



INVEST BARRIE, INNOVATE BARRIE AND CREATIVE ECONOMY MEMORANDUM

TO: MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

FROM: K. DUBEAU, DIRECTOR OF CREATIVE ECONOMY

NOTED: Z. LIFSHIZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF INVEST BARRIE
M. PROWSE, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

RE: SMART CITIES INITIATIVE

DATE: APRIL 23, 2018

The purpose of this Memorandum is to provide members of Council with an update on staff's approach to the Federal Smart Cities Challenge, launched by the Infrastructure Canada Department of the Federal Government. The Smart Cities Challenge is a pan-Canadian challenge, open to communities and municipalities of all sizes, which encourages communities to adopt a smart cities approach to improving the lives of their residents through innovation, data and connected technology.

Smart Cities are commonly defined as those urban areas that use different kinds of advanced and connected technologies, including sensors, software platforms, data collection and data analysis to manage assets and resources efficiently. Common areas of focus for smart city initiatives include climate change/environment, transit, aging populations, urban growth and pressures on public finances.

The approach identified by the Smart Cities Challenge is defined by a high degree of engagement with residents and businesses in the local community, with the goal of selecting a key challenge area that is directly related to a quality of life issue in the community. The engagement process is intended to be open and transparent, with the community being directly involved in the selection of the proposed smart solution, which must incorporate the use of data and connected technologies. The intent of the program is to demonstrate meaningful, compelling and measurable outcomes that could be scaled to other communities.

The Federal Smart Cities Challenge is offering one prize of \$50 Million, 2 prizes of up to \$10 Million, and 1 prize of \$5 Million, based on size of community. The funding will be provided through contribution agreements, which are tied to milestones that demonstrate progress towards specified outcomes. There are several proposed intakes planned for the program, with the first intake of April 24, 2018. Finalists will be announced in the summer of 2018, and provided a grant of \$250,000 to develop a full proposal, which will be due in the winter of 2018-2019. The winners of the challenge will be announced in the spring of 2019. All proposals received for the Smart Cities Challenge will be shared publicly.

After a review of the opportunity, staff have recommended that the City of Barrie target a submission in the next intake, date to be announced. This assessment is based on the recognition that a strong and coordinated engagement with the community on the topic of smart city challenges is a prerequisite for pursuing an application, and this engagement strategy needs to be developed.

Staff are establishing a Smart Cities Task Force that would include engagement from key municipal departments, community representatives, academic partners and the business community. The Task Force will be led by a Smart Cities Steering Committee which will set direction, be the decision-making body for the Task Force, establish criteria and ensure alignment with broader Council objectives. The Steering Committee will oversee three key working groups:

- 1) A Developer Advisory Committee – examining potential support greenfield development and intensification;
- 2) A Technology Advisory Committee – providing subject matter expertise on technologies; and,
- 3) A Business Advisory Committee – responsible for business community input and prioritization tactics.



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The Steering Committee kick off is planned for the end of May, with an update to Council planned at the end of June. The recruitment for the working groups would take place over the summer of 2018 and be active by the fall. Through the process of responding to the opportunity of the Challenge, staff will have sufficient data to develop a smart cities strategy for review by Council.