



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 2.

Agenda Date: 2/27/2018

In Control: Innovation and Technology Committee

DEPARTMENT: Office of Innovation

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Jose De La Cruz, Chief Innovation Officer

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City-wide

SUBJECT:

Briefing and possible action on the MetroLab Network, the city-university collaborative focused on urban innovation, and the partnership with University of Texas at San Antonio.

SUMMARY:

The purpose of this item is to provide the Innovation and Technology Committee with an overview of the MetroLab Network partnership opportunity and possible action for a MetroLab Network collaboration for urban innovation between the City of San Antonio and University of Texas at San Antonio.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

MetroLab Network which was launched as part of the White House's Smart Cities Initiative in September 2015 is a collaborative of more than 35 city-university partnerships focused on bringing data, analytics, and innovation to city government. MetroLab's mission is to pair university researchers with city policymakers to undertake research, development, and deployment projects that improve our infrastructure, public services, and environmental sustainability.

The City of San Antonio is working to establish a city-university partnership with the University of Texas at San Antonio to apply to join the MetroLab Network. The MetroLab Network's city-university partnerships combine the opportunity for the City of San Antonio to provide real-life laboratories with the strengths of University of Texas at San Antonio to serve as a research and development department. This city-university collaboration is designed create a space to test approaches to address city priorities and challenges.

ISSUE:

The MetroLab Network collaboration for urban innovation between the City of San Antonio and University of Texas at San Antonio will advance SmartSA's vision of becoming a connected, inclusive and resilient community that supports a high quality of life.

ALTERNATIVES:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that a MetroLab Network collaboration for urban innovation between the City of San Antonio and University of Texas at San Antonio be forwarded to City Council for consideration an at "A" Session in March 2018.