The City of Columbus “Smart Columbus” vision won the U.S. Department of Transportation $40 million Smart City Challenge in June, 2016 after competing against 77 cities nationwide to become the country’s first city to fully integrate innovative technologies – self-driving cars, connected vehicles, and smart sensors – into their transportation network. Columbus was also awarded an additional $10 million grant from Paul G. Allen’s Vulcan Inc. to accelerate the transition to an electrified, low-emissions transportation system.

Smart Columbus will:
- Improve access to jobs through expanded mobility options in major job centers
- Compete globally through smart logistics
- Connect Columbus residents to safe, reliable transportation that can be accessed by all
- Better connect our visitors to transportation options
- Develop a more environmentally sustainable transportation system.

THE COLUMBUS WAY
Columbus has built an unprecedented culture of collaboration. By knocking down silos and building partnerships, Columbus has quickly become one of the fastest growing cities in the country, leading the Midwest in job and wage growth. The City of Columbus is matching the USDOT and Vulcan grants with $90 million in pledges from public and private sector partners.

OUTCOME: A SAFER, MORE MOBILE AND SUSTAINABLE CITY
Columbus will become the nation’s epicenter for intelligent transportation systems (ITS) research to improve safety, enhance mobility, create ladders of opportunity for those who may have been left behind in the past, and address climate change by reducing emissions.

SAFETY  MOBILITY  OPPORTUNITY  CLIMATE CHANGE
also deploy and evaluate an enhanced parking permit system and create a new event parking management system. This will allow travelers to plan, reserve and book a parking space during large events. Direct routing of travelers is expected to reduce congestion during those times.

The Logistics District
Through the use of truck platooning and oversized vehicle routing, Smart Columbus will improve fuel efficiency, increase safety and improve overall delivery efficiency. Additionally, by integrating truck parking information into the Integrated Data Exchange, Smart Columbus will be able to direct commercial vehicle drivers to safe, convenient parking solutions.

Electric Vehicle Fleet Adoption and Charging Program
In collaboration with its many public and private partners, Smart Columbus will work to encourage the adoption of electric vehicles and the installation of charging infrastructure.

Smart Grid Modernization and Large Scale Renewable Energy Program
American Electric Power (AEP) and Smart Columbus will work to deploy grid modernization projects, which include battery storage installations and expanded capacity. AEP will integrate new large-scale wind and solar developments into the region’s electricity grid, while the City of Columbus Division of Power will increase its yearly purchased renewable energy to 20 percent and upgrade city streetlights.

Dealer, Consumer and Workplace Adoption
A series of experiential marketing strategies will be deployed to encourage regional automotive dealerships to embrace the sales and promotion of electric vehicles, and to encourage consumers to purchase electric vehicles. Columbus CEOs will lead the way in encouraging employees to purchase electric vehicles by installing workplace charging infrastructure and hosting ride and drive events.