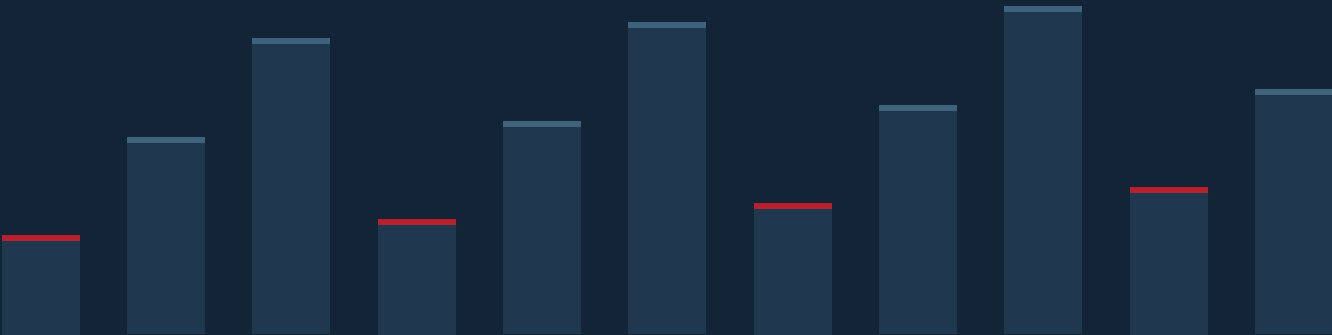


WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE

Weekly Report on Smart Cities

- 2026-10-17 to 2026-10-23

This edition brings together 12 distinct developments from Smart City Dispatch's published coverage for 2026-10-17-2026-10-23. It separates completed work, policy changes, funding and proposals, retaining the evidence limits in the original reporting.



PUBLIC-SOURCE RESEARCH / INDEPENDENT ANALYSIS

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The reporting window refers to SCD coverage dates. Individual underlying announcements may predate this week; those dates and project stages are retained in the detailed accounts below. Publication is not proof that a proposal is operating or that an announced benefit has been measured.

MAIN TRENDS

This week's coverage spans urban infrastructure, mobility, public services and environmental resilience. Across these accounts, distinguish the decision or implementation step documented by each source from its anticipated benefits. Funding, procurement, trials, construction and operating results require different evidence. The development summaries below retain those distinctions rather than treating every announcement as an operational smart-city deployment.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

1. Google previews Gemini agentic AI for government services

Google has made Gemini for government services available in preview to federal, state and local governments. The offering combines government-focused tools and data connections; FedScoop reports it is already used by the Department of Health and Human Services.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES OFTEN ASK RESIDENTS AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES TO WORK THROUGH FORMS, REGULATIONS, DOCUMENT INTAKE AND REQUESTS THAT CROSS OFFICE BOUNDARIES. THAT ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLEXITY IS WHY AN AI TOOL THAT CAN HANDLE MORE THAN A SINGLE QUESTION ATTRACTS ATTENTION-AND WHY ACCURACY, OVERSIGHT AND ACCESS TO RECORDS MATTER SO MUCH.

Google has made Gemini for government services available in preview to federal, state and local governments. The offering combines specialized tools for government personnel, connections to frequently used systems, the Gemini platform and third-party agents. Google says it is designed to support work such as interpreting policy, procurement and compliance, translating public information into plain language, and handling constituent requests. FedScoop also reports that the Department of Health and Human Services is already using it, though the article does not detail the scope or results.

A preview and a reported early use are not evidence of broad operational results. The larger question is whether these tools can safely move work between systems while keeping officials accountable for decisions. Agencies will need to show what information an agent can access, how staff review its actions, and whether the technology improves service without weakening privacy or due process.

Source: [FedScoop - Google launches Gemini for government services as new 'agentic solution'](#)

2. Boston launches Coastmix coastal resilience planning tool

Boston has launched Coastmix, an interactive website where users can explore coastal flood-protection design features and share designs. The city describes it as an education and community-engagement tool to inform future planning, not as evidence that any particular resilience project has been selected or built.

BOSTON'S 47-MILE COASTLINE IS BOTH A PLACE WHERE COMMUNITIES MEET THE WATER AND A FRONTLINE IN PLANNING FOR SEA-LEVEL RISE AND MORE FREQUENT, SEVERE EXTREME WEATHER. PROTECTING AN ESTABLISHED WATERFRONT MEANS WEIGHING DESIGNS THAT CAN REDUCE FLOOD EXPOSURE AGAINST SPACE, ACCESS AND THE CHARACTER OF EACH PLACE; THE RIGHT ANSWER MAY LOOK DIFFERENT FROM ONE STRETCH OF SHORE TO ANOTHER.

