



MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT NAME	CDTC Smart Communities Guidebook
MEETING DATE	30 September 2021
TIME	1:00pm- 2:30pm
VENUE	Video Conference
SUBJECT	CDTC Smart Communities Update
PRESENT	Regional Operations and Safety Advisory Committee (ROSAC)
PROJECT TEAM	Jen Ceponis & Andrew Tracy (CDTC) Martin Hull, Fred Frank, & Maya Miller (WSP) Chris Snyder & Margaret Irwin (River Street Planning & Development)
ATTENDANCE	Tom Myers (NYSTEC) Valerie Deane (NYSDOT) Bill Trudeau (City of Albany) Calvin Young (CDTA) Catherine Lawson (UALbany) Chris Wallin (City of Schenectady) Colleen Smith Lemmon (NYSDOT) Ethan Warren (CDTA) James Rexford (Bethlehem PD) Jason Jones (UALbany Parking Management) Michele Madigan (City of Saratoga Springs) Robyn Marquis (NYSERDA) Sean He (RPI) Sean Palladino (Albany Parking Authority) Thomas Werner (Interested Citizen) Tina Carton (Saratoga Springs) Tracy Balogh (NYSDOT) Jim Moore (DASNY) Andrew Sattinger (NYSDOT)

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. Over the past six weeks WSP has been working on inventorying Smart Community plans and studies in the Capital Region and researching peer city Smart Community programs. River Street Planning & Development has come up with a framework for public engagement and has conducted research on Smart Mobility websites.

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Jen Cepons provided a brief overview of the agenda and introduced the consultant teams, WSP and River Street Planning to provide updates on their progress on the Smart Communities Toolkit.

DISCUSSION

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

SMART COMMUNITIES UPDATE

Martin introduced the agenda including a review of the recommendations found in regional Smart Community plans, the discussion of Smart Communities peers, and our approach to focus groups and next steps.

Martin presented a definition of Smart Communities that included the following key elements.

Key Aspects of Smart Communities:

- Collection of data
- Communication infrastructure
- Efficient and effective delivery of municipal services to improve resident quality of life

Martin displayed a matrix showing how well the Capital Region Smart Communities plans address the following focus areas.

Smart Community Focus Areas:

- Non-Vehicular Mobility
- Traffic Management
- Energy & Infrastructure
- Parking Management
- Smart City/Smart Corridor
- Connected/Autonomous Vehicles
- Electric Vehicles

Energy & Infrastructure, Smart City/Smart Corridor, and Electric Vehicles were discussed in many plans while Non-Vehicular Mobility and Parking Management were not discussed and may be areas that need more focus within the region.

LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION OF SMART TRANSPORTATION

Saratoga Springs

→ Focus on tourism, parking management, and conversion from traditional street lights to smart street lights

- Implementation of smart street lights is an easily implemented smart infrastructure component that can reduce energy cost as well as be outfitted with other video monitoring, environmental sensors, and electric vehicle charging ([Case study in LA](#))
- Digital tourism using technology to give visitors information quickly and assist them in navigating to the sites they want to visit.
- Parking management system, which has potential to address one of the more serious perceived issues in urban areas

Schenectady

→ Focus on infrastructure management, electric vehicle, and transparent government services.

Martin brought up the Albany Parking Authority's current program to reduce their reliance on parking kiosks for payment through the increased use of a smart phone app.

SMART PEER COMMUNITIES

Buffalo

→ Focus on Smart Mobility

The Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus Main Street-Smart Corridor was an opportunity for the Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus to showcase tech-based industries and address the needs of the area's diverse stakeholders to create an equitable and accessible corridor.

Lessons learned

- Lots of coordination is required between agencies
- Data management center/system is required to manage all the new forms of data that will be collected by smart sensors/components
- Agency and stakeholders will need to have agreements in place on how data will be used, by whom, and with transparency for the public.

Phasing

→ Phase 1 introduces a "Wow factor" projects, easily implementable Smart Communities technology

- Smart Sensors
- Smart Cycle Track
- On-Street Electric Vehicle Charging Station
- Curbside Management
- Smart Mobility Hub

→ Phase 2 requires coordination between agencies and data management center

- How will the information be shared?

→ Phase 3 is fully integrating technology from phase 1 and 2.

- Allows dynamic parking pricing and dynamic controlled traffic signals
- Universally designed intersections
- Deploy roadside units to prepare corridor for CV/AV
- The project plan facilitated further funding (USDOT, Pilot Complete Trip Program) to allow the piloting of autonomous vehicles

Niagara Falls

Smart Mobility recommendations were part of Downtown Tourism Study

→ Priority was on Smart Mobility Systems

- Smart parking
- Advanced Traveler Information System
- Traffic signal coordination
- Autonomous shuttle
 - To help Niagara Falls compete with other tourism destinations and remove cars from the Downtown area to facilitate a more enjoyable visitor experience.

→ **Phasing again is important, many cities are:**

- Piloting programs/tech first then
- Building the communications infrastructure then
- Fully integrating physical and communications systems to create predictive of autonomous services

Any questions on this section?

Calvin Young, CDTA requested details on traffic signal controls for Buffalo. **Fred** will provide information.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Project Website goals:

- Simple and accessible
- An educational resource on smart transportation and implementation strategies
- Present and link comparable regional efforts
- A planning tool for communities
- Would like to leverage the website to be relevant past the Smart Community project

Example Sites:

Kings County Website serves as a good representation of format and information that we would like to share for the Smart Communities Toolkit site

Domain Names Suggestions

- SmartCitiesCR
- SmartCommunitiesCR
- SmartCitySolutionsCR
- CapitalRegionSMARTSolutions
- SmartTransportCR

Next step for Public Engagement

- Conduct focus groups, **Margaret** has found that focus groups that are topical have more value than groups of specific practitioners and recommends topical focus groups.
- Would like to have small “fish bowl” discussion among invited guests on the topic and then invite the full group to discuss those conversations

Public Engagement Schedule

- Website will be up by the end of October
- Focus Groups/Fish Bowl would take place in early November

What other types of participants should we reach out to?

- Law Enforcement, because of their integration into traffic management
- Center for technology and Government
- Real estate developers / other stakeholders in broader land use context (Robyn)
- Community Development Organizations
- Albany Parking Authority
- Disability community
- Freight representatives
- Airport representatives
- **Jason Jones** to reach out to BestPass for truck and tolling

What Mobility Topics should we prioritize or add to these discussions?

- Freight
- Mobility Hubs

- Mobility as a Service
- Technology Deployment
 - **Fred** mentions that many cities are facing an influx of private vendors wanting to deploy technology that many cities are sending out Request for Information (RFI) to coordinate and manage all the deployment of tech in a holistic way.
- Data Collection and Analysis (Calvin mentioned that is an area that municipalities could use guidance on)

CDTA Smart Mobility Update:

- Launching scooter-share soon
- Piloting two on-street Smart Kiosks

NEXT STEPS

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

- Develop and activate project website
- Conduct Focus groups

TOOLKIT

- Continued development of the draft toolkit based on local and peer research

SMART COMMUNITIES DISCUSSION OVER

NEXT MEETING

TBD in 2 to 3 months