

Economic and Development Services Committee – November 27, 2023

Request to Participate in a Durham Regional Technology Development Site Municipal Opportunity (All Wards) (File: 03-05)

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That the Economic and Development Services Committee recommend to City Council:

Whereas, on November 20, 2023, city staff received an invitation to participate in a Municipal Opportunity lead by Durham Regional Technology Development Site (Durham R.T.D.S.); and,

Whereas, the proposal includes a pioneering technology trial which is being supported by Bell Canada and Cheetah Networks; and,

Whereas, the objective of the trial is to address the connectivity challenge and introduce opportunities to further adopt electrification, which contributes to a more sustainable and interconnected future; and,

Whereas, the proposed project would install 10 to 20 Internet of Things (I.o.T.) monitoring nodes in municipal fleet vehicles for a trial that would span a six-month time period; and,

Whereas, the I.o.T. monitoring nodes will gather data on network strength and consistency throughout the travelled areas and provide detailed reports on the current state of connectivity within the city's network; and,

Whereas, the proposed project would provide data and insights on how to improve network connectivity and efficiency to support broader smart city developments; and,

Whereas, the data collected will provide identification of areas experiencing connectivity issues which will allow for advocacy to broadband suppliers to support a better user experience for residents; and,

Whereas, there is no cost to the City of Oshawa to participate in the proposed project; and,

Whereas, City Council endorsed Item DS-22-25 on February 22, 2022 which directed staff to issue a formal letter of support to Spark Centre to accompany the Durham R.T.D.S. funding application to the Ontario Centre of Innovation; and,

Whereas, the letter of support from city staff included the opportunity to participate in up to one project per year, assuming that capacity and interest alignment around supported by city staff;

Therefore be it resolved that, pursuant to Item ED-23-219, the Director of Business and Economic Development Services be authorized to collaborate with other required city

departments and the project partners at Durham Regional Technology Development Site to evaluate the proposal and, if deemed appropriate, proceed with entering into a project contract at no cost to the city, in a form and state deemed satisfactory by the City Solicitor and Commissioner, Economic and Development Services.