



COUNTY OF WELLINGTON

Committee Report

To: Chair and Members of the Economic Development Committee
From: Justine Dainard, Smart Cities Project Manager
Date: Tuesday, September 19, 2023
Subject: **Smart Cities Office – September 2023 update**

Background: Update on activities of the Smart Cities Office.

The final summer of Our Food Future has been a busy one, with all workstreams continuing to provide support, engagement, and success stories. Highlights of these activities include:

Food Day Canada

Our Food Future celebrated the 20th anniversary – and the first official – Food Day Canada on August 5 by sponsoring a Taste Detours Circular Food Walk in Elora. We were pleased to be joined by Senator Rob Black, who introduced the bill which enshrines Food Day Canada in law. The fully sold-out tour introduced participants to local farmers and food businesses who use circularity and regeneration as key business principles.

Circular Opportunity Innovation Launchpad (COIL)

COIL's National Construction and Demolition Circular Innovation Challenge launched in Spring 2023 looking for climate-smart circular ideas in the C&D sector. Four team projects were each funded with \$15,000 to prototype their solution over the summer months. On September 12 the teams met to pitch their respective prototype to a panel of Circular Economy and Construction, Renovation and Demolition professionals. As a result of this pitch competition, one winning team will receive up to \$75,000 to expand their prototype to a full-scale pilot demonstration.

Details about participating teams can be found at <https://coil.eco/natlchallenge>.

ReImagine Food

Our Food Future's engagement team have been promoting two upcoming events in the Food Equity and Community Resilience Series. The events are community gatherings called Setting the Table; a free meal will be served, and all are welcome.

- September 14, 3:00 – 7:00 pm at Shelldale Family Gateway in Guelph
- September 20, 4:00 – 7:00 pm at Mount Forest Community Garden in Mount Forest

For more information and to join either gathering, please register at [Eventbrite.ca](https://www.eventbrite.ca) by searching "Setting the Table". Tickets are free.

Broadband

The Government of Ontario's [infrastructure announcement August 28](#) confirmed that Rogers Communications will be receiving federal and provincial funding to bring high-speed internet to the

residents of our member municipalities. The province's online interactive map (Figure 1) depicts existing and planned coverage, with a target completion date of December 2025.

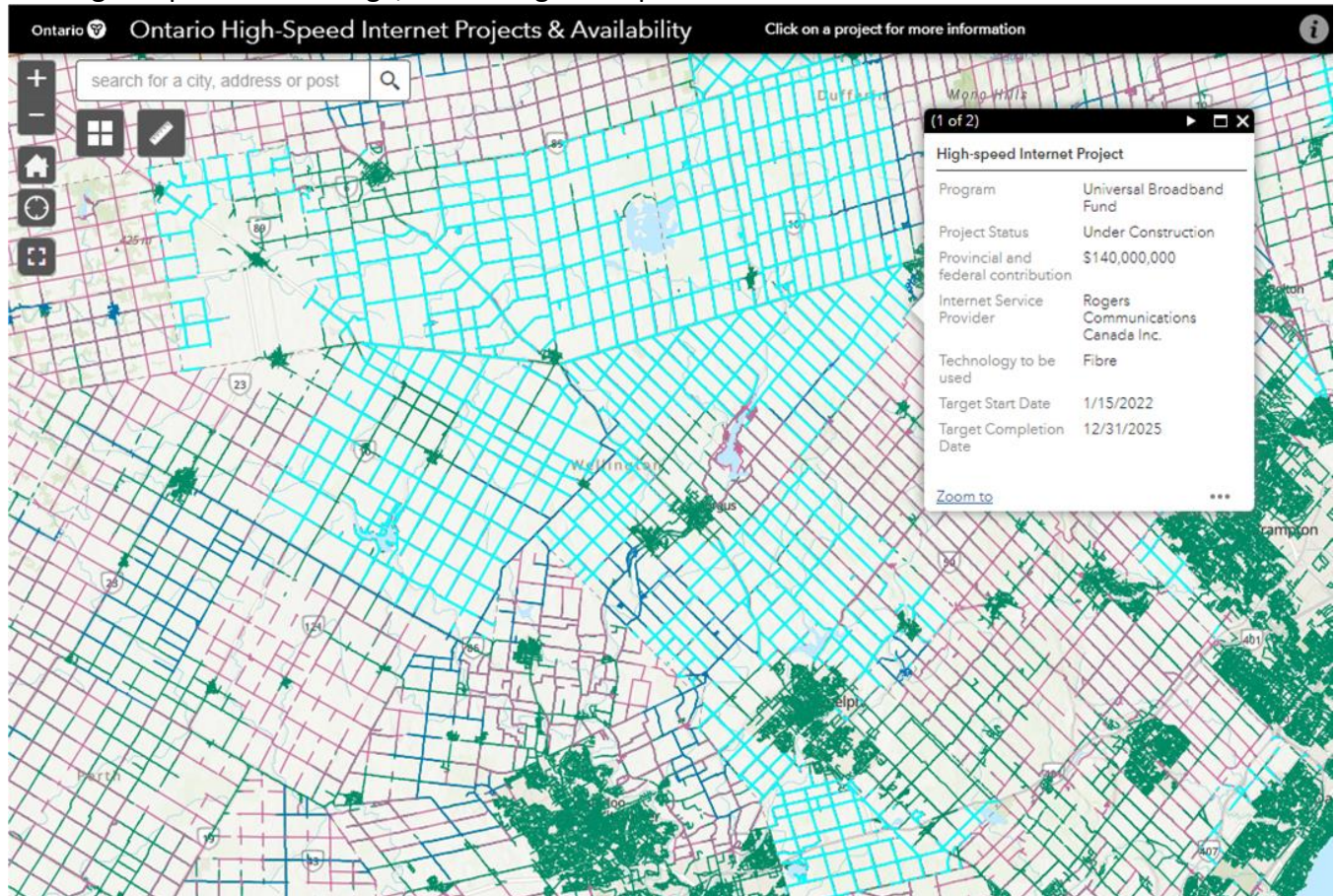


Figure 1: Ontario's high-speed internet project map

Residents are encouraged to record their current connectivity speeds by clicking on the speed test hosted on our County webpage: www.wellington.ca/internet; data collected from these official speed tests can be used to confirm the need for expanded services in specific areas.

Upcoming Smart Cities Office activities:

Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum

Jordan Grigg will give a presentation on the Experimental Acres to OMAFRA's Municipal Agriculture Economic Development and Planning Forum on October 19. The annual Forum addresses food, farming, workforce attraction and the agri-food value chain, attracting cross-departmental speakers and participants from across Ontario. Hosted this year by the City of Tamiskaming Shores, information about the hybrid event can be found at www.farmlnorth.com.

AAFC Living Lab

As announced July 20, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (AAFC) has created a new Living Lab in Ontario. Led by the Ontario Soil and Crop Improvement Association (OSCIA), the Living Lab will be a 5-year, \$9.2M investment of climate focused research carried out on working farms. The County of Wellington is pleased to be a member of this OSCIA-led consortium and will be active in connecting future research opportunities to farms in our region.

Recommendation:

That the Economic Development Committee receive the Smart Cities Office report for information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Justine Dainard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Justine Dainard
Smart Cities Project Manager