



**STAFF REPORT
ACTION REQUIRED
with Confidential Attachment**

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

Date:	December 20, 2016
To:	TTC Board
From:	Chief Executive Officer
Reason for Confidential Information:	This report deals with personal matters about an identifiable individual, 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, 2017 and ending December 31, 2019.

Applications for consideration were received at the end of October 2016, following two information sessions held at Toronto City Hall. Interviews were conducted in early November 2016, and the successful candidates were interviewed and evaluated by a 4-member committee, including staff representatives from the TTC, personnel from the City of Toronto, and ACAT's current Chair.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve the appointment of five candidates to ACAT, commencing their term on January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2019 (See Appendix A).
2. Approve the appointment of three candidates for a one year term commencing January 1, 2017 and ending December 31, 2017, to re-establish a pool to draw from in the event a member does not accept or complete their term (see Appendix A); and

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 Appendix A).

Financial Impact

This report has no financial impact beyond what has been approved in the current year's Wheel-Trans budget.

Decision History

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 a committee of the TTC Board and is governed by the ACAT Terms of Reference. 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. Where previously ACAT members must have been a senior, a person with a physical, sensory, or communication impairment, or an advocate of people with disabilities, the eligibility criteria has now expanded to be inclusive of all people with disabilities. The number of advocates for people with disabilities was specifically increased from two to three to allow for improved representation of people with cognitive and mental health disabilities. 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 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 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, including at least two seniors, and may include a maximum of three other persons who are 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

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 this year 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 24 Hours, Metro (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. Members of the public who attended or watched the livestream of the 2016 TTC Public Forum on Accessible Transit were also made aware of the upcoming recruitment process.

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 October 2016 at Toronto City Hall. Attendance to at least one session was mandatory.

It is planned to present the selected candidates to the Board at its meeting on December 20, 2016.

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, 2016, in recognition of their contribution, time, and commitment. It is worth noting that the current Chair, Mazin Aribi will be leaving the committee and we wanted to thank him for his leadership and collaborative partnership throughout his term.

Contact

Eve Wiggins, Head of Wheel-Trans, 416-393-3095, Eve.Wiggins@ttc.ca

Matt Hagg, Senior Planner – System Accessibility, Strategy and Service Planning, 416-393-3514, Matt.Hagg@ttc.ca

Attachments

Appendix A – 2017 ACAT Members & 2016 Retiring Members

Appendix B – Confidential Attachment

Appendix A

2017 ACAT Members

NEW MEMBERS (3-year term – January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2019)

1. Mary Burton
2. Desrienne McIlwrick
3. Craig Nicol
4. Thomas Richardson
5. Lauri Sue Robertson

POOL MEMBERS (1-year term - January 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017)

1. Anita Dressler
2. Jessica Geboers
3. Igor Samardzic

RETIRING MEMBERS (January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016)

1. Mazin Aribi
2. Karma Burkhar
3. Marian McDonell
4. Bobbi Moore
5. Angela Rebeiro

December 7, 2016