



December 22, 2020

To: Priorities and Finance Committee

RE: Support for AI Digital Twin for Trucks Project

On behalf of the Calgary Goods Movement and Logistics Advisory Group (Advisory Group), I am pleased to submit a letter of support for Mount Royal University's Artificial Intelligence (AI) Digital Twin for Trucks Project proposal, and the application to the Council Innovation Fund.

This project supports the implementation of Strategic Direction 6 of The Calgary Goods Movement Strategy, "Enable data collection and collaboration on goods movement research". The project also supports one of the mandates of the Advisory Group: *"to provide a forum to bring together key public and private sector stakeholders, to guide the continuous innovation and improvement for the future of goods movement"*.

The concept of a Digital Twin for the Transportation Sector is unique and compelling, and abundantly encourages the idea of innovation for Goods Movement. Furthermore, it promotes the research and development, and economic growth of AI/Machine Learning (ML) within the Transportation industry in Calgary, and will train undergraduate students each year in the use of data analytics, AI and ML. Overall, digital transformation provides Calgary industries with opportunities for value creation and is becoming the largest driver of new solutions and technology investments among Calgary businesses.

I believe this project will pave way for many more innovative and advanced technological initiatives in the Transportation & Logistics Industry, the second biggest economic sector in Calgary. This project and the collaboration between The City of Calgary and Mount Royal University is a great example of how we will achieve our directive for the future by working together, and supporting the research, development and implementation of innovative technology for Goods Movement. The Advisory Group is happy to support this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George Chahal".

George Chahal
Ward 5 Councillor

cc: Dr. Rajbir Bhatti, PhD, Associate Professor, International Business & Supply Chain Management, Mount Royal University
Meera Kopp, P.Eng., City of Calgary



I acknowledge and honour the traditional territories of the Blackfoot, the Treaty 7 people, and the Métis Nation of Alberta, Region III.