



**For Action
with Confidential Attachment**

Presentation to Retiring Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT) Members and Appointment of New Members for 2026

Date: December 10, 2025
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.

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.

Summary

This report seeks TTC Board approval to appoint five members to the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT) commencing on January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2028, and to appoint one member to ACAT commencing on January 1, 2026 and ending on December 31, 2027, to replace a pool member. In addition, this report seeks to re-establish a membership pool of two additional members in the event that any ACAT member does not accept or complete their term.

Background and Analysis

Mandate of the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit

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 to include and expand outreach to Indigenous, Black, and racialized people with disabilities.

Each year, a pool of individuals is created to serve as potential replacements if an ACAT member is unable to complete their three-year term. Pool members participate in one ACAT subcommittee to gain experience and stay informed about committee activities. Minutes are taken at ACAT subcommittee meetings and at the monthly ACAT General Meeting, which serve as a reference for previous discussions and decisions past ACAT members have had or made. New members also observe when an experienced member speaks at an Operator recertification training session before attending as a speaker themselves. If a pool member is not selected to fill a vacancy during the year, they may reapply for ACAT membership the following year.

The following ACAT members, appointed for a term from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2025 are retiring this year:

- Betty Rivington-Law
- Mei Hung
- Frank Lockhart
- Maria Marin
- Lavarnan Mehavarnan

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

A comprehensive recruitment campaign ran from May 16 to August 12. Outreach included print advertisements in the Toronto Star, posters at library branches, community and seniors' centres, a bookmark created for external events and pop-ups, and a news release. Digital efforts featured subway platform video screens, a three-week digital advertising campaign across the TorStar network, updates on the TTC website and social media, internal communications via MyTTC | Now (TVs) and MyTTC | Weekly, and an article in the monthly Stakeholder Update and Access Newsletter. Information was also shared by e-mail with ACAT members, the TTC's Technical Table, and organizations serving people with disabilities to share with their networks. Wheel-Trans customers received details through the Self-Booking site, Interactive Voice Response, and Ride Line. All advertisements encouraged individuals with knowledge of or interest in accessible transit issues to review ACAT's membership criteria and mandate online before applying.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion 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. This includes removing barriers to accessibility and improving the customer experience for persons with disabilities and seniors. In 2024, following recommendations from the TTC's Racial Equity Office, the ACAT application and recruitment process was revised to strengthen outreach and better attract candidates from Indigenous, Black, and other racialized communities of 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 people, including but not limited to physical and mobility, visual, hearing, communication, learning, mental health (psychological/psychiatric), and intellectual/developmental disabilities. 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.

Innovation and Sustainability Considerations

New ACAT members bring forward new and innovative ideas that enhance the customer experience and create a more accessible, inclusive, and sustainable transit system. The new members being recommended for membership beginning in 2026 will bring a diversity of experiences and perspectives, which will allow the broader ACAT membership to continue providing valuable insights to TTC staff.

Corporate Plan Alignment

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Accessibility are a Key Principle of the TTC's 2024-2028 Corporate Plan. ACAT plays a crucial role in helping the TTC continue to work toward providing a barrier-free accessible transit system that ensures its fleet and service offered are suitable and convenient for all communities, including people who use mobility devices, have low vision, and seniors. Continued accessibility improvements attract new users and ensure that existing customers are confident when travelling on the transit system.

Financial Impact

The TTC's 2025 Operating Budget, approved by the TTC Board on January 10, 2025, and approved by City Council on February 11, 2025, includes \$120,000 to cover meeting and captioning services costs in support of ACAT's annual activities. An increase in the funding level to \$120,300 will be included in the TTC's 2026 Operating Budget submission and is subject to the annual budget approval.

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

Contact

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Attachments

Attachment 1 – Decision History
Confidential Attachment 1

Attachment 1 – 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. On October 29, 2024, the Board approved an honoraria for ACAT Vice-Chairs and ACAT members.

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

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

[Staff Report – Honoraria for the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit, October 29, 2024](#)

[Decision – Honoraria for the Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit, October 29, 2024](#)