



City of San Antonio

Agenda Memorandum

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Agenda Item Number: 4

Agenda Date: May 23, 2023

In Control: Economic and Workforce Development Committee Meeting

DEPARTMENT: Office of Innovation

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Brian Dillard

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: Citywide

SUBJECT:

A briefing on the Smart Cities Roadmap and Smarter Together Initiative led by the Smart Cities team at the Office of Innovation.

SUMMARY:

The Office of Innovation is providing a briefing on the Smart Cities Roadmap, that provides a strategy and operational model for smart city development.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The Smart Cities team was formed in 2017 with a mission to leverage data and technology to improve quality of life for San Antonio residents. Upon the team's founding, the Office of Innovation held a workshop with community partners to identify what focus areas were critical to the development of San Antonio as a "smart city". As an outcome of the workshop, a collaborative partnership formed in 2018, named "SmartSA". The SmartSA partnership includes eight local partners and provides a structure for local organizations that represent critical aspects of resident

life to work collaboratively on San Antonio's future. The partnership adopted a "Smart Cities 3.0," model, where local government works closely with residents to shape smart city projects and initiatives. This approach was a step beyond Smart Cities 1.0, which is primarily vendor driven, and Smart Cities 2.0, which focuses on top-down solutions introduced by government.

That same year, City Council approved the selection of three geographic areas Downtown, Brooks, and the Medical Center as Innovation Zones. These areas are designated as proving grounds for the Smart Cities team and SmartSA partners to prototype, test, and develop solutions to challenges identified by residents and businesses.

Leveraging the SmartSA Partnership and Innovation Zones, the Smart Cities team executed more than 30 pilots, projects, and programs in response to resident challenges since 2018 including:

- Installed 30 Digital Kiosks providing convenient access to public information in high traffic pedestrian areas including local parks and the central business district.
- Launched the SmartSA Smart Streetlight Pilot Program testing remote lighting controls, and five environmental sensor use-cases on up to 40 streetlights in each of the three Innovation Zones.
- Ratified the Interlocal Data Sharing Agreement that unlocked privacy-preserving data sharing across all nine (9) SmartSA partners.
- Executed four (4) SmartSA Sandbox events connecting over 1,500 residents to smart city technologies.
- Distributed the 2019/2020 Digital Divide Assessment which led to the creation of the Digital Inclusion Program.
- Established San Antonio's first data governance Administrative Directive (AD 7.12) helping San Antonio achieve What Works Cities Silver Certification from Bloomberg Philanthropies.
- Established urban agriculture pilots with City and community partners including San Antonio's first "Smart Farm" at the Young Women's Leadership Academy, and the Tamōx Talōm Community Food Forest at Padre Park.
- Managed the development and launch of San Antonio's first COVID-19 Dashboard in partnership with Metro Health and Information Technology Services Department (ITSD).

ISSUE:

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), as well as state and federal grants including those issued by TxDOT, NSF TIP, DOE, and USDOT unlock unprecedented funding for smart cities. Estimates of global spending on the smart cities market ranges from 820.7 billion to 2.5 trillion dollars by 2026. Building on lessons learned from the past five years of project development, transformations to public life brought on by the pandemic, and recent developments in technology, the Smart Cities team is introducing a Smart Cities Roadmap that provides a comprehensive smart city strategy for the City of San Antonio in order to be competitive for these opportunities. The Roadmap:

- Provides a revised mission and vision for the Smart Cities team at the Office of Innovation

- Identifies San Antonio’s Smarter Together Guiding Principles
- Introduces the “Smart Cities as a Service” operational model
- Identifies 3 Key Strategies for Organizational Impact
- Introduces 5 Smarter Together Challenges

The goals of the roadmap are to provide a vision for San Antonio as a “smart city,” backed by community-driven guiding principles, guide investment and partnerships including federal funding, research, grants, and private sector engagement, present an open call to problem-solvers (entrepreneurs, civil society, research institutions, and vendors) in key challenge areas defined by the community, and further operationalize the role of the Smart Cities team at the Office of Innovation.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This item is for briefing purposes only.

ALTERNATIVES:

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RECOMMENDATION:

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