



## REPORT FOR ACTION

### Transportation Innovation Zones

**Date:** June 10, 2020

**To:** The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

**From:** Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer

**Wards:** Ward 10 - Spadina - Fort York

#### SUMMARY

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Toronto City Council at its October 2019 meeting adopted the Automated Vehicles Tactical Plan and Readiness 2022 report as the framework for guiding future policy decisions related to automated vehicles in Toronto. A key recommendation within the report directed Transportation Services staff to develop and implement a Transportation Innovation Zone program. This program includes a criteria based selection process to identify technologies, geographical space for demonstration zones, and any necessary regulations to facilitate testing of new transportation approaches and technologies in the public realm. Used around the world, innovation zones (also referred to as “testbeds,” “sandboxes,” or “living labs”) are one way for municipal governments and their partners to stay informed on emerging innovations while supporting local economic development.

As part of the current Master Plan development process, Exhibition Place, its tenants and stakeholders have expressed interest in using the grounds to support innovation while seeking new solutions to its transportation challenges. The Master Plan will call for the establishment of a Transportation Innovation Zone (“TIZ”) at Exhibition Place.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

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The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board direct staff to continue working with Transportation Services staff on the development of a Flagship Transportation Innovation Zone partnership at Exhibition Place; and
2. The Board direct the Exhibition Place Chief Executive Officer to provide a progress update on this initiative in the first quarter 2021.

#### FINANCIAL IMPACT

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There are no financial implications to this report.

## DECISION HISTORY

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City Council adopted the Automated Vehicles Tactical Plan and Readiness 2022 and direct the General Manager, Transportation Services, and other appropriate City Department staff to develop and implement a Transportation Innovation Zones program. <http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.IE8.7>

## COMMENTS

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Exhibition Place staff has been a member of the City of Toronto's Interdivisional Working Group on Autonomous Vehicles, and involved in the creation of the Automated Vehicles Tactical Plan adopted by Council in October 2019.

Exhibition Place staff have been working with City staff on a partnership framework that would see Exhibition Place used as the first Transportation Innovation Zone under the Automated Vehicles Tactical Plan in 2020.

The framework goals for the Transportation Innovation Zone at Exhibition Place will:

1. Help the City and the public learn about emerging transportation approaches/technologies by allowing these approaches/technologies to be transparently tested in Toronto.
2. Support economic development by facilitating research and development in a real-world setting and building connections in the ecosystem.
3. Provide a geographical area to focus City-led testing that is already ongoing.

The Zone activities will help the City and its partners to learn about, evaluate, and create policies for new technologies that may be used throughout the City in the future.

## CONTACT

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## SIGNATURE

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Don Boyle  
Chief Executive Officer

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