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Ric Stephens
President of International Society
of City and Regional Planners,
ISOCARP, Netherlands

Smart City Components in Urban Planning

How is Urban Planning Connected to Smart Cities?

UN-Habitat's New Urban Agenda outlines global sustainable development through implementation actions with a special emphasis in urban planning. One of the UN-Habitat Issue Papers prepared for the New Urban Agenda focuses on "Smart Cities." Both documents illustrate the critical importance of urban planning to realize both sustainable development and smart city principles. Smart urbanism merges information and communications technologies; energy, resource and infrastructure technologies into networks that create sustainable, resilient, regenerative, urban-rural ecosystems with vibrant communities, thriving economies and biodiverse environments.

What are the key elements you should consider before transforming cities in "Smart Urban Cities"?

Cities must reimagine their services and infrastructure as systems rather than mechanical components. For example, this means viewing streetscapes as not only surfaces for autos, but also multi-modal, multi-functional public spaces that provide green infrastructure with ubiquitous sensing and management. With this perspective, cities must then decide on which approach to adopt: sequential applications, initial infrastructure deployment, or experimentation with multiple applications. Every city requires a unique approach: "Transitioning or building a city into a smarter, more resilient, more sustainable city is a journey and every city is likely to have different pathways"

Dr. Stephens will be speaking at the Saudi Smart Cities
Conference on Smart City Components in Urban Planning. To
know more visit www.saudismartcities.net

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