The City of Boston's Office of Climate Resilience and Office of Emerging Technology launched Coastmix on October 21 as an interactive education and planning tool. Residents and other users can recreate a waterfront setting, add or rearrange possible measures such as dunes, berms and floodwalls, and explore projected sea-level rise or storm-surge scenarios for 2030, 2050 or 2070. They can also share designs and submit ideas to a community gallery.

Coastmix makes possible approaches easier to see and discuss, but a design in the tool is not a selected project or a construction commitment. The city says the platform is meant to help communities understand trade-offs and inform future decision-making. The consequential next step is how planners weigh public ideas alongside engineering, cost and local conditions as specific coastal plans advance.

Source: [Boston.gov - City of Boston Launches Coastmix](https://www.boston.gov/newsroom/city-of-boston-launches-coastmix)

3. APTA Expo links AI signals with a U.S. innovation hub

The 2026 APTA Expo paired Alstom's planned Pittsburgh transit-innovation hub with deployable systems such as Lyt's AI-based traffic-signal priority for buses and emergency vehicles, giving U.S. agencies new routes to test and scale operational technology.

THE AMERICAN PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION'S 2026 EXPO IN CHICAGO BROUGHT NEARLY 700 SUPPLIERS AND TRANSIT ORGANIZATIONS TOGETHER AROUND SYSTEMS THAT AGENCIES COULD TEST OR DEPLOY. ALSTOM (A GLOBAL RAIL-EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER) SAID IT PLANS TO ESTABLISH ITS FIRST U.S. INNOVATION HUB IN PITTSBURGH, CREATING A PLACE FOR TRANSIT AGENCIES, CITIES, UNIVERSITIES, STARTUPS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERS TO DEVELOP AND PILOT OPERATING IMPROVEMENTS.

The same event showed how that collaboration could translate into street-level operations. Lyt (a traffic-technology company) demonstrated an AI detection system that can give signal priority to transit and emergency vehicles. Siemens Mobility displayed new light-rail equipment, while other exhibitors

emphasized passenger information, accessibility and maintenance tools.

The announcements are not proof of measured performance. The hub still needs projects, partners and public results, and agencies will need to test whether priority systems improve travel times without shifting delay or risk to other street users. But the pairing of a permanent collaboration venue with deployable signal technology gives cities a clearer path from vendor demonstration to bounded pilots.

Source: [Smart Cities Dive - APTA Expo reporting](#)

4. Small-town mayors form a clean-energy coalition

Enfield, North Carolina, Mayor Mondale Robinson is launching the National Conference of Small Cities and Rural Mayors to help communities under 30,000 residents coordinate on federal policy, philanthropy and clean-energy investment.

MONDALE ROBINSON, MAYOR OF ENFIELD, NORTH CAROLINA, IS ORGANIZING THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SMALL CITIES AND RURAL MAYORS FOR OFFICIALS SERVING COMMUNITIES WITH FEWER THAN 30,000 RESIDENTS. THE GROUP IS INTENDED TO GIVE SMALLER MUNICIPALITIES A COLLECTIVE VOICE ON FEDERAL POLICY, PHILANTHROPY AND CLEAN-ENERGY INVESTMENT.

Canary Media reported that Robinson is recruiting the first 100 founding mayors. The coalition responds to a structural gap: small municipalities make up most incorporated places in the United States, but many lack grant writers, policy staff and the full-membership access that larger-city organizations provide.

The new group does not itself fund or build energy projects. Its practical value will depend on membership, governance and whether it helps towns assemble credible project pipelines, secure technical assistance and negotiate with funders. Enfield's own ambitions-including solar generation and a thermal-energy network-show the kind of local projects that may need that shared capacity.

Source: [Canary Media - small-town clean-energy coalition](#)

5. Dell and Tahaluf sign MoU on AI for UAE public services

Dell Technologies and Tahaluf AI Emarat Technical Solutions signed a memorandum of understanding to explore AI-powered solutions for UAE public-sector urban services, public safety and operational data workflows.

STATUS: DELL TECHNOLOGIES AND TAHALUF AL EMARAT TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

SIGNED A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING DURING AI EVERYTHING IN ABU DHABI, ACCORDING TO A ZAWYA PRESS RELEASE PUBLISHED OCT. 13, 2026. THE ANNOUNCEMENT DESCRIBES A COLLABORATION, NOT A CONFIRMED OPERATING DEPLOYMENT.

