

CTIA Smart Cities Meeting Memphis

Hosted by Ookla, the Q2 2023 CTIA Smart Cities Meeting was held in Memphis, TN, April 11-12. Members toured the FedEx Institute of Technology and met with many of the organizations influencing the future of connected Memphis. Community leaders shared the importance of connectivity for reaching economic, equity, and sustainability goals, and detailed plans for “Memphis 3.0,” and the changes required to attract tech-forward organizations.



CTIA Smart Cities Working Group Members with the City of Memphis.

Day One – Smart Cities Discovery

Day One kicked off with a tour of the FedEx Institute of Technology where members experienced how research is being applied to address community challenges with cutting-edge emerging technologies. Up next, the group went to Epicenter, a local start-up incubator facility, where they met with Memphis leaders for a Smart Cities Discovery Session.

Discovery session highlights included smart mobility plans for curb-to-curb transportation services, a new downtown Mobility Center, and plans to accommodate EV-charging for fleet management. Improvements to address the “digital delta,” increase connectivity, and data analytics is a top priority. Amity Schuyler, Greater Memphis Chamber added, “Cellular connectivity will be integral to the Chamber’s goals of increasing high-tech jobs in the region.”

Day Two – Advancing Connected Memphis

Bryan Darr, Ookla, kicked off Day Two discussions with a look into the “digital delta.” He detailed their work with the city of Memphis to identify gaps in connectivity and help pinpoint where solutions are needed most. Ameresco and Ubicquia shared their recent smart lighting project as one the ways Memphis is increasing efficiencies and connectivity. FirstNet and Duke Energy also shared deployment updates that highlighted innovations in emergency and safety deployments, and EV charging and wireless connectivity solutions.

Andre Fowlkes from Start Co. led our city speaker sessions and welcomed speakers from:

- Greater Memphis Chamber
- City of Memphis, Division of Housing & Community Development (HCD)
- Memphis Area Transit Authority
- Downtown Memphis Commission
- All World Project Management
- Memphis Grizzlies
- Henry Turley Companies
- Orion Federal Credit Union
- Big River Partners
- Memphis Light, Water & Gas

As part of next steps, the CTIA Smart Cities Working Group will prepare a best practices recommendation report that focuses on local priorities such as increased connectivity, EV charging solutions, and safety/security deployments.



Top to Bottom: Michelle James at the FedEx Institute of Technology; FedEx speaker, Rami Lotay.

Upcoming Activities

In 2023, CTIA will host quarterly in-person Smart Cities Workshops.

Remaining meetings include:

- **August** Philadelphia, PA
- **October** Kansas City, MO
- **December** Washington, D.C.

Interested in hosting an upcoming meeting or have a local deployment tour suggestion? Please reach out the Cody Hartley at chartley@ctia.org with your recommendations.