

# US Ignite Forum: Overview

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Smart city technologies are being deployed in more and more cities across the country, creating new services that offer safer streets, less traffic, and energy savings. While pilot projects have returned encouraging results, planning and deploying smart city services at a transformative level remain a challenge for many local leaders to navigate.

The US Ignite Forum has created a unique opportunity for municipal leaders to address this challenge by sharing lessons learned and best practices. Launched with the support of corporate partners Cisco, Crown Castle, Intel, Interdigital, and Juniper, the Forum establishes an avenue for municipal leaders and their project partners to share information about city-wide deployments in their communities.

The US Ignite Forum's goal is to accelerate the deployment of smart community projects through three primary activities:

1. Convene small, curated workshops through which local governments and their project partners explore in detail project approaches and share best practices and resources.
2. Identify funding sources for IoT-based projects deployed in smart community environments.
3. Develop playbook documents designed to inform efforts by local governments to pilot or scale-up their smart city projects.

These small, curated gatherings, which kicked off in 2017, are creating a collaborative environment for local government representatives and their technology partners to share their progress and ideas. Participants are invited to detail the steps they took to reach critical milestones in planning or implementing connected applications. Each Forum will tackle different challenges and open the floor for municipal leaders to ask questions, brainstorm solutions, and map out their approaches to smart community building in cities across the country.

The Forum also provides an effective means for host communities and their partners to present their projects. Based on those presentations, US Ignite will identify and organize useful materials (e.g., templates, draft language) into playbooks designed to advance the release of effective Requests for Information (RFI), Requests for Proposals (RFP), and Public-Private Partnerships (P3) related to at-scale smart community deployments.

## ABOUT US IGNITE

US Ignite is a nonprofit organization that connects communities using advanced technology, develops next-generation smart city apps, and develops networks to drive economic opportunities.

## FORUM PARTICIPANTS

The Forums are structured as a series of small workshops for 50 people. Limiting the size ensures that participants have access to the expertise in the room to advance their knowledge base and can plan their strategy (e.g., decision to explore a RFI/RFP or P3) by the end of the session. Ideal participants include:

- Community leaders and local government representatives who are actively working on smart city projects and have matured past the information-gathering stage.
- US Ignite Forum Partners who can offer an overview of technology solutions that address the specific issues and challenges presented in the Forum, such as smart transportation sensors. Industry representatives will present in partnership with their municipal partner.
- University and Non-profit Experts who can offer ideas, perspectives, and feedback.

## FORUM AGENDA AND TOPICS

Each US Ignite Forum is tailored to the specific needs of the topic and the participating cities, companies, and partners. Typical agendas will include:

- Overview of municipal objectives related to a key milestone.
- Detailed exploration of the process the municipality used for a particular approach or solution.
- Technical overview from technology partners.
- Q&A session with a panel of local government representatives.
- Discussion of best practices and actionable next steps for local government leaders.
- Small group working sessions related to the topic.

Forums can encompass a wide range of topics, covering important milestones in the development and deployment of smart city applications. Three examples include:

- Creating an RFI/RFP for smart lighting and sensors to reduce power consumption and track traffic congestion and environmental quality.
- Developing an implementation plan for smart transportation to support accelerated ride-sharing, car-sharing, and electric vehicle adoption or autonomous vehicle testing.
- Designing a new component for regional economic development strategy to accelerate the growth of local smart city startups.

## FORUM INDUSTRY PARTNERS

The inaugural corporate members of the US Ignite Forum include:



With operational support provided by:



Contact Nick Maynard ([nick.maynard@us-ignite.org](mailto:nick.maynard@us-ignite.org)) or Bill Maguire ([william.maguire@us-ignite.org](mailto:william.maguire@us-ignite.org)) for more information.