Smart States:
Real World Implementation Planning
April 25-26, 2016 | Chicago

The State of Illinois partnered with the Smart Cities Council and UI Labs to host the first-ever smart state event in Chicago on April 25-26, 2016.

Over 200 public, private, academic, and non-profit representatives came together to begin developing a framework to guide Illinois' adoption of smart technologies statewide.

In January 2016, Governor Bruce Rauner signed an Executive Order to update its technology platforms and merge its IT functions into one cabinet agency, creating a new Department of Innovation and Technology. This move brings 38 department CIOs together, eliminating duplicate efforts and getting them working together on a cohesive state strategy.

Hardik Bhatt, state CIO and now Secretary-designate of the Department of Innovation and Technology, kicked off the event urging participants to help the state identify actionable items based on its three key objectives:

- Foster economic development and attract innovative companies to Illinois
- Improve state government operations
- Help local governments stay competitive

The first day of the event set the stage with opening presentations by Illinois leadership as well as speakers who described the smart cities roadmap building process. Day two focused on implementation planning organized by key topics such as transportation, public safety and energy.

With the goal of building a reusable template for implementing smart cities solutions across the state, the first smart states event was a huge success — bringing together the most innovative private sector leaders with state government officials, department heads and cities large and small.

The two-day event ended with inspired leaders, draft plans and hope for a better tomorrow.

"We want to show the world what can be done at the state level, not just the city level."

— **Trey Childress**
Illinois Deputy Governor

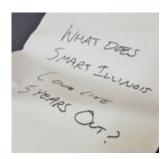# Key Outcomes from Implementation Planning

Participants were given the chance to work in interactive workshop sessions covering public safety, tech and civic engagement, energy and smart grids, transportation, smart built environments, and advanced manufacturing. For each topic area, they identified key areas of focus for smart state initiatives, assessed baseline conditions, envisioned "leapfrog" possibilities, and began outlining key activities and strategies forming an implementable roadmap for success.

Representatives from each session provided an executive summary of findings to the entire group, with Deputy Governor Trey Childress responding. Detailed findings from each session will be made available to all participants.

What's Next?

As next steps, Illinois will:

• Identify and accelerate key state government projects through the internal Internet of Things Center of Excellence (ICE)

• Bring a select group of key mayors to discuss potential demand aggregation projects for statewide procurements

• Extend the use of its fiber network (Illinois Century Network) for newer possible and allowable uses

• Identify potential parnterships (UI Labs, universities, incubators, corporations, etc.) for driving economic growth through Internet of Things and Smart State solutions

• Create partnerships to improve availability, adoptions and use of smart city solutions and broadband, and to drive economic growth throughout the state

• Identify applications of smart state solutions in rural and suburban Illinois

• Explore a partnership with national associations for building a template of Smart State for other states to use

> "I'm looking for a real, concrete plan of things we can implement."

— Bruce Rauner
Illinois Governor

"Even if you're in last place, you have the power to improve. But if you don't take that step, others will raid you for the jobs and prosperity you have left."

— Jesse Berst
Smart Cities Council Chairman

The Illinois plan to leap-frog to the front of the smart city race

"We have been on a track that has pushed many employers out of the state," Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner told the audience at the Smarter States event in Chicago. "We have fewer jobs than we had 17 years ago. We lost the confidence of many job creators. We lost the confidence of many homeowners. It is incumbent on us to change the course."

The state is now on its way to becoming America's first "smart state." And it is not only making up for its 42-year technology deficit, but leaping past states that are actually considered modern.

Hardik Bhatt, the state's Secretary-designate for the Department of Innovation and Technology, notes the dire spot it's starting from. It spends more on technology than all but two other states, yet it's near the bottom for getting results from it. "The losing entity is the taxpayer," he said. Read more >

Five keys to delivering the state (or city) your citizens want

As Illinois embarks on a journey to become America's first smart state, it got valuable advice through a Smart States event about how to identify and build people-centered solutions, which is at the heart of governance. Here are five tips that you can put to work as you craft your strategies. Read more >

Why Illinois is racing to be a Smart State

In some ways, a city is the obvious place to organize an effort to benefit from smart technologies. Cities are big enough to have clout and small enough to get something done. Yet in other ways, city-scale efforts face challenges. For one thing, both their problems and their solutions typically extend well past city boundaries. Here's an interesting effort by the State of Illinois to leapfrog into the 21st Century. And to bring their towns and cities along with them. Read more >

"We are following Illinois' smart states initiative closely and see an opportunity for other states to learn from what Illinois is doing."

— Sue Gander
Director, Environment, Energy & Transportation Division
National Governors Association
Center for Best Practices

Networking and Collaboration

Reconnect with those you met. [Click here for the attendee list.](#)