Toronto City Hall. Interviews were conducted in early November 2018, 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.

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, 2019 to December 31, 2021.
2. Approve the appointment of the candidates named in the Confidential Attachment for a term starting on January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019, to re-establish a pool to draw from in the event a member does not accept or complete their term.
3. Present the retiring five members with in-appreciation plaques and a transit pass in line with the number of years served in their term as recognition of their contribution (See Attachment 2).
4. Authorize the public release of the names of the appointed candidates upon approval of the confidential recommendations.

Financial Summary

This report has no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the 2018 Operating Budget as approved by City Council on February 12, 2018. Funding at essentially the same levels will be included in the proposed 2019 and future years Wheel-Trans Operating budgets.

ACAT Budget Summary 2018 to 2020

	2018 Approved Budget	2019 Proposed Budget	2020 Outlook
Meetings	\$43,500	\$43,500	\$43,500
Courier Services	\$3,600	\$3,600	\$3,600
ACAT Membership / Advertising	\$28,600	\$29,200	\$29,800
Captioning Services	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$12,500
Total	\$88,200	\$88,800	\$89,400

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 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 those 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%20the%20TTC/Commission%20reports%20and%20information/Commission%20meetings/2016/November%2030/Reports/6%20Amendment%20to%20the%20Terms%20of%20Reference%20for%20the%20Advisory%20Commi.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 or 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

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) and all nine local Metroland community newspapers in an effort to reach and recruit candidates from across the City. The invitation was also posted on the TTC website and Charity Village. Wheel-Trans stakeholders Autism Ontario and Brain Injury Society of Toronto posted the announcement on their social media platforms (Twitter and Facebook).

The advertisement invited interested persons who have knowledge of and an interest in accessible transit issues to attend an information seminar to receive an application and obtain information on ACAT's mandate and activities. Two sessions were held in September 2018 at Toronto City Hall. Attendance to at least one session was mandatory, as per the ACAT Terms of Reference.

An in-appreciation plaque and a transit pass equivalent to the number of years served is to be presented to each of the five ACAT members who are retiring on December 31, 2018 in recognition of their contribution, time, and commitment.

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Signature

Richard J. Leary
Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

Attachment 1 - Confidential Attachment
Attachment 2 - List of 2018 Retiring ACAT Members

RETIRING MEMBERS (January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2018)

1. Raymond Dell'Aera
2. Louise Bark
3. Debbie Gillespie
4. Angela Marley
5. Lynn McCormick