

# Put Technology TO WORK

QUARTERLY UPDATE FY2016

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 4



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## City Kicks Off “Put Technology to Work” Seminar

On June 1, the City of Arlington kicked off the “Put Technology to Work” series at the monthly Director’s meeting.

During the seminar, guest speaker Mike McNair, Automation and Intelligent Systems Division Head at The University of Texas at Arlington Research Institute (UTARI), spoke about the future of autonomous vehicles and their effect on government entities.

McNair discussed the changing infrastructure that will be needed to accommodate autonomous vehicles and how this technology could affect resident’s day-to-day lives.

His presentation was the first of many that will assist the City in preparing for Arlington’s dynamic future.



## Councilwoman Visits Capitol Hill with Other NLC Members to Urge Technology Infrastructure

Arlington Mayor Pro Tempore Sheri Capehart was among leaders from across the country who attended meetings and briefings on Capitol Hill last week urging Congress to make infrastructure investment a priority.

As part of Infrastructure Week 2016, Capehart and other members of the National League of Cities advocated for priority issues including tax exemption for municipal bonds, reauthorization of the EPA Brownfields Program and water infrastructure investment.

As Information Technology and Communications Chair, Capehart lobbied for broadband infrastructure.

“Oftentimes technology infrastructure is overlooked as needed infrastructure. However, without access to this technology the digital divide deepens,” Capehart said.

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# Smart Roads

## Driverless Vehicles on the Horizon

Some day in the near future, your morning commute could look like this: open an app, call for a ride and hop in a self-driving car that shuttles you across town to your destination.

“Autonomous cars are coming,” Drew Campbell, senior partner of Capitol-Insights, told Arlington city leaders this week. “The technology is here. This is not some futuristic thing.” Industry leaders predict autonomous cars, which accelerate, brake and steer by themselves, will be ready to hit the road by 2020.

What does that mean for Arlington? The city, along with others, will need to study traffic patterns, enforcement and parking needs, among other issues, said Campbell, a longtime legislative consultant and president of the New Car Dealers Association of Metropolitan Texas.

Numerous companies — including Google, BMW, Mercedes Benz, Nissan and General Motors — are developing driverless technologies. Already, many new vehicles come with collision avoidance systems that detect other vehicles, cyclists, pedestrians, and in some cases, animals.

Safety will be key, Campbell said. In 2014, car crashes killed more than 32,000 people in the United States. “We can begin to knock that number down,” Campbell said. “Someday, my grandchildren will say, ‘They used to let you drive a car? Do you know how dangerous that is?’

“Today, the number of vehicles on the road has reached a record 253 million. Most likely, traditional and autonomous vehicles will coexist on roads for years to come,” Campbell said. The technology’s rollout could launch in increments, with certain allowed speeds, conditions, applications or markets.

Councilwoman Sheri Capehart said city leaders are wise to begin considering this technology now. “I can’t envision this, but I could not have envisioned an iPhone, either” Capehart said. “For kids who are in elementary school now, this will be no big deal.”

“Driverless technology will transform more than commutes”, Campbell said. “It has the potential to change the way we live.”

An autonomous car is never distracted by a phone call or M&Ms falling between the seats. Autonomous cars aren’t spilling hot coffee, texting or telling the kids to behave.

Technology touches all parts of city life – our organization, residents and businesses. It is also integral in achieving the City’s other four priorities, Invest in Our Economy, Support Quality Education, Enhance Regional Mobility and Champion Great Neighborhoods.

The timeline (pictured to the right) is a prediction of the advancement of autonomous vehicles in the future. Take a look at the possibilities...



Companies such as Mercedes Benz and Volvo have designed cars that can drive themselves in stop-and-go traffic. Features such as automatic brakes and lane-keeping assist became available.

2015



Partially autonomous vehicles will be permitted in places like retirement communities. Also, there is a possibility for highway lanes dedicated to self-driving cars.

2020



People will be able to call driverless cars to run errands, pick up the kids from school and many other daily activities. Delivery of mass produced goods will be autonomous.

2030

2016

Tesla and Cadillac have released cars that drive at highway speeds with no driver interference.



