

**From:** Jesse Berst <chairman@smartcitiescouncil.com>  
**To:** Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov  
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**Subject:** Special Theme Edition: Is your city connected? Why and how to get started today

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# Smart Cities Now

The world's go-to source for smart city news & trends

## Special Theme Edition: Is your city connected? Why and how to get started today

### How connected is YOUR smart city? (Yes. It matters)

As more urban areas commit to smart cities upgrades, it becomes increasingly clear success depends on one key element: connectivity. The benefits are huge, there's help to get started and your competition is doing it already.

### 4 great connectivity approaches from 4 great cities

A city can't be smart without connectivity for its devices and people. How do you do that without breaking the bank? Here are four great ideas from four inspiring cities. Two of these ideas even make money for your city. Read on to find out how.

### Your Internet's faster than it used to be — but maybe not fast enough

Connectivity and Internet of Things are the buzz for smart cities right now, but maybe we're overlooking something: Is the Internet fast enough for what we need to do? Read on for some not so great news about the status of U.S. Internet service — and some promising developments.

#### Compassionate Cities

### What Internet access means when you live in a homeless shelter

Life got better for residents at the 334-bed Next Door homeless shelter in San Francisco, thanks to one of their own. Last year Darcel Jackson talked a former tech exec into helping him get the shelter he was staying at wired for Wi-Fi. See what Internet access can mean in a shelter.

### Are you taking advantage of augmented reality? Others already are

We're more mobile than ever. We also have much more data to process. How do you and the public make sense of it all? Pioneering cities are already using augmented reality to build engagement and enhance and simplify actions. Learn how it could work for your city.

### Transforming prenatal care with a smart

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## phone

Over 60% of infant deaths occur in Sub-Saharan Africa. Accurate fetal heart rate monitoring is hard to come by in that part of the world. Two University students from Uganda are developing WinSenga, a portable, mobile and affordable fetal heart rate monitor that runs on Microsoft phones. Learn more in this video.

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## Smart Cities Readiness Guide

Want to make your city more connected? Check out the Council's Smart Cities Readiness Guide, now available as a web-based resource. It's full of ideas, best practices and case studies that will help you plan your smart cities initiatives, get the most from them and chart their success.

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