What Changed: The partners say they will combine Dell's AI and edge-computing capabilities with Tahaluf's in-vehicle technology platform. The stated use cases include identifying road and infrastructure issues, parking violations and public-safety events closer to where they occur. The source does not specify a launch date, participating agencies or a live project location.

Why It Matters: If implemented, processing information closer to where it is collected could help public agencies identify issues and act sooner, while reducing reliance on continuous cloud connectivity. The release presents these as potential benefits; it provides no measured service improvements or evidence of outcomes for residents.

What to Watch: Whether the MoU leads to a named public-sector pilot or procurement, and which agencies or urban services participate. Also watch for disclosed deployment timing, data-governance arrangements and independently reported operational results.

Source: [ZAWYA - Dell Technologies and Tahaluf sign MoU](#)

6. Eugene voters to decide on corporate fee for clean-energy fund

Eugene voters will consider a November ballot measure that would charge qualifying large corporations a 2% fee on profits earned within city limits to fund clean-energy and green-infrastructure programs. The initiative is projected to raise \$15 million to \$37 million annually if approved.

STATUS: EUGENE VOTERS ARE DUE TO DECIDE IN NOVEMBER WHETHER TO ESTABLISH A LOCALLY FUNDED CLEAN-ENERGY PROGRAM. THE MEASURE IS PROPOSED, NOT ADOPTED; THE AVAILABLE REPORT DOES NOT ESTABLISH THAT A FUND HAS BEGUN OPERATING.

What Changed: The initiative would impose a 2% fee on in-city profits for companies with at least \$1 billion in national gross profits and \$500,000 in gross profits in Eugene. The report says groceries, medicines, residential garbage and recycling, and healthcare services would be exempt. It estimates annual revenue of \$15 million to \$37 million if the measure passes.

Why It Matters: If approved and implemented as described, the revenue could support renewable-energy

and efficiency programs, clean-energy job training, and carbon-sequestering green infrastructure, with priority for low-income and historically marginalized communities. The report gives restaurant electrification as one potential use, but does not document funded projects or outcomes.

What to Watch: First, whether voters approve the measure in November. Second, if it passes, how the city defines eligible profits and administers the fee and exemptions. Third, whether subsequent budgets and program decisions establish actual revenue, allocations, and community-benefit priorities.

Source: [Next City - A Second US City May Begin Taxing Billion-Dollar Firms To Fund Clean Energy](#)

7. New York City reports Local Law 97 compliance among large buildings

New York City says about 95% of roughly 20,000 privately owned properties covered by Local Law 97 filed compliance reports, and about 95% of buildings demonstrating compliance through efficiency improvements met their emissions targets in the law's first enforcement year. The city also reports nearly 700 properties assisted by its relaunched NYC Accelerator.

STATUS: NEW YORK CITY'S DEPARTMENT OF BUILDINGS RECENTLY RELEASED COMPLIANCE DATA, ACCORDING TO A CITY ANNOUNCEMENT. ABOUT 95% OF THE APPROXIMATELY 20,000 PRIVATE PROPERTIES COVERED BY LOCAL LAW 97 FILED A REPORT. SEPARATELY, ABOUT 95% OF BUILDINGS DEMONSTRATING COMPLIANCE THROUGH IMPROVED EFFICIENCY MET THEIR EMISSIONS TARGETS DURING THE FIRST ENFORCEMENT YEAR. THE ANNOUNCEMENT DOES NOT ESTABLISH THAT 95% OF ALL COVERED BUILDINGS MET THE LIMITS BY ANY COMPLIANCE METHOD.

What Changed: The city is presenting the first-year enforcement figures alongside renewed assistance for owners. Since its April relaunch, NYC Accelerator has assisted nearly 700 properties; 448 are using its online Momentum tool for compliance calculations, project scoping and retrofit management. The city also says owners can demonstrate compliance by purchasing offset certificates through its Affordable Housing Reinvestment Fund, which has raised approximately \$1.7 million for affordable-housing decarbonization projects.

Why It Matters: Building emissions are a major city climate concern: the announcement says buildings account for two-thirds of New York City's greenhouse-gas emissions. If reporting translates into durable compliance and retrofit work, enforcement paired with technical and financial support could help owners address emissions while improving building efficiency. The reported filing and target-meeting rates alone do not show citywide emissions reductions, the costs borne by owners, or how outcomes vary among

buildings.

