

# Pilot Project Summary

South Burlington, VT March 27, 2019

### Introduction

Consensus is a technology company based in Toronto, Canada, with a leadership team comprised of experienced technology executives. Consensus was founded in 2017 with the mission to improve our societies through enhancing our relationships with governing organizations.

The Consensus team believes increasing complexity in all aspects of our lives requires democracy to evolve to better represent citizens. Consensus believes this is possible by bringing together a number of new technologies—blockchain, artificial intelligence, mobile devices, internet-of-things, and marrying this technology with data, and expectations of citizens.

The Consensus pilot project will act as a proof of concept for a number of hypotheses. The primary questions being:

- at what level do citizens want to engage with their local governments?
- can incentive mechanisms be used for increasing citizen engagement?
- can we establish trust between government and its citizens through technology?
- can government make more rapid decisions with ongoing citizen feedback & data?

Secondarily, the pilot project will also test Consensus' ability to collect, analyze, and present data in a useful manner to the government entity even in the earliest stages – eventually enabling sophisticated machine learning and AI prediction and analysis. Consensus will be soliciting feedback from the City of South Burlington as these tools are being developed.

## Consensus Platform

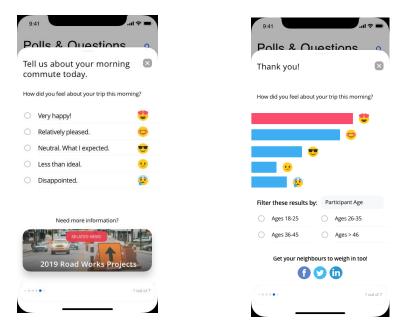
The Consensus platform that will be deployed in South Burlington is a new technology that consists of mobile application for citizens and a government portal for government officials.

The government portal will allow the City of South Burlington to push questions to the citizens of South Burlington to help the City, and the residents, understand how sentiment around a given

area of interest is evolving. The questions will be asked daily so the government will be able to monitor feedback as a trend line. The mobile application will allow citizens to engage on a daily basis with the government. A simple and well written statement will be presented and the citizens will be able to quickly respond with a sentiment score.

### Technology Components

**Mobile Application** - Used for citizens to submit data, manage their incentive rewards, and stay up to date on the initiatives of their location from their mobile devices. A reward may be given to users who submit specific data such as answering survey questions or allowing the transmission of their location data.



Examples of early mockups

**Government Portal** - The web application will allow for the management of the data collection through the pushing of notifications for new data requests from citizens, publish research and other supporting documents to the mobile clients, and present data visualizations and reports to government team members.

**Blockchain** - Consensus' proprietary blockchain network—Sentient network, will be used to gather data securely. The Sentient blockchain allows Consensus to record data in a transparent public ledger that cannot be altered while ensuring the privacy of the person submitting the data. The data collected through sentiment surveys will be collected and encrypted using a proprietary proof of work algorithm. This process will anonymize the data while still being able to incentivize the end users.

**Artificial Intelligence** - While the role of true artificial intelligence will be limited in this pilot given it's timeline and scope, Consensus does hope to employ predictive analysis of data as well as cohort segmentation, and if time permits, apply machine learning to citizen feedback overlaid with open data sources.

# Why South Burlington?

Consensus has been in talks with jurisdictions around the world that could possibly make good partners for our first pilot project. Consensus evaluated cities, states/provinces and nation states based on criteria it felt would allow for a project to produce the most valuable feedback. This criteria included:

- 1. a population with a sufficient understanding of technology to embrace a project like what we are proposing
- 2. and a government with a strong desire to improve discourse between citizens and it's members
- within a limited and defined geographical region and an addressable population size under 50,000 within a larger population to be able, if needed, to scale the Consensus pilot.

South Burlington, and the state of Vermont, checked all these boxes for Consensus. The Consensus platform requires trust between government and citizens and we believe the Consensus platform by being inherently open, meaning anyone can review the code and explore the blockchain, we can achieve both security and privacy that until now was not possible.

# Pilot Project Process

The Pilot Project will consist of three phases taking place over what we approximate to be the coming nine months. Each phase can be broken down into deliverables required from Consensus and South Burlington, and communications associated with each phase.

#### **Phase One**

#### Communication

- Announcing partnership between South Burlington and Consensus with a press conference on March 27, 2019
- Press release local and national media

#### Consensus

- Complete mobile application and government portal software
- Work with South Burlington to identify areas of focus where consensus is currently being sought

#### South Burlington

Provide Consensus with area of focus where consensus is currently being sought

#### **Phase Two**

#### Communication

- Announcing Pilot Project launch, encouraging application download and engagement
- Press release local as this can be a more targeted message to the people of South Burlington

#### Consensus

- Launch mobile application to South Burlington residents
- Begin sustained onboarding activities
- Rollout government portal

#### South Burlington

• Support onboarding activities and ongoing engagement (exact efforts are TBD)

#### **Phase Three**

#### Communication

- Announcing project wrap up with public facing findings
- Press release local/national media
- Push to relevant trade publications-blockchain, Al, government

#### Consensus

- Wind down public facing aspect of pilot project
- Data review, delivery of final executive summary of project to South Burlington, government and citizen facing

#### South Burlington

- Work with Consensus to develop summary of project
- Work with Consensus on Consensus' internal project post mortem