

REPORT FOR ACTION

Transportation Innovation Zone at Exhibition Place

Date: March 30, 2021

To: The Board of Governors of Exhibition Place

From: Don Boyle, Chief Executive Officer

Wards: All Wards

SUMMARY

The Board of Governors at its meeting on June 24, 2020, considered a report from the Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place on the City Transportation initiative adopted by City Council, and directed staff to continue working with City Transportation staff on the development of a Transportation Flagship Innovation Zone partnership at Exhibition Place, and further directed the Chief Executive Officer, Exhibition Place to provide a progress update on this initiative in the first quarter of 2021.

This progress report back to the Board recommends the Board enter into a Letter Agreement with the City Transportation Services for a Term of up to five (5) years, and recommends waiver of any participation and/or rental fees for all enterprises requesting (a) Challenge-Based Calls for Application, and for (b) Open Calls for Application as requested by the City. All opportunities for applicants must be uniform across the board. Rental fees are not appropriate to this project, as this project is designed as an innovation test-bed.

For Challenge-Based Calls for Application at Exhibition Place, the City will charge a cost-recovery application fee to all applicants. It is recommended that the Board will waive any additional participation fees to small and medium-sized enterprises.

For Open Calls for Application at Exhibition Place, the City will charge a cost-recovery application fee to all applicants. It is recommended that the Board will waive any participation fees where participants are small and medium-sized enterprises.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Chief Executive Officer recommends that:

1. The Board approve a Letter Agreement with City Transportation Services for a Term of up to five (5) years commencing from the date the Agreement is executed by the

Parties to implement and operate a Transportation Flagship Innovation Zone at Exhibition Place in accordance with the principles of the City Digital Infrastructure Plan.

2. The Board waive any participation and/or rental fees for all enterprises requesting (a) Challenge-Based Calls for Application, and for (b) Open Calls for Application, as and when requested by City Transportation Services for up to five (5) years from the date the Agreement is executed by the Parties.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

There are no financial implications to this report.

DECISION HISTORY

City Council, at its meeting on October 29 and 30, 2019, directed the General Manager, Transportation Services and others to implement the Automated Vehicle Readiness 2022 Schedule, which included the establishment of a framework for Transportation Innovation Zones. City Council further directed the General Manager, Transportation Services to report back to the Infrastructure and Environment Committee on this proposed framework for, and designation of, innovation zones in the City of Toronto by the fourth quarter of 2020.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2019.IE8.7>

The Exhibition Place Board of Governors, at its meeting on June 24, 2020, moved to support the Exhibition Place Master Plan – Phase 1 Proposal. This Phase 1 Proposal outlines a vision for Exhibition Place to embrace its role as a centre for innovation, and as a "quick start" intervention, the Report proposes the implementation of a Transportation Innovation Zone at Exhibition Place.

<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EP11.23>

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<http://app.toronto.ca/tmmis/viewAgendaItemHistory.do?item=2020.EP11.24>

COMMENTS

Urban transportation is undergoing major transformations, driven in part by the emergence of new technologies, some of which are being developed in Toronto and accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic. These shifts are putting pressure on public streets to be used in new and unanticipated ways, while also presenting potential opportunities to improve the transportation system. Like the broader category of smart

city technologies, many transportation innovations bring new challenges for cities in terms of safety, accessibility, cybersecurity, privacy, and decision-making. The City of Toronto needs new tools to proactively learn about emerging transportation innovations, in order to strategically regulate or incentivize them according to their potential risks and benefits.

Potential innovations that could be tested are devices that move on sidewalks or highways, sensors and monitoring devices, connectivity devices, smart lights and signals, signage, electric vehicle chargers, pavement materials, and paints. No commercial operations will be allowed during trials.

Exhibition Place is interested in working with the City to establish and implement a Transportation Innovation Zone ("TIZ"). An agreement between the City and Exhibition Place will be developed in mid 2021 in order to establish a partnership to deliver the flagship Transportation Innovation Zone in Toronto.

The agreement will identify the respective roles of each party, building on each party's strengths and interests. The City would manage and oversee the TIZ program, including the Calls for participants, and the associated temporary trials conducted by third parties in the TIZ areas. Exhibition Place would provide access to the site at specific locations and times of the year to be agreed upon in advance, and would provide input on the selection of temporary trials. Exhibition Place would also have the opportunity to undertake an expanded range of activities, such as displaying new technology in association with the TIZ program.

Exhibition Place staff will work with the General Manager, City Transportation Services to establish and implement a Transportation Innovation Zone at Exhibition Place for up to five (5) years. Exhibition Place to offer as a testing site, the Exhibition Place grounds, buildings and infrastructure, and a range of opportunities and assets.

The framework goals for the TIZ 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.

When major events are not taking place, the grounds represent a semi-closed environment, the site is open to public vehicular, bike, and pedestrian traffic, but volumes are generally low compared to the surrounding network, and other areas in downtown Toronto.

When Exhibition Place and its tenants host a variety of trade and public exhibitions, international conferences and conventions, professional sports, entertainment, green technology, fairs and public celebrations the site is transformed. As such, it is an ideal

place to trial dynamic, modular, and adaptable technologies that can support a constantly changing environment, last-mile passenger transport, and delivery of diverse goods.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

Don Boyle
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