Many challenges exist to maintaining cities in a way that continues to create jobs and prosperity while not straining land and resources – including congestion, lack of funds to provide basic services, a shortage of adequate housing and declining infrastructure. The challenges cities face can be overcome in ways that allow them to continue to thrive and grow, while improving resource use and reducing pollution and poverty.

By 2030, almost 68% of the world’s population will live in cities. These cities currently account for 60-80% of energy consumption and 75% of carbon emissions worldwide. AT&T is committing our resources and expertise in the Internet of Things (IoT) to create smart cities to support the growing needs of cities, as well as improve quality of life and create new economic opportunities.

In September 2015, AT&T formed a dedicated Smart Cities Organization and in January 2016, we announced the launch of a new Smart Cities framework to help cities better serve their citizens and the environment. We will bring the Smart Cities framework to several initial communities: Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Chapel Hill, N.C., and Montgomery County, Md., and Miami-Dade County, Fla., and will partner with local universities, such as the Georgia Institute of Technology, to study the impact of our solutions.

While we are already helping communities solve problems with solutions that connect utility meters, street lights, and water systems, the new smart cities framework adds several new categories:

- Infrastructure – Cities are able to remotely monitor the conditions of roads, bridges, buildings, parks and other venues. Maintenance crews can help identify slick roadways during freezing weather or detect bridges that may need repairs.

SDG 11 • *Make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable*

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AT&T Smart Cities

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• Citizen Engagement – Mobile apps give people information to stay better prepared. For example, you can be notified in near real-time if a traffic light isn’t working on your route. You can also remotely view parking meters and reserve spaces ahead of time.

• Transportation – Digital signage lets commuters know in near real-time when the next bus or train will arrive. People can rent electric bikes at stations across the city to reduce traffic.

• Public Safety – Cities can better manage traffic patterns of pedestrians at stadiums, parks, and busy intersections. Gun fire detection technology helps law enforcement know where a shooting occurred. It also can help them determine the number of people involved and rounds fired.

We’ve also developed a digital dashboard called the Smart City Network Operations Center (SC-NOC) to provide city officials with a real-time view of important city functions like water infrastructure, traffic patterns and safety.

Learn more about AT&T’s Smart Cities services.

AT&T Believes℠

Our company’s success is inextricably tied to the health and prosperity of our local communities. In Chicago, AT&T has more than 2,000 employees and more than 115 stores and retail partners. After identifying 19 Chicago neighborhoods affected by violence and high unemployment, local AT&T employees coordinated resources to launch Believe Chicago℠. This grassroots initiative focuses on hiring, volunteerism and contributions to lift neighborhoods and help people find opportunities in education, careers and life. In just over a year, we hired more than 500 employees from Believe Chicago neighborhoods, contributed more than $3 million to community organizations and opened our first new retail store in the area. Believe Chicago is making a difference for our employees, customers, neighbors and friends who live and work in the city. In addition to pushing economic growth and innovation in our communities, the initiative is re-energizing other facets of our community engagement and diversity programming. That’s why we’ve expanded our work into a broader AT&T Believes initiative to serve as a catalyst in more communities in which we operate, focusing on additional local needs such as homelessness and access to education. Through early 2019, we’re helping create positive change in Atlanta, Dallas, Detroit, New Orleans and New York – with more cities to come.

Read more at attbelieves.com