Smart cities collaboration

The future of smart cities is collaborative, rooted in connected data communities.

By 2050, two out of three people will live in urban areas, according to United Nations population experts. IDC predicts that by 2024, spending by smart cities and communities will reach $203 billion with focused areas of investment, such as public safety, civic engagement, and smart city platforms.

A true smart city is made up of an ecosystem where all participants – from the private and public sectors to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to citizens – benefit and gain value from investments.

This highlights the need for enhanced collaboration, where cities can gain a wider shared awareness that gives richer context around plans, locations, resources, assets, and actions to better inform operations and enable coordination.

From silos to common purpose

Within most cities and organizations, individual departments work independently, which can lead to missed opportunities to enhance planning and improve safety, efficiency, and performance. This lack of coordination creates inconsistencies, delays in identifying and resolving issues, and conflicts between groups performing the same task.

For example, the COVID-19 pandemic emphasized existing gaps in public health technology infrastructure.

Jim Jirjis, M.D., chief health information officer of HCA Healthcare, said in the midst of the crisis, "What is really coming out is the cost of not having the kind of interoperability capability we are all envisioning. What we are seeing is an accelerating number of not just states, but municipalities, regions, and others that are asking for information through a variety of transport mechanisms, in a variety of data definitions, and it is just overwhelming our ability to respond, even though we want to and are willing."

Imagine the life-saving impact collaborative data sharing between public departments of health, hospitals, nursing homes, and local and state governments could have on future health crises. Not just at the regional or state level, but down to the city level – between city hall, healthcare facilities, and emergency responders.

Collaboration is key

Cities and regions can achieve shared awareness by bringing together data and people from public and private

organizations into a unified view where participants define which of their data sources and attributes each partner sees.

"As an incident grows in scale and complexity, integrating new agencies and personnel into the response becomes more challenging, and lack of interoperability between communications systems can result in slow and uneven distribution of information to the people and agencies who need them," wrote Britta Voss and Eric Anderson in their NIST-sponsored research paper Interoperability of Real-Time Public Safety Data: Challenges and Possible Future States.

Unlimited possibilities

With the ability to share, aggregate, and visualize data from the same trusted sources, you could:

- Connect technology and data across your city
- Connect with other organizations and people in your city
- Connect everything within your city

Benefits of smart city collaboration

True collaboration enables greater efficiency, understanding, and visibility of live operations for better incident response, empowering a city to withstand adversity or even mitigate it before it happens.

Collaborative smart cities are:

- More efficient, due to data-driven decision-making
- Increasingly engaged because citizens are more involved with their government
- Primed for economic growth, with community investments attracting businesses
- Better connected, with high-speed utilities, services, and monitoring

HxGN® Connect

HxGN® Connect makes collaboration more achievable, far-reaching, and impactful by bridging gaps and breaking down barriers. The SaaS collaborative workspace enhances performance and safety for daily planning and emergency situations, scales seamlessly to fit your workflows, and works alongside your existing business systems.

| **Discover** more about HxGN Connect today.