



MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME	CDTC Smart Communities Guidebook
MEETING DATE	22 July 2021
TIME	1:00pm- 1:45pm
VENUE	Video Conference
SUBJECT	CDTC Smart Communities Guidebook Kick Off
PRESENT	Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee (ROSAC)
PROJECT TEAM	Jen Ceponis & Andrew Tracy, CDTC Martin Hull & Jeff Randall, WSP Margaret Irwin, River Street Planning & Development
ATTENDANCE	Nicole McGrath – FHWA Tracy Mance - Albany County Sheriff's Department Valerie Deane – NYSDOT Brent Irving & Ethan Warren – CDTA Calvin Young - CDTA Catherine Lawson – UAlbany Jim Moore – DASNY Joe Seman-Graves – City of Cohoes Lindsey Garney - CDTA Mark Kennedy – VHB Maureen Kozakiewicz – NYS GTSC Richard Mai - NYSERDA Robyn Marquis - NYSERDA Sean Palladino – Albany Parking Authority Stephanie Wright - Albany Parking Authority Tara Donadio & Todd Fabozzi – CDRPC Tom Johnson – Chazen Tom Werner – Interested Citizen Mark Granier – NYSDOT Emmett McDevitt – FHWA

MEETING NOTES

OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND

CDTC launched its Smart Communities program in 2018. As part of the program, a task force was assembled to act as a platform for local authorities to give them the opportunity to share and exchange their experiences adopting new technology. The next phase of this work will be compiling a Smart Communities Guidebook/Toolkit that will give local municipalities guidance on smart technology and implementation strategies.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Andrew Tracy provided an overview of the Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee Agenda as well as introductions to the Smart Communities Project Team; Jen Ceponis (CDTC) and Martin Hull (WSP).

DISCUSSION

The meeting's presentation and ensuing discussion are summarized below.

2. Smart Communities Guidebook Project Introduction

Jen Ceponis provided a brief background on the Smart Communities Toolkit project and previous Smart Communities related work CDTC has done. This includes funding smart studies through the UPWP and developing Smart Communities goals for the region.

- Defining Smart Communities
 - Working on a definition of Smart Communities
 - Discussing smart transportation, connectivity, networks, and open data to accomplish regional transportation goals.
- The goal of the Smart Communities Guidebook is to develop a regional Smart Communities toolkit to create a regional guide for municipalities and agencies.
 - Serve as a guide & information for local government to implement Smart Communities concepts and projects
 - ROSAC & Smart Communities Taskforce role will be an advisor to this process and provide feedback on developed concepts/material

Martin Hull Introduces WSP Agenda; will look at items in Task 1B:

2.1 Issues important to the region relating to safety, mobility, and smart transportation

What is our definition of smart mobility for this study?

- Ideas WSP has explored prior; complete streets, smart parking, curb management and exploring data sharing and data collection between agencies and putting into action

Anyone working in a community that is using smart community technology?

- Brent Irving, CDTA – Installing TSP on their BRT lines
- CDTA expanding mobility as a service, trying to establish mobility hubs bringing bike share and scooter share to BRT and integrate them into their existing fixed route transit services
- Lindsey, CDTA- Car Sharing, early in the process Capital Car Share folded they wanted to revamp car share working with mobility organization to handle operations of electric vehicles beginning in Albany hopefully expanding to a regional service beginning this fall.
- Ubiquitous tech pilots in Schenectady

Tina Carton, Saratoga Springs

- Streetlight plan, LED Conversion Guidebook for Streetlights Saratoga Springs
 - A barrier to this program has been cost, concerns over who will manage data, and limitations based on staff ability

MEETING NOTES

- In Progress: Increase budgets for cameras associated with law enforcement
- In Progress: Piloting an air quality environmental sensor at the Saratoga Springs Public Housing Authority in an environmental justice zone
- Tina would like to explore applicability of cameras to improve parking management

Joe Seman-Graves, City of Cohoes

- In progress: Coordination with Cobra lighting utility
- Question-With the smart city lights are you finding that tech is evolving so quickly that it is hard to know when to implement?
- Tina: Cobra lighting utility, nodes/pins are easy to change out how much to invest in systems, nodes/pins are easy to change out

To Martin: could you research how other communities are dealing with the pace of evolution in technology and how they are upgrading switching out outdated tech (in reference to cobra lighting discussion).

Todd Fabozzi

- Todd brought up the foundational definition of smart mobility as “the movement things” and considers the impact of the pandemic on travel and technology. In this period where we have used technology to “not move” what does smart mobility mean now? Is there an evolution in the definition of smart cities? Communication as substitute for transportation?
- Todd also noticed Smart Cities/Communities focus on technology but there are other ways of streets being smart, like utilization of public place. Don’t want to overlook public space and the way we exchange information.
- Martin raises the need to manage quality of life and technical efficiency.

2.2 Foundational work in the region: what are the existing plans in the region?

- Tina: Smart cities roadmap – Saratoga Springs (available on website)
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- Municipal Smart City Street Light Conversion & Evolving Technology Guidebook Capital Region ZEV Plan
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2.3 Overview of scope and schedule

- a. Existing condition analysis of what is going on in Capital Region
- b. Develop draft Smart Communities toolbox using peer cities research
- c. Present Smart Communities toolbox to steering committee
- d. Present ideas to the public with help from River Street Planning & Development
- e. Develop final community toolkit

2.4 File sharing & formatting

- Teams site, Martin to send invite

Preference for Final Toolkit Format?

- No preference expressed
- CDTC has used ArcGIS Story Maps in the past and may be a format to explore
- Explore other formats that are more useful to local municipality

2.5 Website and Community Engagement format

Margaret Irwin introduced her team at River Street – Monica Ryan and Christine Snyder.

- Engagement will include bringing in Cheryl Kennedy a planner and economic developer in Troy who explores how to leverage academic and research capacity in the region with transportations and other issues municipalities are interested in.

MEETING NOTES

- First public engagement will be a series of focus groups
- This will be done after baseline data collection; focus groups will begin in October
- Will coordinate when toolkit is ready for public view to gather public feedback

Margaret open to format: driven by type of participants OR organized by topic area?

- Tina suggests that if events are held virtually, they should be topical but if held in person it should be by type of participant

Website

- Will be maintained long term and reflect ongoing changes and information based on developments of the project

How are agencies/municipalities engaging with the public?

- Sean Palladino, Albany Parking Authority – Are doing a hybrid approach in person meeting with social distancing and virtual meetings
- Tina/Saratoga Springs required to do in person community engagement
 - Planning board is holding live meetings and streaming them
- Joe Semen-Graves has converted audio system to facilitate in person and zoom meetings at the same time
- CDTC is having in person Committee meetings with voting members and virtual for non-voting committees (i.e. Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, ROSAC, etc.).

WSP NEXT STEPS

1. Presentation of existing conditions and existing plans in the capital region
2. Share first element of Peer city case studies

NEXT MEETING

September 30, 2021 at 1:00 pm

SMART COMMUNITIES DISCUSSION OVER

The ROSAC meeting continued after the Smart Communities Discussion ended.