

Making It Work in Your Community: Smart Transportation

Step 1:

Coordinate your efforts.

If your smart cities project involves new infrastructure and public rights-of-way, it's critical for local officials and agencies to work together in a "dig once" approach.

Why? This approach streamlines telecommunications infrastructure and can generate significant cost savings. The Federal Highway Administration estimates that up to 90 percent of the cost of installing high-speed fiber infrastructure lies in the cost of digging up the roadways, not in the fiber itself. Ways to coordinate efforts include:

- Joint trench agreements:** All broadband providers and, in some cases, utilities, install their infrastructure at the same time, in the same trench.
- "One-touch" agreements:** These encourage proactive installation of conduit and dark fiber.
- Utilities partnerships:** These involve carrying out fiber or conduit installations at the same time as water or sewer projects.

Step 2:

Prepare your strategy.

- Prioritize a specific transit challenge (e.g., buses, mass transit, rail, etc.).
- Know the players (agencies, utilities, city DOT, city government) and the dynamics.
- Read up on these organizations' modernization plans and how they align with your goals.
- Understand your community's infrastructure plans for electric vehicles and autonomous vehicles.
- Ask your technology vendor what type of connectivity or network they plan to use.

Step 3:

Prioritize security.

Having cybersecurity practices in place helps to protect residents and keep traffic and goods flowing efficiently. Consider creating a cybersecurity plan during the design phase of your project to keep your transportation solutions secure. Specific to wireless connectivity, smart transportation devices should be certified to CTIA Cybersecurity Certification Level Two or Level Three. This provides proper management, oversight and integration with your existing cybersecurity systems.

Consider certifying:

- Vehicle traffic monitoring devices
- Crosswalk safety monitors
- V2I gateways
- Fleet safety and performance telematics