

Creating a Smarter Georgia Through Community Research

The Partnership for Inclusive Innovation activates collaborations between faculty and municipalities to explore innovative uses of technology and data in pursuit of prosperity for all through applied research.

Georgia Smart Communities Challenge (Georgia Smart)

This program engages a network of researchers, community leaders and key stakeholders to advance local initiatives for innovation by providing funding, technical assistance and access to a variety of resources in a cohort program.

Open Call for Research Proposals

Big ideas for innovation can happen at any time, so the Partnership offers an open call for applied research proposals where researchers receive seed grants to support community innovations.



“This [Georgia Smart] project is transforming Valdosta into a smart and connected city. We are committed to creating and sustaining a smart, effective traffic control system which will result in improved traffic flow, road safety and reduction in the number of traffic accidents.”
Mark Barber, Valdosta City Manager

By the Numbers

- Communities Served: 16
- Technologies Implemented: 174
 - 33 Sea Level Sensors (During Project Period)
 - 128 Traffic Signal Sensors
 - 10 Pre-emption Boxes
 - 3 AoT / IoT Devices
- Students Involved in Smart Cities Projects: 43
- Local Governments Engaged through Georgia Smart Projects: 29
- Supporting Organizations for Projects: 40+
- Number of Stakeholder Engagement Meetings: 33
- Academic Presentations: 12
- Multidisciplinary Researchers on Projects: 30+

Innovation

- Advancing Initiatives in the Following Topic Areas:
 - Organizing and Evaluating Housing Data
 - Planning for Autonomous Vehicles / Improving Internet Accessibility in Underserved Communities
 - Collecting Data to Create Safer Sidewalks
 - Installing and Evaluating Data from Sea Level Sensors
 - Traffic Monitoring, Safety and Emergency Vehicle/Bus Preemption
 - Walking School Bus for Safer Routes to School
 - Community Connectivity: Improving Internet Accessibility in Underserved Communities
 - Smart Resilience Cohort

Impact

- Evaluated Connectivity in Underserved Areas, Not Traditionally Perceived as Rural
- Improved Traffic Management, Reduced Emergency Vehicle Response Times and Enhanced Bus Route Scheduling
- Promoted Safer Sidewalks for Pedestrians
- Provided Insight into Community Activities Through Digital Twinning
- Improved Student Safety Through the Walking School Bus App
- Fostered Relationships Between Communities and Universities to Advance Local Initiatives
- Installed and Evaluated Sea Level Sensors to Monitor Flooding Data
- Advanced Housing Data Initiatives Driven by Community Representatives to Improve Neighborhoods

Community Research Across the State of Georgia

Metro Atlanta

- GA Smart: Clayton County
- GA Smart: Gwinnett County
- GA Smart: Chamblee
- GA Smart: Sandy Springs
- GA Smart: Milton
- GA Smart: Woodstock

Middle Georgia

- GA Smart: Macon-Bibb County
- Warner Robins Public Safety Digital Twin

West Central Georgia

- GA Smart: Woodbury
- GA Smart: Concord
- GA Smart: Pike County
- GA Smart: Meriwether County

West Georgia

- GA Smart: Columbus

Coastal

- GA Smart: Savannah
- GA Smart: Chatham County

Southwest Georgia

- GA Smart: Albany

Southeast Georgia

- GA Smart: Valdosta

