

Information for ACAT

2022 applicants



What's ACAT?

The Advisory Committee on Accessible Transit (ACAT) is a group of volunteer members who provide advice and recommendations to the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) Board and TTC staff using an intersectional approach on matters pertaining to accessible public transit in the City of Toronto. These matters include the removal of barriers to accessibility and improving the customer experience for persons with disabilities and seniors.

People with intersecting identities including Indigenous, Black and racialized communities, the 2SLGBTQ+ community, newcomers, as well as people with multiple physical, cognitive, sensory and mental health conditions, experience compounding and complex accessibility barriers. ACAT members represent those voices and provide insight and advice on accessibility actions to the TTC.

The role of ACAT

ACAT is a volunteer citizen advisory committee to the TTC. The Committee represents the public transit needs and concerns of persons with disabilities, including persons with physical, cognitive, sensory and mental health conditions as well as seniors, and the complexities of intersectionality and disability. ACAT works collaboratively with TTC staff to consult, educate and provide advice on ways to improve the TTC for persons with disabilities and seniors.

Prerequisites to join ACAT

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- a. Must be a resident of Toronto.
- b. Must use the conventional TTC or Wheel-Trans.
- c. Must be a person with a disability, a senior, or must have a demonstrated knowledge/interest in accessible transit issues and represent the needs and concerns of persons with disabilities and seniors who use the TTC.
- d. Must be available for meetings as required.
- e. Must be familiar with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA), the Ontario Human Rights Code and related accessibility standard and/or guidelines and legislation as they pertain to public transit.
- f. Members must reflect the racial diversity of Toronto based on population demographics (currently, 52% of Toronto's population are people from racialized communities).

ACAT organization

ACAT is made up of the ACAT Executive Committee, the ACAT General Committee and four subcommittees. The ACAT Executive Committee consists of three elected members, the Chair and two Vice Chairs.

The ACAT Committee consists of 15 volunteers broken down as follows:

- At least eight persons with disabilities.
- At least two seniors.
- A maximum of three advocates for people with disabilities exclusive of the members above. These members must have a demonstrated knowledge of and interest in accessible transit issues.

Eight ACAT members shall constitute a quorum for every ACAT General or Special meeting.

Members of ACAT are appointed for a period of up to three years.

One third of the members are replaced each year.

Retired members may reapply for a subsequent term following a one-year absence from ACAT.

Two to Four ACAT Pool members (alternates) will also be appointed each year for a one-year term. ACAT Pool members may be called on by the ACAT Executive and TTC staff to fill a vacancy in the course of a year. An ACAT Pool member who fills a vacancy for less than 12 months, may reapply to be an ACAT member without serving the one-year absence requirement from ACAT membership.

Members of the ACAT Committee are appointed by and report to the TTC Board.

The four Subcommittees are:

a. Communications Subcommittee

This body reviews communications affecting accessibility and use of TTC services by persons with disabilities and seniors.

b. Design Review Subcommittee

This Subcommittee reviews and makes recommendations on design improvements to TTC vehicles and facilities. Other initiatives include, but are not limited to, Easier Access and TTC accessible design standards.

c. Service Planning Subcommittee

Advises the TTC on matters related to buses, streetcars and the subway. Operational procedures, training, policy development and the Annual TTC Public Forum on Accessible Transit are some of the other matters they cover.

d. Wheel-Trans Operations Subcommittee

Provides advice on Wheel-Trans operational and service matters.

Selection and appointment process

The selection process for ACAT membership starts with the solicitation of the public through advertisements in local newspapers and/or other forms of communication available at the TTC.

Applicants must review Information for ACAT 2022 Applicants along with ACAT New Applicant FAQ to be eligible to apply for ACAT membership. Selected applicants are interviewed and evaluated by a four-member selection committee consisting of two TTC staff representatives, personnel from the City of Toronto and ACAT's Chair or Vice Chair. The selection committee then makes its recommendations to the TTC Board of Directors who make the final decision. Individuals who are appointed to ACAT, will attend an orientation on the roles and responsibilities of ACAT and will be given all the pertinent documents.

Location and frequency of ACAT meetings

The ACAT General Committee meets every last Thursday of each month from approximately 1 to 3 p.m.

Currently, ACAT is meeting online using WebEx video conferencing software. This platform also permits committee members to call in to meetings. It is expected that ACAT will continue to meet virtually for the foreseeable future until Toronto Public Health recommends that in-person gatherings can be held again without physical distancing requirements.

In-person meetings are held at the TTC Head Office, 1900 Yonge Street, 7th floor Boardroom. This location is directly above the Davisville Subway which is accessible.

All meetings are held during business hours.

Members of the ACAT General Committee must participate in two of the four subcommittee meetings which meet as issues arise. A commitment of between 10 to 15 hours a month is required.

The ACAT Executive Committee that consists of three elected members, meets quarterly with the TTC Chair and Vice Chair.

The ACAT Chair or designate attends the Toronto Accessibility Advisory Committee (TAAC).

Current ACAT priorities

Here are some of the major initiatives that will require member participation:

- The Wheel-Trans Appeal Panel
- The re-registration of legacy Wheel-Trans customers
- Review the Access Hubs and bus routes that support the Family of Services initiative
- Improve the use of PRESTO
- Community Bus routes
- Provide ongoing first-hand advice during COVID-19 pandemic

Application process

Applicants can submit an application between September 7, 2021 and September 21, 2021. The deadline for submission is **4 p.m. on September 21, 2021**.

Completed applications can be mailed to:

Wheel-Trans
580 Commissioners Street
Toronto, Ontario M4M 1A7

Applications may also be emailed to acat@ttc.ca or faxed to 416-338-0126.

A Review Panel will evaluate all applications. The panel consists of the ACAT Chair, City of Toronto Human Rights Officer and two members of TTC staff.

Only candidates selected for interviews will be contacted. Members are selected based on qualifications and the [ACAT Terms of Reference](#).

Resources for information about ACAT

We suggest you also review the following:

- [Making the TTC a diverse and inclusive organization](#)
- [ACAT meetings](#)
- [FAQs for ACAT 2021 applicants](#)