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IMPROVING THE STATE  
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Industry Agenda

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# The Future of Urban Development & Services

## Urban Development Roundtable

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July 2014

## Smart economic infrastructure

Smart cities should provide meaningful jobs to fulfil their dwellers' aspirations. The enablers of an improved economic environment are: reforms to facilitate the ease of doing business, reforms to the permitting process, creation of a platform of collaboration between the public and private sectors, and a more structured planning process. Each city can be developed based on its distinctive economic character, and innovation districts can be established to ease the exchange of ideas and promote an entrepreneurial culture. Cities can set up an economic advisory board made up of the government, private sector, civil society and academics to address the ease of doing business and recommend reforms.



## Smart governance and finance

The transparency of projects needs to be increased, along with the speed of their execution. The same can be achieved by leveraging technology and capacity building in ULBs. An integrated city master plan, a list of a city's bankable projects and the identification of risks will encourage investors to participate in PPP projects.

## Smart transportation

A mobility master plan can be prepared for a horizon of about 20 years, with adequate transition plans to support public transport. Cities may apply a congestion tax or promote sharing of vehicles/carpooling to reduce congestion on roads. To make implementation easier, a single city-level agency can execute an integrated city master plan, which factors in mobility. Moreover, the master plan should consider developing clusters within the city to reduce the need for transportation. Alternate and clean modes of transportation, such as cycling and walking, must be promoted to decrease the dependency on fossil fuels and reduce pollution.



## Smart social infrastructure

Technology can be used to improve healthcare services. Streets play an important role in social infrastructure, and master plans must include public space.

## Smart ICT

A smart city needs to have an integrated digital master plan which would account for standards across city verticals, defined process and systems. Such a plan would need to strongly encourage residents to adopt technology, and will need to be inclusive, factoring in all sections of society.

**01:** Participants at the smart economic infrastructure breakout group, including Ron Slangen, Urban Development Specialist, Asian Development Bank INRM, India (standing).

**02:** Participants at the roundtable

## Next Steps

The Forum will begin its engagement with specific states in India. Ideally, the process will include advising on specific reforms at the state and city levels to accelerate the delivery of smart cities.

The World Economic Forum's National Strategy Day on India in New Delhi, 3-4 November 2015, will convene a discussion on smart cities and AMRUT cities.

