

Municipal Innovation Council

Report: Q3 Report to Municipal Councils

Date: August 31, 2020

Submitted by: Jessica Linthorne, Chair

The Municipal Innovation Council (MIC) is pleased to provide partner municipal and county government with an update on efforts and actions to date.

Despite the disruption of the COVID19 pandemic, the MIC is happy to report the hiring of Dave Shorey, Innovation Officer, who started with the MIC on August 10th. Mr. Shorey joins the MIC from a career in post secondary education where he led change management and transitional support programs, driving strategic development.

The MIC has made advancements in multiple priority areas, including:

1) Waste Management Service Review

This project is 100% funded by the province through the Municipal Modernization Program. The issue of waste management has long been discussed by area CAOs and is one of the four areas of focus for the MIC. The project objective is to review waste management practices of MIC partners and offer integrated solutions that enhance process efficiency, cost savings, services delivered, and environmental stewardship.

This project is on time and on budget. The estimated completion for this project is mid-September, and the report is expected to be ready for Council review in Q4 2020.

2) Topography Pilot Project

This project is in partnership with the Nuclear Innovation Institute (NII), with support from the Saugeen Valley Conservation Authority (SVCA). Current topographic datasets made available by the SVCA have informed decisions regarding land use for decades. By leveraging technical expertise and access to leading topographic technology, the NII will act as a broker to support the MIC and SVCA in updating maps. The SVCA is supportive of the project, and partners of the MIC are eager to learn from the pilot project currently in the design phase with the NII.

3) Internet of Things

The Internet of Things (IoT) can serve a diverse set of needs across the County. Through a network of low-cost transmitters and sensors, real-time monitoring can yield important data used in decision making. The MIC is actively engaged in design conversations with the NII who is working toward the installation of IoT towers which have the capability to receive and capture

data. Soil moisture, wind and precipitation, traffic volume and speed, and asset tracking are a few examples of what could be possible with an Internet of Things network.

4) Municipal Service Mapping

Area CAOs have discussed service mapping to better understand how services are resourced. In addition, there has been focussed exploration to learn about the feasibility of bulk purchase plans and processes using digital solutions to generate cost efficiencies. The Innovation Officer has begun reviewing partner organizational charts and is exploring the way in which municipal partners are doing business. From this review and mapping of service, MIC partners will have the opportunity to truly learn and share from each municipality's experience.

5) Other Potential Initiatives

Partners of the MIC have discussed the opportunity to celebrate the culture of innovation with elected officials and with the municipal workforce. The MIC is prepared to learn from the experts on the ground, and to hear the ideas of our colleagues. While respecting in-person group limits and distancing requirements, the Innovation Officer is exploring the opportunity to host a MIC Summit in the fourth quarter of the year. More information will follow.

The Innovation Officer will continue to share e-service tools/digital solutions and applications for partners to consider. There are many affordable and accessible digital applications which create efficiency and provide a better user experience for residents and municipal employees.

The Municipal Innovation Council will continue to meet monthly (virtually) and ongoing agenda items include project updates, partner updates and updates from the Innovation Officer. Minutes from the MIC meetings will continue to be forwarded to municipal clerks for inclusion in Council agenda packages as correspondence.

The Innovation Officer has scheduled delegations with each member municipality during December 2020 and January 2021. During this delegation you will receive an in-person (virtual) update from Mr. Shorey as well as have the opportunity to ask questions.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Linthorne
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