

Hyperloop Stakeholder Engagement

Administration consulted with Calgary Economic Development, Innovate Calgary, University of Calgary, TransPod, Delta Loop, State of Nevada, City of Edmonton and the Provincial and Federal Governments. Below is a summary of the consultations.

Calgary Economic Development

Calgary Economic Development can provide a number of services if a hyperloop project in the Calgary region moves forward including: assist with real estate needs, talent attraction from Calgary and international markets, business to business and business to government connections, market and industry research on Calgary, trade and global development, and marketing. Calgary Economic Development has advised that companies can apply through the formal OCIF channels for funding.

Innovate Calgary and The University of Calgary

A workshop was held at The University of Calgary in 2017 May on the hyperloop, with Innovate Calgary in attendance. The University of Calgary sees some research potential for the civil engineering faculty if a hyperloop was to be constructed, however the university noted that the hyperloop is not an area of focus and no follow up work has occurred since the 2017 workshop.

The State of Nevada

Administration talked with the State of Nevada about their role in the privately funded Virgin Hyperloop One test track located outside of Las Vegas. They stated that they were supportive of the private investment made by the company and provided details to City Administration on the history of the test track.

City of Edmonton

The City of Edmonton is preparing a Smart Transportation Action Plan, the purpose of which is to guide decision-making around actions that The City should take to prepare for - and in some cases advance - automated, connected, shared and mobility. As part of the development of the Action Plan, The City is engaging an international subject matter expert (SME) panel with expertise in mobility, transportation, and urban planning.

Hyperloop was identified as one of the possible future mobility technologies along with others and presented to the SME panel to advise on the applicability of the technology to Edmonton and how Edmonton could prepare for it. The panel's findings included:

- Hyperloop technology is a mobility solution that addresses land-based, long distance, high-speed transport needs between major urban hubs.
- From an urban perspective, there are likely more important priorities for cities to consider and prepare for in the short term.

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- The technology would likely require an abundance and allocation of long, linear tracks of land to accommodate.
- Hyperloop is still undergoing testing so there is still a lot of unknowns and uncertainty as to when it will be available and the operational needs that will be required.

Based on this feedback from the SME panel, the City of Edmonton is not currently pursuing hyperloop technology as an immediate priority in their Smart Transportation Action Plan.

Provincial Government

Administration contacted The Government of Alberta to understand their position with respect to hyperloop technology. The Government of Alberta is in ongoing discussions with a hyperloop company to move forward with a safe and suitable hyperloop test track location in the province. At this time, none of the proposed test track sites are adjacent to or within the city of Calgary city limits. Alberta Transportation officials will be in contact with The City of Calgary if any such locations are proposed or under consideration in the future.

Administration understands that The Government of Alberta welcomes the development of new and innovative businesses in the province. Such businesses can support Alberta's economic diversification and growth, as well as contribute to social and environmental vitality.

Federal Government

Transport Canada provided the following statement regarding the hyperloop technology:

Transport Canada's Innovation Centre is closely following developments with respect to Hyperloop technology on behalf of the department. For example, the Centre, through its Clean Rail Academic Grant Program, is funding preliminary research into this technology. The Clean Rail Academic Grant Program is part of the Government of Canada's efforts to reduce emissions from the rail sector, and to support research into new and emerging clean rail technologies. The program provides grants to support academic researchers that are developing emission-reduction technologies and practices.

Further research, analysis and pilot deployments are likely required, prior to identifying potential regulatory requirements, guidelines, or industry standards that could emerge as a result of a potential Canadian Hyperloop deployment.

The Innovation Centre is considering conducting an in-depth analysis of the technology over the next fiscal year, including potential policy, technical and regulatory issues. Should this work be approved, they will be in touch to discuss potential collaboration opportunities.