



Report to: General Committee

Meeting Date: June 14, 2021

---

**SUBJECT:** World Council on City Data ISO 37120 Certification  
**PREPARED BY:** Raj Raman, Ext. 7522

---

**RECOMMENDATION:**

- 1) That the report dated June 14, 2021 titled “World Council on City Data, ISO 37120 Certification” be received, and,
- 2) That the formal virtual presentation of the World Council on City Data (WCCD), ISO 37120 Platinum Certification to the City of Markham be received.

**PURPOSE:**

This report is to inform Council of the receipt of the World Council on City Data (WCCD) ISO 37120 platinum certification for the City’s data for the year ended December 31, 2019. This certification marks the second year that Markham has received Platinum Certification from the WCCD, as part of the three-year “[Data for Canadian Cities Pilot Project](#)” (DCCPP) supported by the Federal Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities.

**BACKGROUND:**

The World Council on City Data (WCCD) was founded in 2014 to help communities of all sizes - in Canada and across the globe - to embrace standardized, independently verified, and globally comparable city data to become more sustainable, resilient, prosperous inclusive and smart.

Since its founding, the WCCD has been working with 100+ cities worldwide and has helped these cities to adopt ISO 37120, the first international standard for city data. The WCCD and ISO 37120 are a truly “Made in Canada” initiative – with their ultimate creation primarily spearheaded by Canadian urban thinkers and city leaders. The standard includes 104 indicators across 19 themes (refer Appendix A) and standardizes data to measure progress on city services and quality of life. ISO 37120 provides cities with quantitative, globally comparable and independently verified local-level data enabling any city, of any size, to measure and compare its social, economic, and environmental progress internally year over year, and also in relation to other peer cities locally and globally. The WCCD Global Network includes one hundred cities across more than thirty countries.

**DISCUSSION:**

In July 2019, the Government of Canada - Ministry of Infrastructure and Communities announced the “[Data for Canadian Cities Pilot Project](#)” (DCCPP). This project is a three year initiative to support WCCD to work with fifteen selected municipalities across Canada to help collect globally standardized data set that measures the quality of life and delivery of city services at a municipal level. These fifteen municipalities (refer Appendix B) will join a group of cities across the country that have subscribed to ISO 37120 – the first international standard on city data.

The DCCPP has assisted the participating cities to become certified under ISO 37120. The project places a significant focus on assisting the participating municipalities in using the data to improve city services and quality of life for citizens and benchmarking the data. With the City achieving WCCD ISO 37120 Certification, it is now eligible to apply for both ISO 37122 (Smart Cities) & ISO 37123 (Resilient Cities) Certification.

### ISO37120

WCCD has been working with cities worldwide to develop a set of globally comparable indicators for City Services and Quality of Life. While the first international standard on city data, was published in May 2014 by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), this new international standard was developed using the framework of the Global City Indicators. ISO 37120 defines and establishes definitions and methodologies for the set of indicators to steer and measure the performance of city services and quality of life.

The standard includes a comprehensive set of 104 indicators across 19 themes that measures a city's social, economic, and environmental performance in areas such as, Economy, Education, Energy, Environment, Finance, Governance, Health, Housing, Population and Social Conditions, Recreation, Safety, Solid Waste, Sports and Culture, Telecommunication, Transportation, Urban /Local agriculture and food security, Urban Planning, Wastewater and Water. Reporting over 90 indicators including all core indicators will result in obtaining the WCCD ISO 37120 Platinum Certification. Cities can obtain different levels of certification, platinum being the highest based on the number of indicators reported and verified according to ISO 37120. Each annual certification under ISO 37120 and registration in the WCCD Global Cities Registry for the City is in effect and valid for one year.

As with the first year's submission, WCCD supported the City to achieve Platinum certification, the highest level of WCCD ISO 37120 certification (refer Appendix C) for the second consecutive year. WCCD also assisted the City in obtaining data for indicators relating to services rendered by other levels of government and agencies (e.g. Education, Health, and Telecommunication). Through the DCCPP, the City of Markham now joins 30 Canadian cities and over 100 cities in more than 30 countries worldwide that have been certified for ISO 37120.

### **FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The Data for Canadian Cities Pilot Project (DCCPP) announced by the Government of Canada waives the annual WCCD certification fee of USD \$10k for two years and the City will pay the fee for the third year of the project that commenced in April.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES CONSIDERATIONS**

N/A

### **ALIGNMENT WITH STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:**

Receipt of this certification aligns with the City's leadership in all data transparency and sharing which is one of the goals of the Digital Strategy.

---

**BUSINESS UNITS CONSULTED AND AFFECTED:**

N/A

**RECOMMENDED BY:**

---

Andy Taylor, CAO

---

Trinela Cane, Commissioner,  
Corporate Services

---

Biju Karumanchery, Acting Commissioner,  
Development Services

---

Morgan Jones, Commissioner,  
Community Services

**ATTACHMENTS:**

List of Indicators – Appendix A

List of Cities Participating in the DCCP project - Appendix B

WCCD Certification Letter – Appendix C