



For the Committee of the Whole Meeting August 3 2017

Date: Friday July 28 2017

From: Mayor Helps

Subject: Federal Smart Cities Challenge - Smart South Island Project - Municipal and First Nations Draft Issues and Opportunities

Background

The City of Victoria along with nine other local governments and two First Nations is a government member of the South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP). In response to the Smart Cities Challenge and funding opportunity recently issue by the federal government, SIPP is working on behalf of its members to prepare a "Smart South Island Plan." The plan will put forward a long-term vision and action plan outlining how we can improve the quality of life for residents, create opportunities for prosperity and increase the general livability and sustainability of our region using big data and technology.

The very initial planning is currently underway with five sub-task forces working on different elements. The government members of SIPP (both municipal and First Nations) have formed the task force responsible for partnership development and issues identification. This is a group of volunteers from SIPP government members that came forward out of a short gathering at SIPP's AGM.

Attached as Appendix A is a short paper that outlines:

1. The federal funding opportunity associated with the development and implementation of a Smart South Island Plan
2. Draft Criteria for project success
3. Identification of the Issues and Opportunities

Over the summer municipal and First Nations member representatives of SIPP are seeking feedback from their Councils

Recommendation

1. That Council provide feedback on the draft policy paper.

Respectfully Submitted,

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

Mayor Helps

Appendix A

DRAFT - Smart South Island Plan – Municipal and First Nations Partners Initial Criteria, Issues and Opportunities Paper for Discussion

Developed by Christina Clarke, Mayor Hamilton, Councillor Haynes, Mayor Helps, Councillor Low, Mayor Screech, Councillor Stock, Mayor Windsor

Introduction, Outline and Purpose

The South Island Prosperity Project (SIPP) is working on behalf of its members to prepare a “Smart South Island Plan.” The plan will put forward a long-term vision and action plan outlining how we can improve the quality of life for residents, create opportunities for prosperity and increase the general livability and sustainability of our region using big data and technology.

The very initial planning is currently underway with five sub-task forces working on different elements. The government members of SIPP (both municipal and First Nations) have formed the task force responsible for partnership development and issues identification. This is a group of volunteers from SIPP government members that came forward out of a short gathering at SIPP’s AGM.

This short paper outlines:

4. The federal funding opportunity associated with the development and implementation of a Smart South Island Plan
5. Draft Criteria for project success
6. Identification of the Issues and Opportunities

The purpose of this paper is for SIPP members to circulate to their Councils (both municipal and First Nations) to seek input on the Criteria and the Issues. The paper will be further refined with feedback from Councils. The paper will then be submitted to the larger Smart South Island working group and presented to the public for input at a Smart South Island Symposium in mid-October.

1. Federal Funding Opportunity Canada's Smart Cities Challenge

<http://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/plan/cities-villes-eng.html>

A smart city uses technology and data to improve livability and opportunities for the city and its people. Smart cities have the potential to improve every aspect of community life – how people move around, how they live and play, how they earn a living, how they learn and are empowered to participate in society, how they interact with the natural environment, and how they create safe and secure public spaces.

In the lead-up to the launch of Smart Cities Challenge, people across the country are invited to take part in a conversation. What is the top priority for improving your city, town or community? How can smart technology and practices create real impact?

The Smart Cities Challenge will allow municipalities, regional governments, and Indigenous communities to bring these ideas forward, and the best ones will win!

How does it work?

Through the Smart Cities Challenge, the Government will work in collaboration with cities and communities that are ready to innovate and take risks – providing financial and in-kind support for their smart cities transformation.

The Smart Cities Challenge will achieve measurable, positive impact in communities. It is a merit-based, pan-Canadian challenge, inviting cities of all sizes, as well as Indigenous communities, to participate.

Three rounds are planned, with the first set to launch in Fall 2017. Details on this round and the timing of subsequent rounds will follow in the coming months.

Prizes*

Each round will include:

- One large prize of \$50 million;
- Two prizes of \$10 million for mid-sized communities;
- One prize of \$5 million for a small community; and
- One prize of \$5 million available for an Indigenous community.

*Specifics around the eligibility size thresholds will be made available at a later date.

2. Draft Criteria for Project Success

These criteria were developed collaboratively by the municipal and First Nations members of the informal sub-task force outlined above.

A Smart South Island Plan must:

- Include First Nations
- Align with the criteria for federal funding:
 - Scalability
 - Innovation
 - Sustainability
 - Partnerships
 - Use technology and big data
 - Be replicable in other communities across the country
- Align with municipal and First Nations strategic plans, Official Community Plans and existing resources
- Involve and engage our residents, communities, councils and advisory committees
- Be bold and distinctive in content and process
- Add value to our communities and have tangible positive impacts on the quality of life of individuals and the well-being of our communities

3. Draft Issues and Opportunities

As a starting point, we used the 2016 *Victoria Vital Signs* report and looked at both the areas that got the lowest grades as well as those that got the highest grades; we did so in order to seize both the challenges and opportunities. We see these issues interrelated and think that by improving on and enhancing each of these areas we will embody the federal definition of Smart Cities cited above: “Smart cities have the potential to improve every aspect of community life – how people move around, how they live and play, how they earn a living, how they learn and are empowered to participate in society, how they interact with the natural environment, and how they create safe and secure public spaces.”

1. Transportation and mobility (C+)
2. Food security
3. Arts and Culture (B+)
4. Environmental Sustainability (B-)
- Includes integrated waste management / circular economy
5. Housing (C-)
6. Community Health and Wellness (B-)
7. Economic Resilience and Inclusion (C+)

The authors of this paper look forward to the input from the SIPP member municipal and First Nations councils as well as to public feedback later in the fall.