



## What is a Smart Community?: Everything but the Data

### Introduction and Definition

Building a Smart Community takes planning and a deliberate approach. Not only is the definition vague, but agencies have many diverse technologies to consider for deployment. Constituents lambast municipalities if they aren't keeping up with the latest and greatest, while agencies feel like they are chasing shiny objects in addition to their normal day-to-day duties. Where does one begin?

ITE wants to provide a starting point for Smart Communities for transportation practitioners. At this time, the transportation community needs direction on how the enigmatic concept of Smart Communities relates to them. To that end, the Smart Communities Task Force has created a working definition and mission statement.

### ITE Mission Statement v1.0

ITE's role is to support, educate, promote, and assist the membership towards implementing mobility components of a Smart Community.

### Smart Community Definition v1.0

ITE identifies a Smart Community as a city, county, town, neighborhood, or any other collection of people whose lives are enriched through the gathering, processing, analysis, and use of secure data from technology.

### Examples of Existing Case Studies or Thought Leadership

Unfortunately, there is not a single ubiquitous description of a smart community. Furthermore, there is not a definitive shining example of a city, town, county, or State that is "smart." However, some common threads have emerged that chart the course toward a Smart Community.

At its core, municipalities who help to deliver smart communities are those that:

- Recognize that by partnering with the private sector, the public can benefit from private services;
- Break down internal silos to create more cross-collaboration; and
- Have mechanisms (staff, procurement, etc.) to achieve faster and more nimble delivery of services.

The ultimate goal of these tenets is to institute a philosophy akin to transportation systems management and operations (TSM&O) that shifts the focus of construction to delivering outcomes. This is evident in the Smart Columbus program in Columbus, OH, USA, which won the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge: [www.columbus.gov/smartcolumbus/](http://www.columbus.gov/smartcolumbus/).

### How ITE Can Help

The first step for ITE members is to join the Smart Communities page on ITE Community: <http://bit.ly/2zooOMm>.

The next step will be to communicate with ITE members on key areas:

1. Do I have political support from elected officials or citizens?
2. Have I established nimble goals and ways to pivot if necessary?
3. Do I want to invest my time into this?

If you have questions or would like more information on the ITE Smart Communities initiative, please contact ITE Smart Communities Task Force (SCoTF) at [smartcommunities@ite.org](mailto:smartcommunities@ite.org).