What to Watch: Look for subsequent Department of Buildings data clarifying the number and share of properties meeting targets, including those using offsets, and any enforcement actions or penalties. Track whether NYC Accelerator assistance leads to completed retrofits and measurable emissions changes, and how the Affordable Housing Reinvestment Fund allocates its reported proceeds.

Source: [The official website of the City of New York - 95% of Large Buildings Meet Climate Emissions Limits as Mamdani Accelerates Climate Action](#)

8. Philadelphia completes Washington Avenue waterfront connector

Philadelphia and the Delaware River Waterfront Corporation completed the Washington Avenue Connector, combining a Delaware River Trail extension with street resurfacing, signal upgrades, sidewalk improvements and landscaping. The project links local bike lanes to the trail and adds pedestrian-accessibility and safety improvements.

STATUS: THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA ANNOUNCED THE PROJECT'S COMPLETION AND HELD A CEREMONIAL RIBBON CUTTING ON OCTOBER 13, 2026. THE CITY SAYS THE WORK COVERS WASHINGTON AVENUE BETWEEN 4TH STREET AND COLUMBUS BOULEVARD AND WAS INTENDED TO IMPROVE TRAFFIC SAFETY, ACCESSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF LIFE.

The project combines an extension of the Delaware River Trail with street resurfacing, traffic-signal upgrades, sidewalk improvements and landscaping. The city says sidewalk extensions, ADA curb ramps and shorter crosswalks improve pedestrian access; new lighting, street trees and planters with benches add to the corridor.

For cycling, the city says a new two-way trail and an upgraded westbound parking-separated bike lane close a gap between Washington Avenue's existing parking-separated lanes, bike lanes on Moyamensing and the Delaware River Trail. The announcement also says sidewalk and intersection work makes access to bus stops safer and easier.

The completion announcement establishes that the connector has been delivered, but the supplied evidence does not quantify changes in crashes, ridership or travel behavior.

Source: [City of Philadelphia - The City of Philadelphia and Delaware River Waterfront Corporation Celebrate the Completion of the Washington Avenue Connector Transportation Project | Department of](#)

Streets

9. Element to manage Waymo's Toronto fleet operations

Waymo has named Toronto-headquartered Element Fleet Management as its end-to-end fleet-management partner as it prepares for a possible autonomous ride-hailing service in Toronto. Waymo says it will begin with manual driving and mapping, with the goal of welcoming its first riders in 2028.

STATUS: ANNOUNCED. WAYMO SAYS IT IS PREPARING FOR A TORONTO RIDE-HAILING SERVICE, WITH FIRST RIDERS TARGETED FOR 2028. ELEMENT FLEET MANAGEMENT WILL PROVIDE END-TO-END FLEET MANAGEMENT; THE ANNOUNCEMENT DESCRIBES PREPARATIONS, NOT A SERVICE CURRENTLY CARRYING PASSENGERS.

What Changed: The partnership assigns fleet-management support to Element as Waymo begins local groundwork. Waymo says its initial activity will include high-definition mapping and driving manually, followed by testing with trained autonomous specialists behind the wheel. It also says the effort will involve investment in local facilities and jobs.

Why It Matters: If Waymo advances from mapping and testing to passenger service, the partnership could establish local fleet operations and related jobs in Toronto. The announcement does not establish regulatory approval, a launch date beyond Waymo's 2028 goal, or demonstrated effects on city mobility or safety.

What to Watch: Whether Waymo moves from manual driving and mapping to autonomous testing, and what steps or approvals that transition requires. Also watch for details on Element's operational responsibilities, local facilities and hiring, and whether Waymo updates its target for welcoming riders in 2028.

Source: [Waymo - Hello Toronto! Waymo is En Route](#)

10. Metra unveils battery trainsets planned for Rock Island Line

Metra displayed a battery-powered train at LaSalle Street Station, with passenger service on the Rock Island Line to Blue Island planned for 2028. The train shown is not ready for service and must receive batteries and undergo federal testing.

STATUS: METRA PUBLICLY DISPLAYED TWO PASSENGER CARS CONNECTED BY A

BATTERY CAR AT LASALLE STREET STATION. THE TRAIN ON DISPLAY IS NOT READY FOR PUBLIC USE: METRA SPOKESPERSON MICHAEL GILLIS SAID IT LACKS BATTERIES, AND THE SUN-TIMES EXCERPT SAYS IT WILL GO TO COLORADO FOR EXTENSIVE FEDERAL TESTING AFTER THEY ARE INSTALLED.

