



For the Committee of the Whole Meeting February 28 2019

Date: February 22 2019

From: Mayor Helps

Subject: Support for Smart Cities Challenge

Background

On behalf of its 51 members, including ten municipal and seven First Nations members, the South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) is applying for a \$10 million Smart Cities Challenge prize to improve transportation in the region through smart mobility.

Many local governments in the region are making invests in active transportation infrastructure, from bus shelters, sidewalks, bike lanes, and more. As part of the application process, each local government and other partners are listing their transportation and mobility infrastructure, planning and research projects as aligned funding to SIPP's application. The attached Appendix outlines Victoria's known investments in active transportation infrastructure and planning over the five-year period of the Smart Cities Challenge Funding. In addition, all SIPP member local governments and other partners are writing letters of support for the application.

Recommendation

That Council approves the letter of support and aligned funding chart for SIPP's submission to the Smart Cities Challenge.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Helps".

Mayor Helps

**RE: Smart South Island “Smart Mobility” Proposal**

Dear Canada’s Smart Cities Challenge Jury,

The City of Victoria is thrilled to partner with the South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) on the delivery of the projects and initiatives outlined in their application. We believe in the freedom to move and that access to high-quality, affordable, green and inclusive transportation options will enhance the well-being of individuals and strengthen the social fabric of our community. In Victoria we’re turning our belief into action through significant infrastructure investments and long-term sustainable mobility planning, action that very much complements the Smart South Island Smart Mobility proposal.

In 2016, the City began the build out of a 32km All Ages and Abilities Cycling network. As part of this build out, we’re also taking a “complete streets” approach making improvements for pedestrians and transit users at the same time. Victoria has become one of the top cycling cities in Canada, with 1 in 10 Victorians now cycling to work – the second highest mode share in North America. The implementation of the All Ages and Abilities (AAA) bicycling network over the last few years has been a key enabler of this by delivering a safe, inviting and comfortable cycling environment.

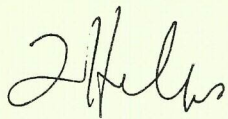
Early data on our first two corridors shows an average number of cycling trips per day of 1422 on Pandora Street and 823 on Fort Street during the summer of 2018. These represent 149% and 234% increases respectively over comparable months before the AAA infrastructure was in place. The City will continue the work of building infrastructure while the Smart South Island Smart Mobility proposal will create a “digital layer” making this infrastructure more user friendly to more people.

In addition to immediate and significant multimodal infrastructure investments, the City is developing the “Go Victoria: Sustainable Mobility Strategy”, a transportation plan for the city for the next 40 years. A key element of “Go Victoria” will be a values-based matrix to help Council make decisions on transportation investments. From initial consultation with Council and the community, the values that are arising to guide Victoria’s transportation future are very much in line with SIPP’s including affordability, equity and inclusion, and a strong desire to reduce carbon pollution. The “Go Victoria” strategy will be informed by and will help to inform the Smart South Island Smart Mobility projects being submitted as part of the Smart Cities Challenge.

This brings us to the final and most important area of alignment: a desire to take climate action and reduce carbon pollution. The City of Victoria's Climate Leadership Plan details that in order to decrease carbon pollution by 18% by 2041, we need to shift 55% of trips to walking and cycling and 25% of trips to transit. This is the City's single most significant emissions reduction tactic. The Smart South Island Smart Mobility projects, in particular Mobility As A Service (MAAS), multimodal trip planning and a single payment platform are key to Victoria's success in inspiring people to shift modes to tackle the climate crisis. Convenience is key and the Smart South Island Smart Mobility projects have the capacity to make multi-modal transportation more convenient, more fun, and less isolating than traveling alone in a car.

For all of these reasons we are pleased to support the SIPP Smart Mobility proposal with aligned funding over the next five years. And we've got our fingers – and our toes! – crossed that that jury will see, as we do, that the Smart South Island Smart Mobility proposal will help us to build a more inclusive, resilient and sustainable community where people are happier and healthier because they have the freedom to move.

Sincerely and with gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa Helps', written in a cursive style.

Lisa Helps
Victoria Mayor