

## Midpoint Report

### *Research Focus:*

While conducting research, I found that a much larger amount of writing has been done about the ethical issues of these projects, rather than the purely economic or environmental aspect of things that I had originally intended to study. In looking through the existing body of research on Smart Cities, I realized very quickly that it would be challenging, if not impossible for me to collate the limited amount of economic and environmental information about Smart Cities into a full research paper. On the other hand, I incidentally encountered a large amount of information on the general structure and ethics of Smart City projects. The ethical angle of this issue also appealed to me more personally, and diving into the various problems with these projects caught my attention more than the original focus of the project.

Due to a change in focus of the project, it also became necessary to include a different range of sources than I originally anticipated. For instance, I ended up including more articles (sources such as New York Times), as they focused more on the core issues that I was engaging with. These sources from well regarded newspapers brought to my attention specific issues that had occurred in various Smart City projects across the world, and gave me ideas for further points of research on the topic, allowing the research process to be much smoother and more enjoyable to me personally.

### *Scope:*

The scope of the project, at least in terms of the midpoint version of the paper, was narrowed to primarily focus on describing the nature of smart cities, and on the ethical and data privacy issues surrounding these smart city projects. Due to the change in the focus of the research, the scope of the paper was therefore shifted. My only concern as of right now is that this narrowed scope of the paper may make it more challenging to generate a paper of the appropriate length for the final project. On the

other hand, ethical issues in general allow for a wide range of topics to be introduced, from security issues to data privacy issues. With further research being conducted, I'm certain I can acquire enough sources for an appropriately scoped project.

*Progress:*

While I am mostly on track with my original goals, there were parts of my original plan for the paper that had to be reconsidered, which put me a bit behind in terms of my progress. However now that I've more correctly identified a focus of the project which can be supported by available research, I believe that the remaining goals of the project should be achievable. The paper I submitted for the midterm portion of the course does still require some work, and will need revisions before I begin working on the final paper. Once I finish those revisions, then I can begin the research process over again and begin hopefully just adding new sections to the paper in order to complete it. I will of course need to also develop the presentation slides for the final, which I will have to begin considering while completing my writing of the research paper.