

Mississauga's Smart Cities Challenge Submission

The Smart Cities Challenge encourages communities across Canada to think creatively to improve the lives of their residents through innovation, data and connected technology. As part of the Challenge submission criteria, communities are asked with coming up with a “bold idea” or challenge statement which summarizes their entry. Components of the plan must work to solve an issue within the community and must be replicable in other communities in Canada.

In Mississauga's Smart Cities Challenge submission, the bold idea is to ‘solve for social resilience’. By creating a city-wide data and technology network incorporating community hubs, digital toolkits and enhanced access to services, the plan will support those at risk, youth, new immigrants and the local community.

Benefits of the plan include: bridging the digital divide for those facing financial/other barriers, providing equitable and easy access to online services with or without a device, enabling remote learning and working, encouraging use of public and active transportation and creating a community-based response to unique needs across Mississauga.

The proposed plan is comprised of several components:

- **The Kit** – A basic digital tool kit to help those with financial/other barriers gain access to the internet. The Kit, including items such as a laptop, will be made available throughout the City and will be integrated into programs and services already delivered at libraries and other agencies.
- **The Connection** – Mini hubs of Wi-Fi and digital services located throughout the City in facilities, parks and other public spaces to connect people to services where they are. The Connection will provide easy and equitable access to services for people with or without a device through intelligent digital signs.
- **The Hub** – Locations designed for remote working and learning that feature workspaces and digital amenities. Hubs will be integrated into existing facilities such as libraries, malls and other private or public locations to enable residents to work and learn within their own community.
- **The Community** – The needs of the local community will drive the development of each Kit, Connection and Hub.
- **The Ride** – Use of public and active transportation will be promoted as the ideal way to move throughout the community. MiWay will be “The Ride” connecting to “The Hubs” and “The Connections” with traffic signal priority and Wi-Fi.
- **The Technology** – Leading-edge technologies including Intelligent Digital Signage, Artificial Intelligence, Voice First Services, Augmented Reality, Open Data and Mobility.

For more information about the City of Mississauga's submission to the Smart Cities Challenge, visit mississauga.ca/smartcity.