



MEMORANDUM

TO: Southwest Washington Regional Transportation Council Board of Directors
FROM: Matt Ransom, Executive Director
DATE: January 28, 2020
SUBJECT: **Smart Communities Assessment**

AT A GLANCE

RTC will provide an overview of the Smart Communities Assessment and Workshop scheduled for Tuesday, March 3, 2020 in Vancouver.

INTRODUCTION

RTC, in collaboration with Vancouver, WSDOT, Clark County, and C-TRAN, is hosting a Smart Communities Workshop on March 3, 2020. The Workshop is intended to: educate participants on the current state of transportation and technology around the country, go through a benchmarking exercise to better understand current capabilities in the Vancouver region, and moderate a workshop that will help participants align themselves in a common direction to develop a strategic roadmap for future transportation and mobility.

BACKGROUND

Over the last several years, the region has been advancing transportation technology and operations projects that work toward regional transportation goals to improve travel time reliability, reduce crashes, improve transit on-time performance, and to reduce travel delay. These include:

- Bus Rapid Transit projects
- Transit signal priority
- Bus on shoulder operations
- Integrated traffic operations and signal systems
- Ramp metering
- Low cost capital projects
- Sharing communications and fiber assets

All of these efforts require that regional transportation agencies work in close collaboration on technology, data and information systems to achieve common goals and objectives. As mobility technology changes and the region considers future needs and strategies over the next 5 to 10 years, agencies must reduce the impediments between agencies, departments and people to ensure a smart approach that can be sustained over time in a way that best serves the community.

Future mobility strategies and initiatives are becoming more complex as we prepare for the greater emergence of innovative ideas and technology such as connected and autonomous vehicles, transportation network companies and ideas such as micro transit.

As the region considers its role in building a smart community, the workshop is intended to gather stakeholders across different agencies and departments to have a focused discussion about where we are now, how our region compares to others, identify how we can do better, and to provide benchmarks on how to move forward.

The evaluation and assessment of Vancouver area agencies on the development of their smart community's capacity and practices is intended to help the partner agencies leverage technology to improve urban transportation operations, mobility, and better serve residents and the community.

SMART COMMUNITIES WORKSHOP AND ASSESSMENT

The overarching goal of the assessment is to align the different organizations towards a more common viewpoint, language, and understanding of the current situation, and future possibilities for mobility and transportation and Smart City services. The full assessment consists of two main tasks.

The Smart Communities Workshop will consist of an overview of Smart Community strategies and approaches, current trends and the state of technology and mobility in transportation. The objective of this effort is to identify current strategies, successes, and challenges for the member agencies. The day will consist of three distinct sections: A 90 minute session with elected officials and policy staff focused on smart cities and transportation; a four-hour session to discuss technology advances and issues with more technical or operations staff, and a debrief to the RTC Board with a summary of discussion and issues from the previous sessions.

