

## MEDIA RELEASE

# City of Stratford Among First in North America to Install City-Wide Smart Intersections

Cutting Edge Smart Intersection Technology Further Facilitates Autonomous Vehicles Testing

Stratford, ON – July 30, 2020... **Today the City of Stratford announced a new project undertaken by investStratford, Rhyzome Networks, and the City of Stratford which has seen 24 intersections with traffic lights in the city outfitted with Dedicated Short-Range Communications (DSRC) smart intersection equipment.** The City of Stratford is among the first in North America to install this technology and this rollout will build onto the 3 intersections outfitted in 2017 as a proof of concept.

DSRC is a technology that allows for wireless communications over a secure and high-speed connection and that maintains function in extreme weather conditions. The technology being installed is a combination of hardware and software developed by Miovision, based in Waterloo, and Danlaw, based in Michigan, and has been developed to allow vehicle-to-vehicle and vehicle-to-infrastructure communications required for the testing of autonomous and connected vehicles (A/CV). Some intersections will also have cameras installed to allow the system real time insight into what is happening on the roadways which opens up the possibility of applications relating to traffic management.

The project will utilize some of the \$1 Million in funding that was pledged to the City of Stratford by the Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network (AVIN), funded by the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, when Stratford was named as an “AVIN Technology Demonstration Zone” in 2017. The direction for the funding is that it is to be utilized for infrastructure upgrades and other projects relating to the autonomous vehicle project and the installation of DSRC is a large step in the direction of establishing a functioning test zone for autonomous vehicles. The “AVIN Technology Demonstration Zone” is envisioned as “a site where Ontario-based companies can test, validate and showcase innovative products to potential customers and partners such as automotive suppliers manufacturers and original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) in a controlled environment and in accordance with applicable laws and regulations using vehicle platforms such as city buses, fleet vehicles, and vehicles.”(avinhub.ca).

**City of Stratford Dan Mathieson** says *“These ongoing technology upgrades are made possible due to our designation as Ontario’s autonomous vehicle demo zone and partnerships with the APMA and AVIN. The upgrades are important to our infrastructure and the technology will provide value to future projects.”*

**Delia Campbell, VP of IT for Rhyzome Networks and Festival Hydro** says *“The installation of DSRC is a key step in creating a space for the testing of autonomous vehicles. We are also continuing to investigate 5G technologies that we can leverage to further expand upon the variety of technology that can be tested in the Stratford Demonstration Zone. Undertaking these projects solidify, and are a testament to, Stratford’s position as leader in the autonomous and connected vehicle space.”*

**Joani Gerber, CEO of investStratford,** says *“Our reputation as a Smart City will be further enhanced with this latest upgrade and I know that existing and future businesses will find great benefit in knowing Stratford has the latest and best technology available.”*

**About Rhyzome Networks**

Rhyzome Networks was formed to manage the more than 50km grid of fibre optic infrastructure in the City of Stratford and Town of St. Marys and is wholly owned by the City of Stratford. Rhyzome Networks constructed a city-wide Wi-Fi system in Stratford with more than 300 wireless access points. Rhyzome has been instrumental in the discussions and projects that have attracted the attention of the Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network (AVIN), naming Stratford as the testing site of autonomous and connected vehicles in the Province on Ontario.

**About investStratford**

investStratford is the City of Stratford's Economic Development Corporation which, together with the provincially funded Stratford Perth Centre for Business, offers full advisory services for business start-up, growth, relocation and new investment. investStratford is committed to advancing the economic future of Stratford, Ontario, Canada through investment in arts, education and industry. Globally Connected | Community Driven

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