

CTIA Smart Cities Quarterly Meeting Philadelphia, August 2023

In the City of Brotherly Love, CTIA member company, Comcast, was a gracious host for our quarterly Smart Cities Working Group meeting this summer. The meeting kicked off with a tour of Philadelphia's historic Navy Yard. The PIDC, a nonprofit organization founded by the City of Philadelphia and the Chamber of Commerce, led the tour and discussions. The following day, city leaders joined our members for deeper discussions at Comcast HQ. Themes included modernizing transit systems and processes, expansion of the wireless footprint, wayfinding, and the announcement of a new smart lighting project.



CTIA Smart Cities Working group in front of the John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier in Philadelphia's historic Navy Yard.

Day One – Navy Yard

The historic Navy Yard is an economic development success story, evolving from a Naval shipyard to a center for local businesses, cutting-edge technology, and smart buildings. PIDC, CBRE, a commercial real estate services and investment firm, and PECO, Pennsylvania's largest electric and natural gas energy company, addressed our members during this tour. They detailed the success of its nationally recognized onsite microgrid that powers the entire 1,200-acre campus. PECO also shared their Connected Community Plan and goal of attracting tech

startups and life sciences businesses to provide scalable solutions from lab to city-wide deployments in the future. We navigated the Navy Yard, including its shipyard, Urban Outfitters Headquarters, the natural gas generators and hydrogen cell, and the LEED certified buildings.

Day One ended with a group dinner at a local favorite, Dandelion, where members were greeted by Philadelphia Smart Cities Director Akshay Malik. Akshay who concluded the evening with a walkabout to nearby SmartBlockPHL—a smart lighting initiative that captures real-time data of pedestrian and street traffic, and environmental conditions.

Day Two – Comcast, City Speakers, and Working Group Sessions

Caroline Goodbody, Director of Product Strategy for Comcast Smart Solutions, kicked off our morning discussion with her team sharing their focus on small cell deployments. Manager Kerry Noone delved deeper into the innovations and plans for expanding the Comcast Smart Solutions portfolio. Jake Purcell, Director of Smart Cities, and Matthew Williams, National Sales Engineer for Comcast Smart Solutions, also shared their perspectives.

Emily Yates, Chief Innovation Officer for Southeastern Pennsylvania Transit Authority (SEPTA), started the city leader discussions. Emily shared how SEPTA’s core priorities of, “proactive, intuitive, and seamless,” are shaping their current initiatives around modernizing legacy infrastructure and systems, despite a budget deficit. SEPTA continues to pursue and identify technology solutions that harmonize with their existing technology systems. Long-term, their goal is to transition to a zero-emission fleet and improve service quality.

Smart Cities Director for the City of Philadelphia, Akshay Malik, addressed our members and described a tech-centric focus for curating city testbeds that are scalable. Priority areas include mobility, such as smart loading zones and street closure alerts, and streamlining city permitting processes. “Permit Philly” is an urban initiative geared towards simplifying the process of obtaining city permits.



Top to Bottom: Poe Leggette from CBRE; CTIA member group onsite at the Navy Yard; Joe Ball from Kamstrup and Bob Borzillo from Sustainable Urban Strategies.



Top to Bottom: Machesha Hasty and Joshua Martinez from Dominion Energy; Scott MacLean from Verizon and Michelle James from CTIA; Nate Wright from Axis Communications and Alex Salamon from Black & Veatch.

Philadelphia Energy Authority (PEA) President & CEO Emily Schapira addressed our members last and detailed their Energy Campaign, a \$1B private public partnership investment for clean energy initiatives within public schools, small businesses, city buildings, and affordable housing. Seeing nearly \$50M in savings already, the city expects to realize a full return on investment within the next ten years. Member companies TerraGo, Ubicquia, and Ameresco complemented the PEA discussion with a deep dive into their newly unveiled smart lighting deployment. The project will help the city reduce carbon emissions by up to 10%, realize \$200M in energy savings, and dedicate up to 58% of the installation workforce to local, minority workers.

CTIA Programs closed discussions with VP of Certification, Mark Sargent, and VP of Strategic Industry Programs, Michelle James, announcing the CTIA Certification for IoT Devices on Utilities as part of the new Smart Connected Infrastructure Certification Program. This program will create, for the first time, a common set of standards for device connectivity performance testing and cybersecurity, helping to streamline procurement of tested products serving the modernization of utilities infrastructure across the country.

Upcoming Activities

Join us for our yearend 2023 smart cities meeting in Washington, D.C., December 6-7.

Looking ahead, 2024 Meetings:

- Q1** Orlando, FL at DistribuTECH
- Q2** Kansas City, KS

Interested in hosting? Share your thoughts on Town Square at smartcities.ctia.org.