

Hello Audrey,

Please accept this email as my resignation from the Integrated Transportation Community Advisory Committee.

I also would like to provide some feedback on the advisory committees.

It also seems as though there is a general misunderstanding on the scope and purpose of the Advisory Committee as there have been multiple discussions that have taken place, where to my observations should be outside of the directive of the committee. There also seems to be confusion amongst the membership of what community consultation has already happened as there seems to be a desire to treat all presentations coming forward as the first time any citizen is seeing these plan when I understand that significant resources have already been used to gather community feedback.

The current structure of the advisory committee seems to operate in a way that challenges diverse voices from coming forward. Roberts rules can be used effectively to provide some order to meetings, however it can also be used to suppress voices by not giving adequate space for a natural discussion to take place. It also limits individuals who are not as familiar with Robert's rules to participate in the discussion, but this should also be the responsibility of the chair to inform all members of how to appropriately engage and contribute.

The unlimited time structure challenges also poses a barrier for the committee to have diverse voices. With a meeting that can go on for hours, those with structured employment requirements or childcare are unable to sit and contribute to these committees. For myself, I now have a work conflict over our typical meeting time, but even if we were to change the meeting time, I am not optimistic I would be able to balance it alongside my full-time work schedule, while also pursuing my Masters. This meeting structure also places a barrier for those with childcare responsibilities, which will also impact women at a disproportionate rate. While I do not have childcare responsibilities, I am not surprised that with my departure there are no longer any women-identified members of the committee. That, in combination with the challenges for working individuals to participate result in the make-up of the committee to be fairly homogeneous and not representative of the London population's age, gender, and racial diversity.

In my opinion, these committees would better serve the community if they were facilitated by a knowledgeable city staff member who can redirect the conversation appropriately, ensure the meetings are functioning as needed, and can remind members of what is within and outside of the scope of the committee. Alternatively, I would encourage the city to consider the desired purpose of these committees, and if there are other methods of achieving these outcomes.

Audrey, thank you for everything that you have done for the committee so far. The long work hours, providing guidance on operating structure, and organizing meetings do not go unnoticed. Please also share my appreciation to the city staff who have been able to provide insightful presentations and demonstrate incredible patience and professionalism during the advisory committee meetings. If any further feedback is desired on the advisory committees, please let me know and I would be happy to engage in a discussion with yourself or city staff.

Kind regards,
Rachel Cabunoc