What is a Smart State?

A Smarter State is a state with a vision, plan, and execution road map to enact the digital transformation of government by investing in 3rd Platform information and communication technology. The 3rd Platform includes mobile technologies, big data/analytics and cloud services as the foundation for a set of innovation accelerators, such as the Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, cognitive computing, augmented reality, robotics and next-generation security, that enable the development of new work processes, services and products. For more information, check out our website where you can find two IDC whitepapers that highlight Illinois’ journey to becoming a Smart State. We encourage all local, county and regional communities to join and connect to our Smart State efforts. In this and future newsletters, DoIT will help identify various resources such as grants, challenges and other information to help plan, finance and implement your smart projects. Take a look at some key “smart” trends that are happening around the country.

New Smart Road Opens on 1-90

Drivers on a 16-mile stretch of Interstate 90 in the Chicago area will now be able to receive real-time traffic and safety information, with the completion of the Jane Addams Memorial Tollway Smart Road. Every half mile, signs above the road will post travel times, traffic incident information, lane closures and changes to traffic patterns. The signs will alert drivers, up to a mile ahead, of an incident. Information collected along the smart road is also shared with navigation apps. The corridor has cameras along the road to improve emergency response and weather stations report real-time conditions. Pace public transit buses can travel inside shoulders – a Flex Lane – on the corridor to avoid traffic jams. The Tollway Operations Center will manage the road 24/7.

Smart Street Lighting Coming to a Community Near You

In January 2017, the Illinois Department of Central Management Services, in consultation with Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology, issued a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Smart Street Lighting to facilitate municipal upgrade of street lights to LED based lighting. In addition to the street light fixtures (luminaires), the RFP included turnkey services, financing, adaptive controls and value add services. The RFP will result in a state master contract with a primary, secondary and tertiary vendor.

The following RFP awards have recently been announced:
- Primary vendor – Johnson Controls Inc
- Secondary vendor – Globetrotters Engineering
- Tertiary vendor – TEN Connected Solutions

Next steps include executing contracts with the vendors, establishing a web presence with solution details, holding a Smart Street Lighting workshop in early 2018 and forming Municipal Group 1 – the first set of municipalities to utilize the state master contract. If you are interested in being part of Municipal Group 1 and/or would like to stay informed about this project, please contact DoIT.SmartState@illinois.gov.

The Illinois First App - is now available for FREE!! Download it now at your Apple or Google Play App Store. Featuring services and information from many Illinois Offices, we are continually adding and improving it. Check it out!

Smart State Funding Opportunities - when there is a new grant or funding opportunity, it will be posted here.
- Cisco Announces $1 Billion Program for Smart Cities
- National Science Foundation - Letter of intent due Jan 30th!
- Grants and other funding opportunities
- Helpful Resource Links – What Works Cities and Connecting Communities