2025

Public Transportation could be driverless. Cars will mostly be driverless with the option to operate the vehicle manually.



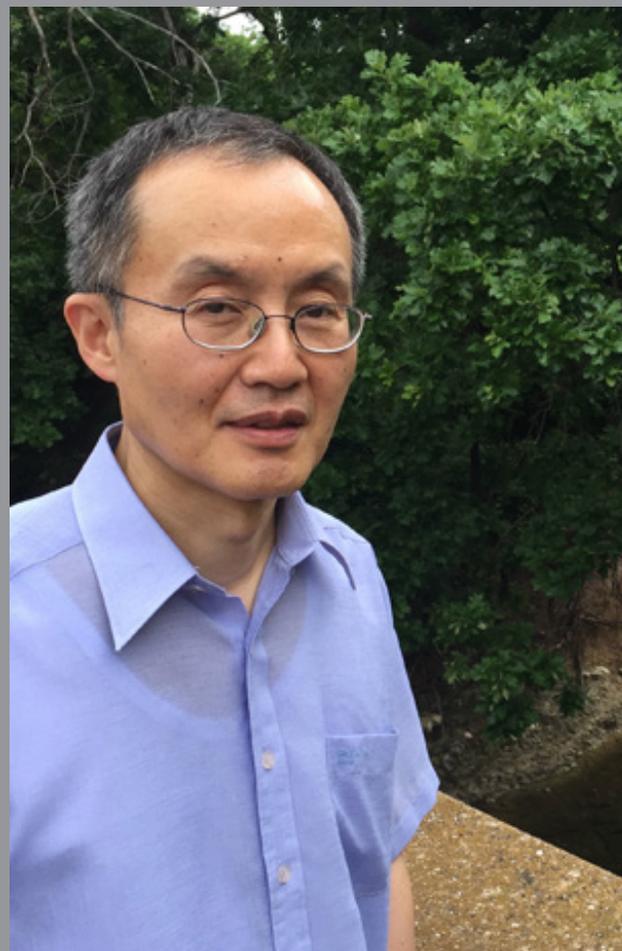
## Arlington Launches Website to Help Public Explore Apartment Complexes

The City of Arlington recently launched a new website aimed at providing tenants and property owners with inspection scores, how to report or address common code violations and other useful information related to apartment complexes and extended stay properties within the American Dream City.

The Rapid Reference Guide, which took about a year to create, prominently features an interactive map of Arlington apartment communities. With a click of a button, users can find the name and contact information for the assigned Code Compliance officer, the property's latest annual inspection score and property rating for each apartment community.

"The biggest reason we launched this website is for customer service. We want to inform tenants of multifamily properties as well as the owners and managers," said Stephen Allen, Code Compliance North District Supervisor. "This gives them a place to go to and very easily get their questions answered."

The launch of the Rapid Reference Guide is an example of the City Council's priority to Put Technology to Work in an effort to improve the City's efficiency and improve residents' quality of life. "Some of Arlington's technology challenges include being able to provide citizens with access to more information they feel is valuable to making quality of life decisions," Deputy City Manager Theron Bowman said. "We recognize that finding technological solutions to facilitate higher-quality living standards for our residents represents opportunities for better, more efficient and a longer-term resolutions for problems."



## UTA Civil Engineer Creates Phone App to Gather Public Input on Flash Flooding

D.J. Seo wants you to be his eyes on the weather – and more specifically to be watching for flash floods.

The University of Texas at Arlington Associate Professor of Civil Engineering has launched a new Android cell phone app called iSeeFlood to encourage the public to file timely reports when they see flooding of varying severity on the streets, in and around their houses, and in streams and creeks. Such flash floods can be dangerous to pedestrians and motorists alike.

The free Google Play app is a new addition to the tool kit that researchers, forecasters and emergency management professionals are using to improve their ability to protect lives and property. Currently, a iPhone version is under consideration.

Greg Waller, service coordination hydrologist for the National Weather Service's West Gulf River Forecast Center, said "The data helps us calibrate our models, which leads to better forecasts and warnings".

Seo's work already has advanced the agency's ability to better serve the public and is being shared with agencies like the U.S. Corps of Engineers and U.S. Geological Survey.