Metra plans to put the trainsets into service on the Rock Island Line to Blue Island in 2028. The Sun-Times reports a \$234 million purchase covering this train and seven more, expected by the end of 2028. Its account says each service train will also have two additional passenger cars with restrooms.

Why It Matters: If the planned service proceeds, battery trains could replace diesel operation on this route and reduce noise and ground vibration near homes along the tracks, benefits attributed to Metra's CEO in the reporting. The evidence does not establish that these effects have been measured in service or that more frequent off-peak service will be added.

What to Watch: Whether Metra installs the batteries and the train completes federal testing; whether the planned 2028 passenger-service start and deliveries occur; and whether Metra specifies any off-peak service changes or reports operating effects after launch.

Source: [Chicago Sun-Times - Public gets first peek at Metra's future battery-powered trains, a North American first](#)

11. Rockefeller and OpenAI foundations launch \$50m city AI grant call

The foundations launched Cities Deliver, a global open call offering grants of \$500,000 to \$2 million to eligible organizations working with city governments on AI projects in public health, economic mobility, environmental resilience and civic engagement. Applications opened October 14 and close November 29, 2026.

STATUS: THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION AND OPENAI FOUNDATION LAUNCHED CITIES DELIVER ON OCTOBER 14, 2026. IT IS A FUNDING INITIATIVE AND OPEN CALL; THE SOURCE DOES NOT ESTABLISH THAT PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH IT ARE OPERATING. GRANTS ARE LISTED AT \$500,000 TO \$2 MILLION, WITH THE INITIATIVE AIMING TO REACH UP TO 100 MILLION CITY RESIDENTS GLOBALLY.

Status: Applicants must be eligible nonprofit or civil society institutions working with a city government partner committed to the project. The initiative requires a meaningful frontier AI component and a charitable purpose. Its stated service areas are public health, economic mobility, environmental resilience and civic engagement.

Status: Applications opened October 14 and close November 29, 2026. The Rockefeller Foundation says it plans follow-on grants for several partners from earlier projects, including proposed expansions of Rio's flood-alert system, dengue forecasting from Cali to Cartagena, and Cape Town's resident-engagement platform. These are plans, not confirmed expansions.

Why it matters: If the call attracts eligible city partnerships and leads to effective projects, philanthropic funding and technical networks could help address barriers the foundation identifies, including implementation costs and uncertainty around data protection. The excerpt provides no award results or measured service outcomes, so the initiative's reach and public benefit remain to be demonstrated.

Source: [The Rockefeller Foundation - Rockefeller Foundation, OpenAI Foundation Announce \\$50 Million Partnership To Help Cities Improve Public Services Through AI](#)

12. Connexin secures up to 35 million for UK smart-water network rollout

Connexin announced a financing package of up to 35 million to support continued rollout of its LoRaWAN smart-water metering network across the UK. The package combines facilities from Santander UK and funds managed by PATRIZIA, including a revolving trade facility and an accordion facility.

STATUS: FUNDING ANNOUNCED. CONNEXIN SAID ON 15 OCTOBER 2026 THAT IT HAD SECURED A PACKAGE OF UP TO 35 MILLION FOR CONTINUED UK ROLLOUT OF ITS LORAWAN NETWORK FOR SMART WATER METERING. THE REPORTED COMPONENTS ARE A 10 MILLION SANTANDER UK FACILITY, A 5 MILLION REVOLVING TRADE FACILITY, 10 MILLION FROM FUNDS MANAGED BY PATRIZIA AND A 10 MILLION ACCORDION FACILITY.

What Changed: The financing adds capital for Connexin's existing network expansion; the excerpt does not establish that the full amount has been drawn or that new meters have been installed as a result. Kurrent reports that the network connected almost 250,000 smart water meters in August 2025, citing earlier coverage, and identifies water companies with which Connexin says it works. Those figures and relationships are not new deployment outcomes from this financing announcement.

Why It Matters: If the facilities are drawn and converted into network investment, they could help Connexin extend connectivity for water-company metering programmes. The ultimate reach and use of the network will depend on equipment deployment and customer orders; the excerpt also describes competing LoRaWAN providers in some overlapping markets.

What to Watch: Whether Connexin draws the accordion facility or reports other borrowing under the

package; and whether the company or water customers disclose new gateway installations, meter connections or contract awards attributable to the financing.

Source: [Kurrent - Connexin Secures Up To 35M To Extend UK LoRaWAN Smart Water Meter Network](#)

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