

Development Services Committee – February 7, 2022

Durham Regional Technology Development Site Request for City of Oshawa Letter of Support (All Wards)

That the Development Services Committee recommend to City Council:

Whereas, on January 6, 2022, Economic Development Services received a request (see Attachment 1) from Spark Centre for a letter of support to accompany the Durham Regional Technology Development Site (Durham R.T.D.S.) funding application with the Ontario Centre of Innovation (O.C.I.); and,

Whereas, the O.C.I. application will support the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (O.V.I.N.) for the period of April 2022 to April 2025; and,

Whereas, the primary O.V.I.N. focus at the Durham R.T.D.S. is to establish Durham Region as a living lab for electric vehicles and related technologies and solutions as outlined in Attachment 2; and,

Whereas, Spark Centre is the lead partner of Durham R.T.D.S., along with consortium partners which include the Region of Durham, Ontario Tech University and Durham College; and,

Whereas, Spark Centre has requested in-kind services from the City of Oshawa (see Attachment 1) that can be accommodated within the 2022 Economic Development Budget and pending annual review of staff capacity and interest alignment are supported by City staff; and,

Whereas, City staff support the Spark Centre request for a letter of support; and,

Whereas, the City's 2020-2023 Strategic Plan includes the strategy to "actively support the growth of the city's post-secondary educational institutions and knowledge-based industries.";

Therefore be it resolved that, pursuant to DS-22-25 dated February 7, 2022, the Development Services Committee recommend the Director of Economic Development be authorized to issue a formal letter of support to Durham Regional Technology Development Site to accompany the application for the Ontario Centre of Innovation's Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network funding.



January 6, 2022

City of Oshawa
50 Centre Street South
Oshawa, ON L1H 3Z7

Attn: Ms. Hailey Wright

Re: Request for Support – OVIN Proposal

Dear Hailey,

As lead partner of the Durham Regional Technology Development Site (Durham RTDS) for OCI's Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN), Spark Centre and its consortium partners (Region of Durham, Ontario Tech University and Durham College) request the support of the City of Oshawa in supporting our OVIN application for funding through OCI.

Ontario SMEs developing technologies in the electric, connected / autonomous vehicle and infrastructure space, depend on the support and collaboration of academic institutions, government, innovation accelerators and larger companies in order to commercialize their products and services. Having access to the technical expertise, specialized facilities, talent, networks and commercialization expertise OVIN funding will provide, is critical for SME success and growth in Ontario.

As such, we request the following in-kind support from the City of Oshawa:

1. Support the opportunity to develop one Call for Solution challenge per year with the willingness to host one technical pilot.
2. Co-host one event, together with Durham RTDS, for the promotion and implementation of the annual challenge.
3. Support the opportunity to participate in up to three Durham RTDS-hosted events per year as panel participant and/or moderator.

In order to meet the requirements of the OVIN mandate, Durham RTDS (through Spark Centre) requires a Letter of Support confirming the City's in-kind support as soon as is reasonably possible.



We welcome the opportunity to work with the City to support the Durham RTDS' involvement in this exceptional opportunity.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherry Colbourne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sherry Colbourne, CEO
Spark Commercialization & Innovation Centre



Dec 2021 /
Jan 2022

Durham RTDS & OVIN Program Overview

Opportunities for Municipalities in Durham Region



Transitioning from AVIN to OVIN



What?

\$85 MM, four years,
6 RTDS +
Demonstration Zone,
CAPEX

2018 - March/2022

~ \$50-60 million over the next
three years to create the Ontario
Vehicle Innovation Network
(OVIN)", OPEX-focused

April/2022 - 2025

Focus

Create infrastructure
Support milestone
projects with new
funding streams

Support program delivery
Intensify pilots and support
increased collaboration
between SMEs, Start-ups and
industry clients



Establish Durham Region as a Living Lab for EV+ C/AV technologies and Innovative Municipal Transportation Solutions

Other strategic goals from other KEY/CORE PARTNERS from the Durham RTDS



Transit and vehicle electrification
(DRT fleet strategy, DCEP)

Safe and accessible transportation
(Vision zero, RCP plan)

Smart and connected infrastructure for mobility
(Intelligent Communities / TMP)

Partners



- Run challenges around technologies that are of interest to Durham Region, the towns/cities in the Region and to other core partners



- Support pilots and project funding leverage with OCI and other funding agencies



- Promote events, panels and think-tank activities debating and creating critical mass related to the adoption of disruptive technologies

