
Smart Cities Challenge – Final Proposal Submission

Recommendation

That the report of the Acting General Manager of Community Services Department, dated March 18, 2019, be received as information.

Topic and Purpose

This report is to provide an update on the progress with the Smart Cities Challenge and share the final proposal recently submitted to Infrastructure Canada (see Attachment 1).

Report Highlights

1. The City of Saskatoon (City) has been chosen as one of 10 municipalities vying for two prizes of \$10 million.
2. The final proposal, ConnectYXE, brings together innovative technology and partnerships to break the cycle of Indigenous youth incarceration by creating a new cycle focused on building purpose, belonging, security and identity.
3. ConnectYXE identifies seven core values that will be embedded in the engagement approach. These values will assist in creating meaningful participatory processes and in building ownership within the community.

Strategic Goals

This report supports the Strategic Goal of Quality of Life by seeking innovative and collaborative solutions to address community safety and well-being. This report also supports capacity-building within the community to address a broad range of issues, and builds consensus around collaborative responses.

Background

In November 2017, the Federal Government launched the Smart Cities Challenge, which is an Infrastructure Canada competition open to communities across Canada. The Smart Cities Challenge encourages communities to adopt a smart cities approach, which aims to achieve meaningful outcomes for residents by leveraging the fundamental benefits that data and technology have to offer.

At its January 29, 2018 meeting, City Council approved the recommendation to direct the Administration to submit an application, in conjunction with community partners, to the Smart Cities Challenge.

In April 2018, Saskatoon submitted an initial proposal to the Smart Cities Challenge and in June 2018, was notified that Saskatoon had been shortlisted as one of 10 municipalities across Canada vying for two prizes of \$10 million. As one of the cities shortlisted, we received a grant of \$250,000 to complete the work on finalizing the details of the final proposal, due in March 2019.

Report

The Final Proposal

The final proposal, ConnectYXE, brings together innovative technology and partnerships to break the cycle of Indigenous youth incarceration, by creating a new cycle focused on building purpose, belonging, security and identity.

For the last eight months the Smart Cities team has been working closely with the project's Indigenous Youth Advisory Group, community-based organizations, institutional partner organizations, and the technology community. We learned from those who have the most experience and the most at stake, what can make a difference in their lives. We built the final proposal around that.

The Smart Cities journey began knowing we wanted to find a way to address safety and community well-being. The team has been inspired by the courage and generosity of the Youth Advisory Group, the dedication shown by the front-line organizations and community allies, and by the commitment of the institutional partners who are prepared to break out of silos and make systemic change. The relationships built over this past year will help address the challenges of the future, a future that includes moving forward to build a new cycle of identity, purpose, belonging, and security for Indigenous youth.

This ConnectYXE program is not the starting point; it is the culmination of years of deliberation, community engagement, collaboration, and mobilization.

ConnectYXE is based on three pillars:

1. **Empowerment of Indigenous youth, their families and allies:** providing real-time information and options for how to access services throughout Saskatoon, every day, all day. Self-determination and self-actualization are critical in supporting youth make to make their own decisions.
2. **Collaboration among partners:** creating a repository of data of all relevant programs and services available throughout Saskatoon.
3. **Harnessing innovative technology:** connecting systems, sharing data and leveraging artificial intelligence. The collective data in ConnectYXE will provide a city-wide picture of what is available and the demands on those supports at any time. This enables community-based organizations, institutional partners, and decision-makers to regularly analyze and to identify gaps, trends, and better ways to respond.

ConnectYXE is not a provider of front-line services, it is connector of those services to the youth, families, and allies who need them. It is like an Amazon.ca of services. Through Amazon, you can purchase a product that Amazon does not produce – rather Amazon connects you to the company that produces that service. ConnectYXE will connect people to the services being offered by community-based organizations and institutions in the city.

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Guiding Principles

The ConnectYXE Proposal identifies seven core values that will be embedded in the engagement approach. These values will assist in creating meaningful participatory processes and in building ownership within the community.

1. **Inclusivity and Diversity:** Ensuring that all affected and interested groups are involved, with proactive inclusion of with groups that may be marginalized or facing barriers.
2. **Honouring Treaty Responsibilities:** Bridging the distance between Indigenous and settler worldviews on wellness of the individual, family, and community.
3. **Transparency:** Open and consistent communication about the program. Commitment to explaining decisions, why they were made and how input was used.
4. **Deliberation:** Creating environments that encourage sharing, vulnerability, and provide opportunities for participants to shape solutions and work toward consensus.
5. **Influence:** Engagement must inform and shape decisions. Participants understand their level of influence and are involved in the decisions that most affect them.
6. **Accommodating:** Using approaches that will welcome a diversity of voices and ensure convenient, accessible methods of participation.
7. **Ongoing and Iterative:** Engagement continues throughout the project lifespan and will be adapted based on feedback and learning.

Public and/or Stakeholder Involvement

Throughout the development of the Smart Cities Challenge final proposal, there was extensive engagement with the youth advisory committee, Aboriginal Elders, numerous community based organizations, institutional partners, and technology partners. The City wishes to thank the Indigenous Youth Advisory Group, community allies and institutional partners for their commitment and support of this project. Institutional partners include: Central Urban Métis Federation, Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Saskatoon Health Authority, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Saskatchewan Polytechnic, Saskatoon Police Service, Saskatoon Public School Division, Saskatoon Tribal Council, United Way of Saskatoon and area, and the University of Saskatchewan.

Communication Plan

More information about the Smart Cities Challenge, and the final proposal, ConnectYXE and supporting video can be found at the following:

- Smart Cities Challenge: [Government of Canada's Challenge website](#)
- Saskatoon's proposal: saskatoon.ca/smartcities
- ConnectYXE video: youtube.com/saskatooncitynews
- Join the conversation on social media using hashtag #smartcitiesCanada

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Other Considerations/Implications

There are no options, policy, financial, environmental, privacy or CPTED implications or considerations of this report.

Due Date for Follow-up and/or Project Completion

The Federal Government will be announcing the winners of the Smart Cities Challenge on May 14, 2019.

Public Notice

Public Notice pursuant to Section 3 of Policy No. C01-021, Public Notice Policy, is not required.

Attachment

1. Smart Cities Challenge Submission – ConnectYXE
(also available on line at saskatoon.ca/smartcities)

Report Approval

Written and

Approved by: Lynne Lacroix, Acting General Manager, Community Services Department

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