



For Action
With Confidential Attachment

Presentation to Retiring Members and Appointment of New Members to the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT)

Date: December 7, 2023
To: TTC Board
From: Chief Transportation and Vehicles Officer

Reason for Confidential Information

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

Summary

Every year, the Board acknowledges the contributions of the retiring Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT) members by presenting them with an In-Appreciation plaque.

In addition, new members to ACAT are appointed for up to a three-year term, and one third of the members are replaced each year.

This report is seeking the Board's endorsement of the appointment of five candidates to ACAT commencing January 1, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2026. In addition, this report seeks to re-establish a membership pool of five additional candidates in the event that a member does not accept or complete the term.

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, 2024 to December 31, 2026.
2. Approve the appointment of the five candidates named in the Confidential Attachment for a term starting on January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024, 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.

Financial Summary

Approval of the recommendations in this report does not result in any incremental financial impact. The TTC's 2023 Operating Budget includes \$120,000 to cover meeting and captioning services costs in support of the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit's annual activities. The funding level will be included in TTC's 2024 Operating Budget submission to provide ongoing support to ACAT, comparable to the 2023 budget.

The Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial summary 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, 2023](#)

[Decision – Amendment to the ACAT Terms of Reference, June 23, 2023](#)

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;
- 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.

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. 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 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 TTC staff and a member of the ACAT Executive. All candidates recommended fully comply 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 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 TTC Board-approved ACAT Terms of Reference governs the annual application process for new membership in the Committee. In 2023, applications for membership were made available online and by mail upon request. Information about the Committee, including frequently asked questions about ACAT member responsibilities and the time commitment required to be an ACAT member, was also made available. In accordance with the amendments made to the ACAT Terms of Reference in June 2022, the selection panel for interviewing and evaluating new candidates included a member of the TTC's Human Rights and Investigations Department instead of City of Toronto personnel.

Contact

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Signature

Rich Wong
Chief Transportation and Vehicles Officer

Attachment

Attachment 1 – 2023 Retiring ACAT Members

Attachment 2 – Confidential Attachment

RETIRING MEMBERS (January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2023)

1. Gwyneth Dalzell
2. Craig Nicol
3. Lauri-Sue Robertson

RETIRING MEMBERS (January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023)

4. Rob Lackie
 5. Valdo Tammark
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