5G Discovery Zone: Connected Calgary

5G Discovery Zone

The 5G Discovery Zone is a downtown 5G testbed for exploring how 5G technology can help cities address complex challenges. A collaboration between The City of Calgary, Rogers, Platform Calgary, and Calgary Economic Development, the Zone provides a space to develop, test, and scale technologies that can make cities smarter, safer, and more sustainable. This initiative aims to address specific urban challenges in areas like **Transportation & Mobility, Public Safety, and Climate & Environment.**

Connected Calgary

Introducing **Connected Calgary**, a new cohort program designed to accelerate solution development and align startup innovation with civic and industry challenges. This initiative will explore how 5G can be leveraged to accelerate innovation and solve complex challenges. Connected Calgary will focus on an overarching challenge statement, and applicants can respond to the statement under one or more of the three key focus areas: **Transportation & Mobility, Public Safety, and Climate & Environment.**

*Note: Solutions must be at a **Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 6 or higher**. This means validated solutions ready for demonstration in a relevant environment are eligible. Early-stage concepts, untested prototypes, or ideation-stage projects will not be accepted.*

Challenge Statement:
"How might we leverage 5G connectivity and data to make cities safer, more sustainable, or more responsive"

Examples:
The following are examples to help inspire ideas. Applicants are welcome to use these examples, adapt them, or propose entirely new solutions within the three focus areas:

> **Focus Area: Public Safety**
> *Use AI and sensor data to improve safety at high-risk intersections or public areas.*
>
> **Focus Area: Climate & Environment**
> *Leverage flood and air quality data to support faster, more informed decision-making.*
>
> **Focus Area: Transportation & Mobility**
> *Optimize transit systems and reduce congestion by harnessing 5G connectivity from infrastructure and vehicles.*

Cohort Timeline 2025-2026: Connected Calgary

Phase	Date / Timeframe	Activities
Applications Open (Cohort 1)	September 8th	Application portal for Cohort 1 opens
Cohort 1 Webinar	September 18th	Overview of challenge statement, application process, and Q&A
Applications Close (Cohort 1)	October 17th	Final deadline to submit Cohort 1 applications
Cohort 1 Programming	November 2025 - February 2026	Selected teams announced during **Platform Innovation Week**. Includes onboarding, technical scoping, mentorship, development support, and preparation for final showcase.
Applications Open (Cohort 2)	December 2025	Application portal for Cohort 2 opens
Cohort 2 Webinar	December 2025	Overview of challenge statement, application process, and Q&A
Applications Close (Cohort 2)	January 2026	Final deadline to submit Cohort 2 applications
Cohort 2 Programming	February 2026 – May 2026	Selected teams announced. Includes onboarding, technical scoping, mentorship, development support, and preparation for final showcase.
Demo Day (Cohort 1)	February 2026	Final showcase for Cohort 1
Demo Day (Cohort 2)	May 2026	Final showcase for Cohort 2

Participant Benefits

- Access to Calgary's 5G testbed, including Rogers' connectivity tools (devices, SIMs, and network access)
- Technical mentorship from Rogers' engineering and technical teams
- Access to Platform Calgary's startup programs, membership perks, portfolio coaching, and visibility opportunities through storytelling and media features
- Connections to potential civic and industry partners through Calgary Economic Development resources and networks
- Visibility within Calgary's civic innovation ecosystem
- Public Showcase – Present to civic leaders, industry stakeholders, and potential funders
- Promotion & exposure – Recognition via City of Calgary, Rogers, and partner networks, plus media outreach

Integrated Support from Partners

Rogers	City of Calgary	Platform Calgary	Calgary Economic Development (CED)
5G connectivity tools - Technical mentorship - Program management	- Municipal use cases - Insights from City departments and civic priorities - Program Support	- Access to startup programs (e.g., Discover, Velocity) - Platform membership (for qualifying startups), including collaborative	Connections to potential civic and industry partners

		workspace access and perks • Portfolio team support with coaching and targeted introductions • Visibility & storytelling opportunities through blog series or Community Connect • Media engagement (as appropriate), exploring interviews or features with partner outlets	