Beyond Traffic: the Smart City Challenge
Trends and Priorities from Round 1
What is the Smart City Challenge?

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) developed the Smart City Challenge to give one city a chance to demonstrate how we can solve critical problems using innovative transportation technologies, data, and applications.
The USDOT encouraged cities to put forward their best and most creative ideas to answer the questions raised in Beyond Traffic 2045: Trends and Choices.

**How will we move?**
More than half of applicants wanted to implement an autonomous low-speed shuttle or podcar by 2019.

**How will we move better?**
Almost half of applicants proposed shared-use mobility (rideshare, carshare, or bikeshare).

**How will we move things?**
Almost half of applicants wanted to use data to dynamically improve freight movements.

**How will we adapt?**
Almost half of cities proposed installing electric vehicle charging infrastructure.

**How will we align decisions and dollars?**
New sensors will allow cities to monitor vehicle traffic, parking availability, and even pedestrian and bicyclist counts to make better decisions.
Smart City Challenge Applicants

78 applications representing 85 cities (including 4 joint applications) in 36 states
Cities from Anchorage to Miami shared their unique challenges in their applications.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Long Beach, CA</th>
<th>Madison, WI</th>
<th>Detroit, MI</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The freight corridors running through and adjacent to Long Beach are a critical component of the local and national economy. However, the many trucks and trains carrying containers to and from the ports also impose massive demands on Long Beach’s communities and local environment.</td>
<td>Madison is located along a chain of lakes, creating four narrow pinch points. This geography constrains traffic, funneling it from the Beltline and Interstate onto limited arterials connecting to the urban core.</td>
<td>As the Motor City, we have a legacy transportation system and land use patterns almost totally reliant on personal auto ownership. As a result, many Detroiter lack affordable access to mobility.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Many applications reflected shared 21\textsuperscript{st} century urban mobility challenges

**Seattle, WA**

The rapidly increasing price of housing in Seattle is resulting in low-income residents moving farther from downtown to areas where access to high frequency public transit is weaker. And, for low-income families that remain, the high cost of car ownership is coupled with high housing prices.

**Las Vegas, NV**

Las Vegas will undergo a period of exponential growth in short order. This growth will increase the strain on the current infrastructure, public transit capacity, and public services.

**Lincoln, NE**

Funding for transportation infrastructure has been and will continue to be a challenge, especially in the short term. However, with improved technology, we can integrate a safer, more efficient, and sustainable transportation system with more bang for the buck than in the past.
Other
Shared
Priorities

The 78 Smart City Challenge applications shared several other priorities

More than three quarters of applicants wanted to partner with the private sector to achieve their Smart City goals.

Half of all applicants wanted to implement smarter land-use policies focused on transit-oriented development, “complete streets” policies, or walkability.

More than 80 percent of applicants were concerned about ensuring the cybersecurity and resilience of their Smart City technology infrastructure.
The USDOT can choose only one Smart City Challenge winner.

But this competition has allowed 77 more cities to plan for a smarter future—a future that includes connected, intelligent infrastructure, automated vehicles, more efficient shipping, and mobility services focused on their users.

It has ignited a conversation across America about how we can innovate to tackle our shared challenges to:
- Improve safety
- Enhance mobility
- Enhance Ladders of Opportunity
- Address climate change
- And move beyond traffic