

HALIFAX

Item 12.1.1

SMART CITIES CHALLENGE

Executive Committee Briefing

January 22, 2018

Smart Cities Challenge - Overview

- \$300M, 11-year project announced in the 2017 Federal Budget
- Merit-based competition across Canada to implement technology to meet community challenges
- First round launched on November 23, 2017, with the following prizes:
 - one prize of up to \$50 million open to all communities, regardless of population;
 - two prizes of up to \$10 million open to all communities with populations under 500,000 people; and,
 - one prize of up to \$5 million open to all communities with populations under 30,000 people.
- The 2018-19 competition includes four phases:
 - Application Phase (Due April 24, 2018)
 - Selection of Finalists (Summer 2018)
 - Final Proposal (Winter 2018/19)
 - Selection of Winners (Spring 2019)

The Smart Cities Challenge is not about Municipal infrastructure, it is about social change

Application Overview & Success Factors

- Application phase considered the “problem definition” stage
- Within a single sentence – 50 words maximum, we must describe the outcome we wish to achieve
- Must be a compelling, measurable goal and have associated outcomes to be achieved through data and connected technology
- Community engagement is critical, a wide variety of stakeholders, including non–traditional stakeholders, is favourable
- Initiative should be underway or planned to be undertaken regardless of Federal funding
- Initiative should be replicable for other municipalities

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Process to Date

- Staff reviewed the Municipality's current approved strategies, including:
 - Public Safety Strategy
 - Poverty Solutions Strategy
 - Integrated Mobility Plan
- Meetings have been held with a number of partner organizations to look at opportunities for their participation
- ICT staff have reviewed current Business Unit technology plans as well as partner capabilities and plans
- Consideration has been given to the current state of each initiative, including overall readiness, stakeholder involvement, community engagement and social impact

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Recommended Approach

- Staff recommend that the Municipality submit an application focused on poverty reduction
 - Poverty is an acute issue in multiple segments of the Municipality
 - A number of communities experience poverty
- Poverty is a major risk factor associated with increased crime and victimization – ties in with the outcomes of the Public Safety Strategy
- Poverty reduction supports access to affordable transportation to social services and secure food – ties in with the outcomes of the Integrated Mobility Plan
- Solutions designed to address poverty challenges will positively impact the lives of all residents

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Technology and Poverty

- Phase 2 of the Challenge is dedicated to articulating how technology will be used to address the issue
- Staff have identified a number of opportunities to leverage technology:
 - Provide a “virtual” identify for residents experiencing homelessness
 - Provide access to high speed internet through of wi-fi and public kiosks
 - Using social media improve the ability to engage with City Hall so all segments of the municipality have a voice
 - Increase accessible and affordable transportation options to reduce barriers to employment
 - Improving street safety for residents through increased traffic and pedestrian data gathering and analytics throughout the municipality

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Governance

- Leverage the existing governance structure of the Poverty Solutions Advisory Committee
- Halifax Partnership to manage the application's development on behalf of the Municipality
- The United Way would provide subject matter expertise and act as the primary link to community groups in the municipality
- The Mayor's Office would be the visible municipal leader and a municipal connection to the members of the Poverty Solutions Advisory Committee
- HRM is the applicant for the Challenge
- HRM staff provide technical and implementation support, return to Regional Council prior to submitting the bid on April 24, 2018

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THANK YOU