

# How Los Angeles Plans to Become a “Smarter City” by the 2028 Olympics

LA recently released a smart city roadmap that envisions a highly digital and connected future.

By [Phil Goldstein](#)

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*The city of Los Angeles has Olympic-level ambitions for its development as a smart city over the next year seven years.*

The city, which is set to host the 2028 Summer Olympics, recently released [a smart city blueprint](#) that outlines how it plans to evolve and become a more connected and equitable city in time for the games. The plan was shared with members of the Los Angeles City Council in June.

The plan envisions a city that is easy to get around without a car via a unified digital payment platform for Metro rail, buses, bikes and shuttles. “Ethical proactive technology” will help identify “fire, violence, or other risks to the health and safety of L.A. residents” even before a 911 call. The city will deploy “ubiquitous, ultra-high speed 5G connectivity” across its environs. It calls for the deployment of smart wayfinding kiosks and 10,000 public electric vehicle charging stations.

“It’s close enough to provide a target, but it’s also far away enough to accomplish some pretty aggressive goals,” LA CIO Ted Ross [tells StateScoop](#) about the plan. “So the idea of electronic vehicle charging being spread across the city — that’s not something you can do in a year. But it’s certainly something that, within the next seven years, you could be in a very solid place to receive people with electric cars.”

## How LA Plans to Enhance Its Smart City Capabilities

The plan outlines five components of LA’s smart city visions, including infrastructure data tools and practices, digital services and applications, connectivity and digital inclusion, and governance.

For each of those areas, the plan identifies the city departments that will be involved in implementing specific projects as well as the strategic challenges and goals the city is setting.

In infrastructure, for example, the plan identifies a lack of smart city situational awareness as a challenge, noting that there “remains a lack of monitoring, inventory, and situational awareness among our key utility systems, which can result in increased utility outages for the public and delays in restoration.” The city will also need to “deploy entirely new next-generation infrastructure to support emerging demands,” including new fiber-optic

infrastructure, electric vehicle charging infrastructure and alternative energy solutions.

To address these, the city calls for a series of goals to be met between now and 2028. For example, this year the city intends to develop an “L.A. Street Lighting Strategic Plan,” which includes strategies for shared Internet of Things sensor devices, remote monitoring and “design for new citywide street lamp, while maintaining ownership and intellectual property.”

This year it will also work to incentivize fiber-optic buildout and by 2023 adopt an IoT policy that “details the shared usage of sensors to avoid redundant IoT sensor networks that congest the urban environment.” By 2024 the city intends to install 10,000 public electric vehicle chargers, and by 2026 it will build a “public-private partnership for an open-source IoT Integration Platform to leverage public and private smart infrastructure.”

Ross tells StateScoop that just because the milestones are in the plan does not mean they are final. There also isn’t a price tag attached to the plan, though, as the publication reports, “city officials have previously estimated that the 2028 Summer Games will cost Los Angeles about \$7 billion to host the event.”

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**Phil Goldstein** is a former web editor of the CDW family of tech magazines and a veteran technology journalist. He lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife and their animals: a dog named Brenna and two cats, Grady and Princess.

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