



### Hometown Dashboard

Smart City Technologies for Improving Quality of Life-Highland Park, NJ

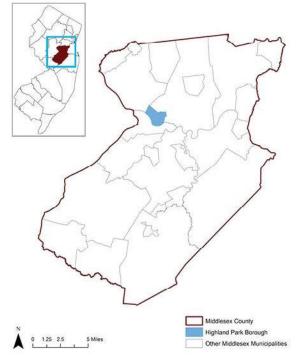
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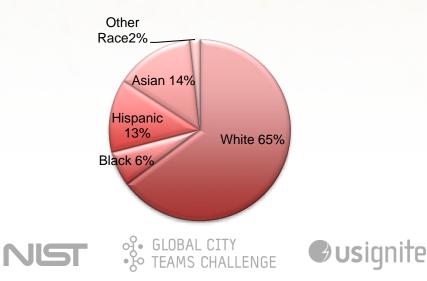


### **Highland Park Facts**



Map: NJGIN Pie: US Census Bureau Total Area: 1.82 sq miles Open Space: 563 acres

Population (2014): 14,224 Median Household Income (2014): \$66,414 Population with a **Graduate** Degree (2014): 39.9%



### **Community Facts and Opportunities**

#### Population

- Anticipated population increase of 12% by 2017
- Fastest growing age group: 25-40 (32.9%)
- Close ties to Rutgers University 64.3% of residents with at least a bachelor's
- Population is mobile and prefers eco-friendly transportation options

#### **Diversity**

- Nearly 26% of residents are foreign born
- 17.8% of Asian population compared to an 8.3% in NJ
- Ethnic character reflected in the variety of restaurants (Pino's: the 1st BYOF in the state)

#### Density

 The 3rd densest municipality in Middlesex County, NJ - Rate: 7,729.1 persons/sq. mile

#### **Arts, Sports and Culture**

- Numerous classical art studios, music schools and dance studios
- Several art exhibitions
- Various historic sites and strong historical society
- Plenty of open space with parks, natural trails, picnic areas, and playgrounds
- Tennis-basketball-softball-soccer fields



### **Project Description**

#### **Objective:**

- Municipalities are here to serve their residents, and public participation in governmental decisions is the key to a sustainable society
- It is also important for municipalities to provide transparency to their residents
  Therefore: Community engagement in the public service process is a win-win for the entire town
  Challenge: Towns with a population under 60,000 cannot afford custom apps and in-house smart-community capabilities

#### The Answer:

- A standard platform, that is cost-effective and easily adapted to local needs
- A 3-way communication
  - Government to Citizens
  - **o** Citizens to Government
  - Citizens to Citizens



USIC

### **The Platform - Change to Process**

Government can be proactive and transparent by posting information of high interest, and reports on planned initiatives, for the public

Citizens can actively engage in the decision-making process

Citizens can inform citizens of events and happenings Citizens can report issues in real-time

Government can crowd-source issues, streamline the process for requests, and receive immediate input from residents about municipal initiatives and concerns

NIS

务● GLOBAL CITY >>● TEAMS CHALLENGE



### **How it Works**





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### **The Platform**

- A multi-platform (for iOS, Android, and website)
- Dynamic contents
- Feed from existing social network platforms
- Support a reward system for all responsive parties
- Appoint a content manager to publicize development policies, manage requests, and filter citizen news/events submission



# yelp

**REPORT A CONCERN** 





### **End Goals**

- ✓ Deliver a variety of useful functions to serve a town's unique characteristics
- ✓ Improve QoL metrics for individuals, organizations, and community
- ✓ Capable of being extended
- ✓ Access standard, nationally available data sources
- ✓ Accept locally crowd-sourced data and local official data
- ✓ Available to smart phone users within the town without complicated logins

#### **Major Requirement**

### Test a variety of capabilities in pilot communities and disseminate those that attract users



### **Examples**

- Independent Kids & Seniors-> Encourage walking downtown
- Yesteryear-> Access local history info while walking
- Visualizing a Better Downtown-> GIS ped. animation + remote sensing-> redevelopment plans, crowdsourced reactions to alternative scenarios
- Current Conditions-> Report on air quality, noise, weather, crowdedness, police activity, traffic, hazards

#### A platform for citizens, individuals, organizations and the community improving quality of life, public health, safety, civic pride, communication, commercial revitalization, local employment and property values







### **Key Performance Indicators**

#### **Examples for specific apps**

- 20% greater awareness of local history in a downtown survey
- 25% fewer negative public comments at redevelopment agency meetings
- 30% more economic activity downtown during good weather

Framework Uptake should be measured in towns per year adopting the framework, with a year 3 target of 10 towns and a year 5 target of 100 towns

Framework Cost-Effectiveness should be measured relative to what big cities pay for their custom capabilities (cheaper vs more expensive on a per capita basis)



### Interoperability - Replicability - Scalability

- Standard structure and ontology to enable widespread and cost-effective adoption
- Incorporate de facto standards (i.e. Census, GIS, GoogleMaps)
- Support standard metrics of well-being as they emerge
- Analytics: based on sensor data and software -> inherently scalable, sustainable and able to be replicated
- Towns should be able to adopt the framework easily







Not yet determined if it can be locally hosted / if it needs central servers and a subscription arrangement







### Impact

- BRING residents back to the streets and shops of their own downtowns
- ATTRACT new downtown developers and businesses
- IMPROVE the effectiveness of main street programs for commercial revitalization and civic pride
- INCREASE local service employment and local property values, providing relief to local taxpayers
- IMPROVE public health & quality of life





#### Funding

- Initially grant-funded
- Towns-business improvement districts-developers to pay fees
- o for creating new features
- Funding development with advertising revenue







## Thank You

#### The Team

#### **Rutgers Center for Green Building**

- Clinton J. Andrews (<u>CJA1@rutgers.edu</u>)
- Jennifer Senick (jsenick@rci.rutgers.edu)
- Ioanna Tsoulou (<u>ioannatsoulou@gmail.com</u>)
- Handi Chatra Putra (<u>handichan@gmail.com</u>)

#### **Rutgers Department of Computer Science**

- Dimitris Metaxas (<u>dnm@cs.rutgers.edu</u>)
- Mubbasir Kapadia (<u>mk1353@scarletmail.rutgers.edu</u>)

#### **Highland Park Borough, NJ**

- Mayor Gayle Brill Mittler (<u>brillmittlerhp@gmail.com</u>)
- Communications Director Stacy Kaplan (<u>skaplan@hpboro.com</u>)