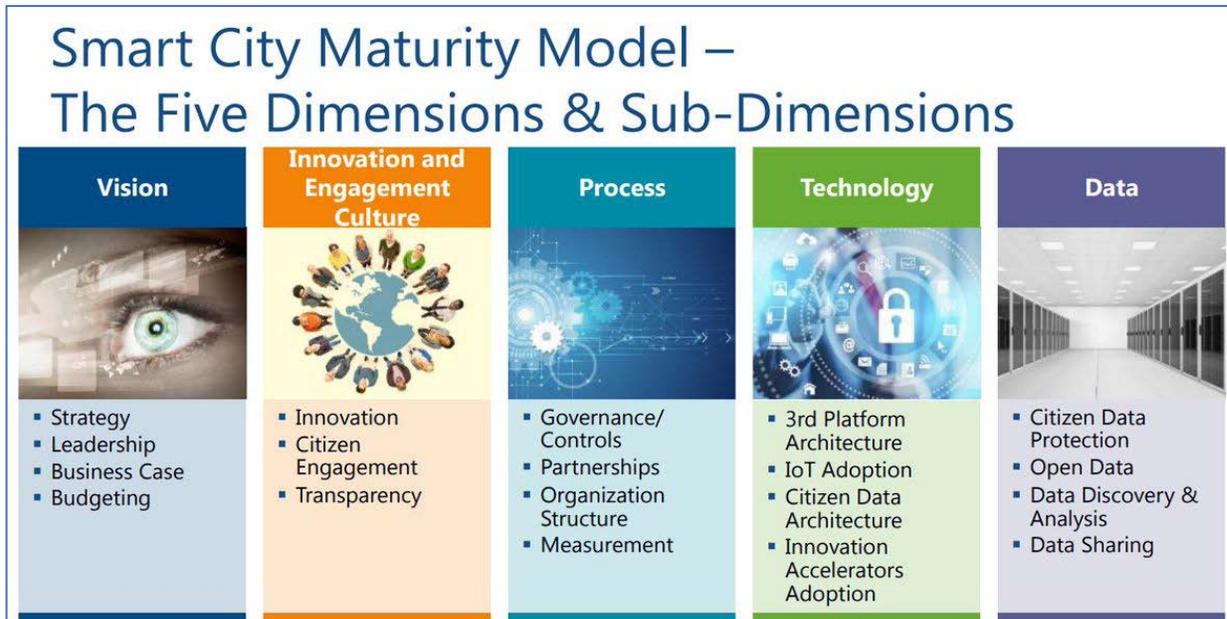
The Readiness/Maturity Assessment based on the workshop outcomes will be conducted to identify current practices for mobility and transportation in the region. It will consist of a widely distributed 20 to 30 minute online survey that will provide benchmarks as compared to other regions in the country. The assessment will look at key performance areas for digital transformation including vision, culture, process, key technologies, and data. The survey outcomes will provide gap analysis results to determine strengths, areas for improvement and to inform a strategic action plan.

The workshop itself is by invitation; however, the online survey will have broad distribution to transportation agencies and departments. Thorough participation by transportation agency staff, RTAC members and other stakeholders will be critical to ensuring good benchmarks for the assessment.

The assessment will culminate in a presentation of the Smart Communities Assessment findings to the RTC Board.

International Data Corporation (IDC), the consultant for the assessment, provides Information Technology (IT) Research and Advisory Services, Consulting, Benchmarking, and Training for US and global government clients and assisting agencies in maximizing the value of technology investments. IDC specialty areas include: transportation systems, connected and autonomous vehicles, emergency services, smart lighting, and Open Data.

Smart Communities Workshop



What: RTC, in collaboration with Vancouver, WSDOT, Clark County, and C-TRAN, is hosting a workshop about Smart Communities

When: Tuesday, March 3

Session 1: 8:30 to 10:00 AM

Session 2: 11 am to 3:00 PM

Where: Rose Besserman Room, Fisher's Landing Park and Ride

Who: Session 1 is designed for elected officials, policy staff and other stakeholders.
Session 2 is designed for traffic engineers, technology staff and planners

You are invited to Session 1 of the workshop

Reserve your spot today! A meeting reminder, agenda and other materials will be emailed to you about a week before the workshop.

Register by email to: shann.westrand@rtc.wa.gov

For more information, contact Bob Hart, 564-397-5206 or bob.hart@rtc.wa.gov

The Smart Communities Assessment Workshop will educate participants on the current state of transportation and technology around the country, to lead us through a benchmarking exercise so we can better understand current capabilities in the Vancouver region, and moderate a workshop that will help participants align themselves in a common direction with a strategic roadmap that leverages technology to improve urban operations and better serve residents and the community.

A detailed agenda will be made available for the day but some of the topics and areas of focus will include the following:

- Overview of Smart Community strategies and approaches
- Current state and trends for technology in transportation
- Discussion on current strategies, successes, and challenges of each member agency

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Over the last several years the region has been advancing transportation technology and operations projects that work toward regional transportation goals to improve travel time reliability, reduce crashes, improve transit on-time performance, and to reduce travel delay. These include: bus rapid transit projects, transit signal priority, integrated traffic operations and signal systems, and sharing communications and fiber assets.

All of these efforts require regional transportation agencies to work in close collaboration on technology and data and information systems to achieve common goals and objectives. As mobility technology advances and the region considers future needs and strategies agencies must reduce the impediments between agencies, departments and people to ensure a smart approach that can be sustained over time in a way that best serves the community.

About IDC

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