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BRYAN D. WEIMER, PWLF
Director

BOARD SUMMARY REPORT

DATE: March 15, 2019

TO: Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Bryan D. Weimer, PWLF, Director
Public Works and Development

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION ON ARAPAHOE COUNTY JOINING THE COLORADO SMART CITIES ALLIANCE

Direction/Information

The Public Works and Development Department (PWD) is requesting direction from the Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) regarding Arapahoe County joining the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance. If the BoCC chooses to join the Alliance, it would be the first County to do so (other than the City and County of Denver).

Request and Recommendation

Staff seeks BoCC perspective and direction on joining the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance. Staff recommends joining the Alliance. The Alliance is considering a name change, particularly if the County joins.

Background

As discussed with the BoCC in the November 20, 2018, Study Session pertaining to the 2040 Transportation Plan update, technology and innovation, along with big data should be incorporated into solutions of the plan update. Opportunities to explore P3s should also be considered, which could include such items as Mobility Choice Blue Print recommendations and the Colorado Smart City Alliance/Think Labs to help provide solutions to transportation challenges being experienced in the County. The 2040 Transportation Plan update should be open to "out-of-the box" thinking. As such, the BoCC provided direction to investigate joining the Alliance and thus the purpose of this study session.

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Align Arapahoe

Two elements of Align Arapahoe (Service First, Quality of Life) would be addressed with this initiative and PWD's involvement.

Service First
Being part of the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance will afford the County to be part of and access the various resources to provide solutions to the challenges the County may experience in providing services to our customers.

Quality of Life
Some of the largest challenges the County is experiencing is in the area of transportation and how it affects the overall quality of life for the County citizens and businesses. The Colorado Smart City Alliance and Think Lab is positioned such to provide assistance if developing solutions for this immense challenge.

Discussion

The Colorado Smart Cities Alliance is a statewide, multi-jurisdictional collaboration of public, private and academic sector leaders committed to accelerating the adoption of smart cities projects and initiatives in their respective communities. The Alliance collaborates to benefit the respective citizens and businesses in Colorado by enhancing quality of life through citizen-centered design and public policy and through the deployment of 21st century technology and infrastructure. The Alliance launch event was supported by the Denver Metro Mayors Caucus, Denver Regional Council of Governments, Colorado Municipal League and Colorado Counties, Inc.

Current members include 19 cities (Aspen, Grand Junction, Lakewood, Northglenn, Longmont, Ft. Collins, Boulder, Westminster, Arvada, Denver, Aurora, Centennial, Greenwood Village, Lone Tree and Colorado Springs,) CDOT, the University of Colorado and Colorado State University, Colorado Technology Association and Innovation Corridor (a collaboration between NREL, NCAR/UCAR and other federally funded research labs), among many others.

Current private sector partners include Arrow Electronics, Charter, Zayo, Xcel Energy, DISH, Verizon, Hitatchi Vantara, LGS Innovations and Trimble. The Alliance is also currently negotiating membership with additional private sector companies ranging from the major telecomms and mobile carriers to fiber companies, data platforms and hardware companies to a range of end-point solutions and systems integrators.

Network technology and computational analysis present an opportunity to accelerate and amplify the principles of good urbanism in ways that allow a new approach to design and operation of County communities. Sensors and actuators, data analysis and prediction, tools for civic engagement and empowerment. These technologies permit the Alliance to listen and act on the built environment. What the Alliance has found is a set of problems and challenges that go beyond cities' and counties' abilities to solve them independently. The Alliance work collectively to solve these challenges.

Specifically, the Colorado Smart City Alliance was formed to:

- Consolidated sharing of and access to best practices in smart technology and policy design for statewide, national, and global metropolitan regions.

- Opportunities to co-develop unique solutions with governmental agencies, industry leaders, research institutions, and national laboratories.

- Cross-jurisdictional, community-scale experimentation and validation of next-generation design strategies and technologies.

- Quickest route to market for triple bottom line public-private partnerships that address market demand, environmental constraints, and community needs.

- Access to deep technical and policy requirements for Colorado's metro regions aiming to enhance livability, ease of mobility, and economic development.

- Ongoing education for all members across all domains of the smart community.

There is no cost to public sector members to join the Alliance. There is merely a commitment to participate in the discovery process, to engage in one or more public/private partnership per year in the public realm, participate in Alliance quarterly meetings, and to share the insights gained and best practices developed in those projects with other members of the Alliance. The testbed work on the Iliff Project that has been shared previously with the BoCC could be an example of such a partnership opportunity. In return, the County would gain access to the insights of others in the network, including municipal needs repository which catalogs and normalizes challenges as described by the Alliance members. This would afford the County a good place to look for cross-jurisdictional project opportunities and to find peers who have encountered or solved problems similar to our own. It is also the source of the pilot projects that the Alliance put together with Alliance private sector partners.

More information regarding the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance can be found at their website www.coloradosmart.city.

PWD Staff has contacted David Bessen and the IT Department regarding Arapahoe County joining the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance and they are very supportive of the County joining. Like PWD, the IT Department agree that there are benefits that could accrue to the County, as well as our neighboring jurisdictions in sharing technology and coordinating efforts. It is believed that much of local government's future lies in collaboration and this would be a great opportunity to pursue that for Arapahoe County.

As referenced above, all that is needed to join the Alliance is a letter of interest. Attached is a draft letter of interest from Arapahoe County for consideration.

Alternatives
The BoCC can choose to join or not join the Colorado Smart City Alliance. If the BoCC chooses to participate, Staff would recommend that an internal County workgroup be formed to support Arapahoe County's participation in the Alliance. At a minimum, this workgroup would include staff from Public Works and Development, IT Department, and other departments that would have an interest in such an initiative.

Fiscal Impact
There is no financial commitment to become a member of the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance.

Concurrence
The Public Works and Development Department has reviewed this Board Summary Report and concurs that it would be beneficial for Arapahoe County to join the Colorado Smart Cities Alliance.

Attorney Review
The County Attorney's Department has reviewed this document.

Reviewed By

This Board Summary Report has been reviewed by the following:

> David Bessen, Director – IT Department
> Karl Packer, Acting Transportation Division Manager - PWD
> Robert Hill, Assistant County - Attorney Department

cc: Bryan D. Weimer, Director – Public Works and Development
David Bessen, Director – IT Department
Karl Packer, Acting Transportation Division Manager - PWD
Robert Hill, Assistant County - Attorney Department
Keith Ashby, Purchasing Manager – Finance Department
Todd Weaver, Budget Manager – Finance Department
Leanna Quint, Budget Analyst – Finance Department
Jake Rishavy, Denver South Economic Development Partnership
John Tolva, CityFi
Kim Lynch, PWD
File (Smart City Alliance)

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