



# Microsoft Cities: Azure for Civic Tech

The Microsoft Cities Civic Tech program uses data and technology to improve the lives of people in cities. At Microsoft, one of the most compelling resources we have for creating impact in cities is our [Azure](#) cloud. Empowering citizens to connect digitally with their government, deploying solutions that improve service delivery and public safety, and building cross-sector partnerships around data sharing and analytics to tackle urban challenges are just a few of the ways that we put our cloud to use for public impact. Azure has tremendous potential as a resource for good in the civic ecosystems that we operate in. Below, you'll find some examples of how we've used Azure for civic tech in the past. Looking ahead, we hope to find new ways to use our cloud for good. Please share your ideas with us on Twitter at [@MicrosoftSV](#) or [@CivTechKey](#).

To learn more about Azure, please visit [Azure.Microsoft.com](#).

## Vision Zero Analytics – New York, Seattle, New Orleans

Microsoft partnered with [DataKind](#) to conduct data science projects, powered by the Azure cloud, aimed at reducing traffic-related deaths and serious injuries to zero in three US cities—New York, Seattle, and New Orleans. In New York and Seattle, DataKind's data scientists developed an innovative model that estimates the volume of vehicles on individual streets citywide. In New York they also developed a model to better understand how street characteristics impact the number of injuries that occur, while Seattle looked in depth at collision patterns involving pedestrians and bicyclists. New Orleans received an impact assessment tool to better understand the impact of treatments deployed in the field, such as traffic signs and engineering changes. Read more about this collaborative effort here: <http://bit.ly/2BL2utz>

## Metro Detroit Data Alliance – Detroit

Our friends at [Data Driven Detroit](#) partnered with local community organizations to create the Metro Detroit Data Alliance, a data collaborative designed to bring organizations together around data sharing and analytics. The data collaborative includes an Azure powered central data platform, API, and data portal to help facilitate data sharing and access, all designed to minimize time commitment and lower barriers to entry. Data collaboratives hold tremendous promise for building cross-sector partnerships designed to tackle civic challenges through data and technology. Read more about the Metro Detroit Data Alliance here: <http://bit.ly/2i9M8Ww>

## Access Map – Seattle

[accessmap.io](#), was built on the Azure cloud at a Seattle Department of Transportation hackathon in late 2014 to address accessible trip planning on pedestrian walkways for people with limited mobility. The mapping project has since named an official accessibility mapping service for the City of Seattle. Users select a destination and starting point, mode of transportation (i.e. "wheelchair"), and receive an accessible route. Users can also filter routes by a specific incline or decline grade to ensure the route meets their needs.

