



Recruiting Additional LRT Sub-Committee Advisors in Order to Facilitate Consideration of Climate Justice

April 11, 2025

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About Report PED24087(b)

Report PED24087(b) is the follow-up report to PED24087(a), which was **referred back** to staff at the November 15, 2024, LRT Sub-Committee meeting.

Report PED24087 (b) presents and assesses four governance options for including the voices and perspectives of frontline communities to enable climate justice considerations as part of decision-making during the implementation of the LRT Project.

Climate Justice: Overview

Strives for an equitable and inclusive approach to addressing the environmental, social, and economic impacts of climate change.

Three dimensions of Climate Justice:

- **Recognitional Equity**
- **Distributive Equity**
- **Procedural Equity**

Four Governance Options Assessed

- Recruit additional Non-Voting Community Advisors to the LRT Sub-Committee
- Establish a Working Group
- Recruit additional Non-Voting Community Advisors to LRT Sub-Committee and establish Working Group in future if deemed necessary
- Strike a Task Force

Option 1 – Add Non-Voting Community Advisors to the LRT Sub-Committee

Challenges

- Daytime meetings and volunteer nature of role may preclude participation of some community members
- Formal nature of Sub-Committee may make participation challenging for some new Advisors

Benefits

- Community Advisors participate directly at LRT Sub-Committee, providing input as project elements are considered
- Contributes to the normalization of climate justice considerations as part of on-going Sub-Committee project-related deliberations.

Option 2 – Establish a Working Group

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ On-going operation places heavier burden on volunteer members; require some basic staff support○ While reporting to LRT Sub-Committee, is arms-length from the direct discussions at that main table
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ More community participants can be accommodated○ Setting is more informal, creating a space where community engagement may happen more easily○ More flexibility around scheduling of meetings outside of workday hours to accommodate participation.

Option 3 – Recruit additional Non-Voting Community Advisors to LRT Sub-Committee and establish Working Group in future if deemed necessary.

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Approach brings the challenges of Options 1 and 2
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Approach brings the benefits of Option 1 and 2, including bringing new community voices directly to the LRT Sub-Committee while also providing an informal space for community discussion and input

Option 4 – Strike a Task Force

Challenges	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Requires the support of staff, including Clerks○ Is arms-length from the direct discussions at that main table○ Daytime meetings and volunteer nature of role may preclude participation of some community members○ Formal nature may make participation challenging for some new advisors
Benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Creates its own agendas and workplan related to Sub-Committee/Council defined topics/issues○ Reviews information and provides feedback and may recommend items for implementation○ No set limit to the number of members that can be recruited

Option 3

Recruit additional Non-Voting Community Advisors to the LRT Sub-Committee and establish a Working Group in future if deemed necessary as this option is:

- ✓ Straightforward to implement
- ✓ Best facilitates procedural equity (fairness and inclusive participation)
- ✓ Requires minimal staff resources (operationalization is relatively straightforward)
- ✓ Normalization of climate justice considerations

Recommendation (a)

(a) That an amendment to the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee's Terms of Reference to include additional Non-Voting Community Advisors to ensure that the Sub-Committee's composition reflects the community from a climate justice point of view BE APPROVED as follows:

Membership

The membership of the LRT Sub-Committee shall consist of the Mayor and (7) Councillors (consisting of Councillors along the B-Line corridor as well as additional Councillors that represent various interests, i.e. a representative of the mountain and the rural/suburban wards).

Recommendation (a) continued

Other representatives of the community – key stakeholders, will be asked to attend as advisors to the sub-committee. These can include but are not limited to (Chamber of Commerce, BIA's, HHHBA, institutional and business partners).

Non-Voting Community Advisors that reflect the community from a climate justice point of view. These Advisors can include but are not limited to the Urban Indigenous community, Black community, women, gender diverse individuals, 2SLGBTQIA+, youth, seniors, newcomers/refugees, persons with disabilities, and low-income Hamiltonians.

Recommendation (b)

(b) That staff BE DIRECTED to proceed with efforts to work with Sub-Committee members to recruit up to six Non-Voting Community Advisors representing local organizations that offer support to frontline communities to the Light Rail Transit Sub-Committee and to establish a Working Group in future if deemed necessary.

Thank you!