



Smart Cities and the Art of Stealing Good Ideas

Seattle DOT investigates successful innovation programs across the US

SEATTLE, Wash., June 28, 2018 — Seattle is booming and transportation needs to keep up. Smart cities across the US are exploring new ways to use technology and innovation to combat traffic congestion and create thriving communities with equitable access to transportation. Last fall, the Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT) announced their [New Mobility Playbook: Invitation to Innovators](#), a call for disruptive ideas from people who encounter Seattle traffic daily. As many Seattleites can attest to, the mobility mix is changing fast. From Uber to Waze to LimeBike, a variety of service providers are seizing the opportunity to meet transportation challenges with mobility products and shared service platforms. Thus, the city needs a way to pilot, test and accelerate the most promising solutions on Seattle streets.

In a partnership with the Mobility Innovation Center at UW CoMotion, SDOT commissioned a study of six US cities that have been experimenting with innovative approaches to transportation management. The research group was led by Dr. Benjamin Brunjes from the University of Washington Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance. The resulting report, called "[Innovation Frameworks for Smart Cities](#)," reveals how these leading cities have solicited new ideas, built outcome- and equity-oriented programs, and enacted change with limited public resources.

"SDOT commissioned this research with a direct intention to expand the department's ability to make smart, data driven decisions. We are thrilled that the report not only supports the strategies outlined in SDOT's New Mobility Playbook, but it also challenges the Department to consider more nimble and creative innovations. It encourages the use of strategic partnerships, industry best practices, and experimental piloting of new technologies through an equity lens that is inclusive all people, no matter their economic status, or zip code" said Benjamin de la Pena, Chief of Strategy and Innovation at SDOT.

"We cannot build our way out of our transportation challenges – innovation is key," said Governor Chris Gregoire, CEO of Challenge Seattle. "I am thrilled that our transportation leaders are studying new ways to innovate and on-board technology faster and more efficiently."

"Innovation Frameworks for Smart Cities" is the fourth project to come out of the University of Washington Mobility Innovation Center, a unique partnership with [Challenge Seattle](#) that convenes the knowledge, talents, and expertise of academics, private sector firms, and public sector partners to solve real-world challenges facing our transportation system.

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About Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance

The Daniel J. Evans School of Public Policy and Governance was created in 1962 as one of the nation's first schools of public policy at a public university. Over the past 50 years, the Evans School has built a



reputation as one of the elite public policy schools in the nation. The school is defined by a tradition of rigorous study, innovative research, and, most importantly, a commitment to public service. Our graduates and faculty provide the ideas, expertise, and leadership that guide government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private companies around the country and throughout the world.

About Mobility Innovation Center

A partnership between Challenge Seattle and the University of Washington, the Mobility Innovation Center tackles specific transportation challenges, using applied research and experimentation. Housed at CoMotion, University of Washington’s collaborative innovation hub, the multi-disciplinary center brings together the region’s leading expertise from the business, government, and academic sectors to use technology and innovation to find transportation solutions. Challenge Seattle is a private sector initiative led by many of the region’s CEOs working to address the issues that will determine the future of our region—for our economy and our families.

About Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT)

SDOT’s mission is to deliver a high-quality transportation system for Seattle via core values that work toward creating a safe, connected, vibrant, affordable, and innovative city for all.

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