While Las Vegas is known globally as the Entertainment Capital of the World, it faces social, economic, and sustainability challenges just like every other large urban area worldwide. By 2045, the population of Southern Nevada is expected to grow to 3 million residents from 2 million. Rapid growth and urban sprawl is expected to put a strain on existing infrastructure, public services, and public transit capacity; thus making the safety and mobility of city residents and visitors a priority.

In 2016, Las Vegas City Council designated an Innovation District in the downtown core to focus on evaluating emerging technology in the areas of public safety, mobility, and social infrastructure. This District is a proving ground for collaborative efforts between the city and advanced technology partners. The focus is safe, efficient, sustainable, and environmentally conscious solutions for the future.

Below is an overview of several Innovation projects currently underway.

SELF-DRIVING SHUTTLE

The city of Las Vegas with partners Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada, AAA, and Keolis brought the future of transportation to downtown Las Vegas with the launch of the first driverless shuttle on Nov. 8, 2017, and operates in mixed flow on a public street. The all-electric, self-driving shuttle offers free rides for people to experience autonomous transportation in a real-world environment. The shuttle is the country’s first autonomous shuttle to be fully integrated with “smart-city” infrastructure, communicating with traffic signals to improve safety and traffic flow.

CITY PARK SAFETY

A Smart City is a technologically connected city using Internet of Things (IoT) Sensors, which are essentially connected devices. Once connected, the city uses the data from the sensors to make informed real-time decisions. The city is working on the development of sensors with the ability to vary lighting levels, situational awareness cameras, colored LED lighting for emergencies, and WiFi connectivity that have applications for public safety. The city has plans to expand the IoT sensors into other areas of public safety as the sensors are field tested and validated.
ALL - ACCESS INTERNET STRATEGIES

Lack of access to fast internet is typically viewed as a problem in rural areas, but only 40 percent of homes in Las Vegas have broadband connectivity. City residents who do not have broadband often lack it because of income disparity or lack of basic knowledge about the internet and computers. The city of Las Vegas is addressing this by working with outside partners to bring broadband to underserved area.

CONNECTED VEHICLE SAFETY PROGRAM

Connected and Autonomous Vehicle (CAV) technology has the potential to solve many transportation, mobility and safety challenges. Projects are currently under way in the city to facilitate the two-way communication between vehicles and city infrastructure as well as between the vehicle and people walking or riding bikes. The drivers of the connected vehicles will receive Basic Safety Messages on signal phasing, roadway conditions or location of other road users, while the city will have insight into the operational status of our roadways. Messages to the drivers can be customized based on the location and operational needs.

U.S. IGNITE APPLICATION DEVELOPMENT

In 2018, U.S. Ignite, which aims to accelerate the Smart City movement, designated the city of Las Vegas as the newest US Ignite Smart Gigabit Community (SGC). The SGC program is creating "living lab" environments for the next generation of gigabit applications and is facilitating collaboration between the city and other local and national municipalities, universities, community anchor institutions like hospitals and schools. Together, the city along with the partner organizations are focused on developing applications that can address local community needs, such as education, workforce development, public safety and community health.

STARTUP IN RESIDENCE PROGRAM

The Startup in Residence (STIR) connects government agencies with startups to collaborate on innovative solutions that address civic challenges. At the heart of STIR is a 16-week program where startups and government co-develop solutions that create real and sustainable impact in the areas of public safety, mobility and workforce development, and improving life for at-risk populations. Previous STIR projects in other cities have streamlined the foster care application process, expanded health services for the homeless, and introduced volunteer engagement tools, amongst others. STIR offers education for government and startup staff in areas including partnership, procurement and open data to ensure the solutions created have the most social impact with a minimum of red tape.

For more information or to contact us, please visit: www.Innovate.Vegas