



## **Administrative Report**

### **Office of the Manager of Corporate Communications**

**To: Warden Tom Bain and Members of County Council**

**From: Renée Trombley  
Manager of Corporate Communications and Accessibility**

**Date: April 4, 2018**

**Subject: Smart Cities Challenge Update**

**Report #: 2018-0404-CCA-R004-RT**

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#### **Purpose**

To provide County Council with an update in regards to the region's response to Infrastructure Canada's Smart Cities Challenge.

#### **Background**

The Smart Cities Challenge was launched by Infrastructure Canada last November, and has tasked municipalities to use creativity and innovation to achieve meaningful outcomes for residents using data and connected technology.

The competition is open to all municipalities, local or regional governments and Indigenous communities. Finalists will receive \$250,000 to further develop their Smart Cities proposal and winning communities will be awarded a \$10 million dollar grant to implement their "smart" solutions.

The applicant guide outlines that projects:

- Must be scalable and replicable in other cities;
- Utilize public/stakeholder engagement to design the challenge question;
- Be open and transparent with the proposal (must be posted online for public to see).

## **The Challenge Statement**

To begin, each community will define its Challenge Statement as the guiding principal for the proposal submission. The Challenge Statement is a single sentence that defines the outcome or outcomes a community aims to achieve by implementing its Smart Cities proposal. The Challenge Statement must be measurable, ambitious, and achievable through the proposed use of data and connected technology.

The deadline to submit a proposal for this project is April 24, 2018. At that time, the proposal will be reviewed and a selection of finalists will be announced in the summer of 2018.

## **Discussion**

On January 17, 2017 County Council approved proceeding with a joint Smart Cities Challenge proposal with the City of Windsor and also agreed to help share the costs of the KPMG consultancy with the City of Windsor, the University of Windsor and St. Clair College for Phase 1 of this project.

### **Smart Windsor Essex**



Through a partnership led by Connecting Windsor-Essex, key stakeholders and thought leaders from a variety of organizations have participated in ongoing discussions, reviewed key regional data and have provided valuable insight into the initial development stages of the region's Smart Cities Challenge proposal.

The group and initiative, named "Smart Windsor Essex" brings a diverse range of experiences and perspectives and have provided valuable contributions to the process. Smart Windsor Essex is driven by the newly created [Smart City Strategic Vision](#), which outlines key elements that the region is committed to, including, building a sustainable and prosperous future for Windsor-Essex enabled by smart thinking and technology.

## **Community Challenges**

Through the consideration of a number of significant social and economic issues that face the region, Smart Windsor Essex has identified three high-impact focus areas or challenges that face Windsor-Essex for consideration to the Smart Cities Challenge submission:

- [Poverty](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Employment](#)

In addition, Smart Windsor Essex has also thoroughly explored the underlying drivers of these challenges as well as possible “smart solutions” to mitigate their impacts.

## **Community Engagement**

The region’s bid for the 2018 Smart Cities Challenge was formerly announced on Friday, March 23, 2018. Engaging with the community and stakeholders in order to understand their perspectives, concerns and ideas for betterment of the region is an integral component of the Smart Cities Challenge and of a successful application.

The Smart Windsor Essex project team is looking for the community to provide their feedback on the above three focus areas in order to help prioritize a list of options and help to shape Windsor-Essex’s Challenge Statement.

A dedicated website has been created, which can be found by visiting [smartwindsoressex.ca](http://smartwindsoressex.ca) that shares information, updates and affords our communities accessible options to participate in this opportunity.

The public is encouraged to visit [smartwindsoressex.ca](http://smartwindsoressex.ca) to be a part of the challenge and complete the online engagement form, share an idea about how to best to address a focus area using data and technology, ask a question and/or stay informed on the proposal and projects.

Smart Windsor Essex also seeks to engage the community using the social media platforms [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#). In addition, a number of face-to-face targeted engagement sessions are being scheduled across the region for further community consultation.

## **Proposal Creation**

Using community feedback, Smart Windsor Essex will fully refine Windsor-Essex's Challenge Statement and prepare the final application for submission, which will include proposed activities to address the Challenge Statement, proposed outcomes and the ability to execute smart projects.

A successful Smart Cities Challenge grant can improve the quality of life for residents, create job opportunities for citizens, promote a progressive image of a region and shape communities for generations to come.

Further details of Windsor-Essex's Smart Cities Challenge Statement and proposal submission will be communicated to County Council in a future report.

## **Recommendation**

For information of Council.

Respectfully Submitted

*Renée Trombley*

Originally Signed by

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Concurred With,

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