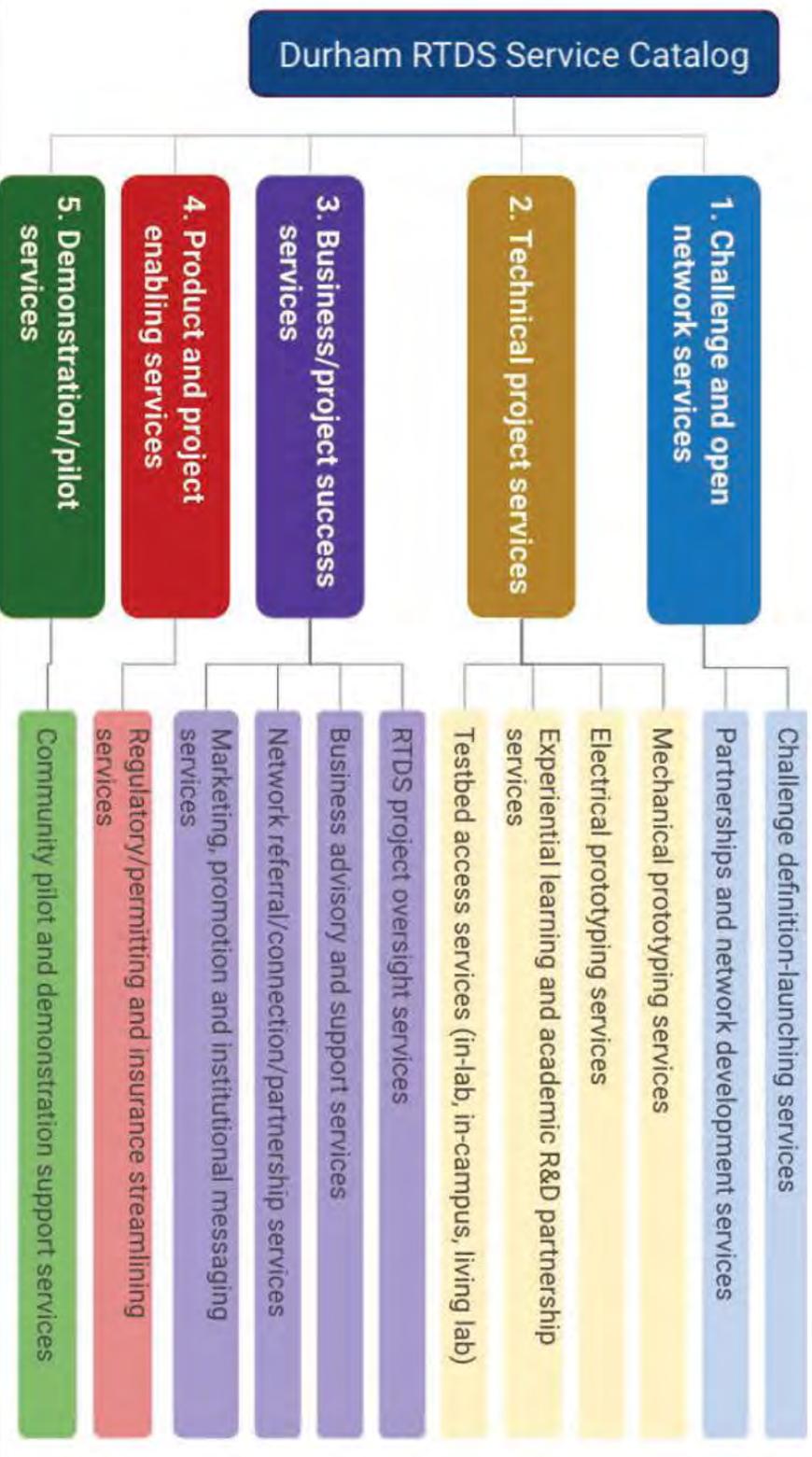


- Promote Durham Region, Oshawa, Whitby and other municipalities as go-to destinations for innovators, SMEs and start-ups from around the world

Contributing



Durham RTDS Service catalog summary for OVIN



Opportunities and the ask from municipalities

Opportunities

- Cities can run their own challenges, in addition to three challenges/year already committed by Durham Region (Transit / Traffic departments)
- Cities can boost experiential learning projects with the post-secs, Durham City Studio, Oshawa Teaching City and others for the innovation goals of the cities
- Use Durham RTDS as a promotion and outreach tool, in Ontario and abroad, to promote the cities and the Region as a global innovation destination for innovative businesses

The ask

- Put forward a non-binding letter of support for the Durham RTDS/OVIN. Binding agreement is expected by March/2022.
- Engage in events, challenge design/execution activities and whatever pilots the cities want to prioritize and run, as per determination of city council and operations/innovation branches
- All in-kind contributions from the city will be directed towards their own interests in electrification and C/AV technologies.



Thank you

