



# Lewiston's Smart Infrastructure Strategy

Photo Credit: Bates College

## About the Project

In March 2019 The City of Lewiston engaged Fourth Economy Consulting to develop a smart infrastructure strategy to address community priorities around public health, safety and economic development. Such a strategy will be the first of its kind in the state of Maine. The impetus for this decision stems from the hard work occurring in the Tree Street neighborhood under the City's Choice Neighborhood planning work. The project will focus on the Tree Street neighborhood in particular in connection with this ongoing work but will also consider citywide opportunities and priorities.

The emphasis of the project will be to

1. **inventory** existing infrastructure,
2. **identify** desired public benefits and
3. **assess and prioritize** the feasibility of incremental upgrades to the City's infrastructure.

## What is Smart Infrastructure?

There are various similar definitions of smart infrastructure (or smart cities, smart technology and other analogous terms). In Lewiston smart infrastructure is defined as infrastructure paired with technologies process improvements that create public benefits. Given the emphasis on the collection and analysis of data, a complete smart infrastructure strategy demands consideration of sensors, high-speed internet connectivity, databases and data security. These technologies are fundamental but the range of applicable technologies is wide.

Technology and process are the tools of smart infrastructure, but the purpose is increased public benefits. Like the technologies that can comprise smart infrastructure, the range of public benefits is wide, including, without limitation, governmental efficiency (e.g. increased revenues, reduced costs, improved human resource allocation, improved constituent relations), public health (e.g. reduced lead poisoning, improved water and air quality), public safety (e.g. reduced crime rates, reduced traffic

accidents), mobility (e.g. improved transit, street lights, sidewalks, crosswalks, etc.) and economic development (e.g. better high-speed internet, better transit).

Specific outcomes can intersect across multiple areas of public benefit, and specific technologies can create overlapping outcomes. The development of a smart infrastructure strategy maximizes the understanding these intersections and overlaps and where the greatest opportunity for high-value marginal benefits lie.

## Lewiston's Existing Smart Infrastructure

Lewiston has already implemented or will soon implement numerous smart infrastructure initiatives on an individual, opportunistic basis. These types of efforts include: the creation of the citywide department of management information systems, the closed municipal wi-fi network, the planned municipal fiber network, the planned advanced meter infrastructure, GPS tracking of city rolling stock, video cameras, GIS mapping, planned access control technology, LED street lights, Complete Streets work, social media usage, planned parking management technology, pavement, snow removal, Beehive asset management, smart traffic signalization (through AVCOG).

## The Smart Infrastructure Strategy

Through 2019 Consultants Brian Eng and Andrew Butcher of Fourth Economy will be working with The City of Lewiston's Department of Economic Development to evaluate initiatives and compile a comprehensive and targeted Smart Infrastructure Strategy.

**Fourth Economy** is a national community and economic development consulting firm that focuses on fostering action to create great communities, impactful organizations, and strong economies.

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