

Chapter 1

The Role of 6G Technology in Smart City Development

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ABSTRACT

The advent of 6G technology promises to revolutionize smart city development by offering ultra-high-speed connectivity, minimal latency, and the capacity to support massive device connectivity. This paper explores the transformative potential of 6G in enhancing urban planning, management, and everyday life. Through case studies of pioneering cities like Seoul, Tokyo, Singapore, and Helsinki, it highlights practical applications such as smart traffic management, AI-driven healthcare innovations, and augmented reality tourism experiences. While 6G holds immense promise, its implementation requires overcoming challenges related to infrastructure, data privacy, and regulatory frameworks. Addressing these challenges will be crucial for cities to harness the full benefits of 6G and create sustainable, resilient urban environments for the future.

1 INTRODUCTION

Smart cities have emerged as a result of the most profound changes in the global urban environment that have been brought about by the rapid spread of communications technologies (Salameh & El Tarhuni, 2022; Shehab et al., 2022) combining revolutionary digital infrastructure and innovative technologies to enhance the sustainability, productivity, and quality of living of their citizens (Allam & Jones,

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3693-8029-1.ch001

2021). The current development with 5G technology as a milestone has set itself for revolution in urban development (Slimani, Khouilji & Kerkeb, 2023). 6G will provide an opportunity to build incredible capabilities with the deliverance of fantastic connectivity, more substantial computing power, and better response-ability. The network can now be travelled at 1 Tbps speed with the latency low enough to define urban connectivity in exchanging the data further in that regard (Fadhil, 2023). Its ability to carry on vast numbers of interconnected devices per unit area- those that can go up to 10 million per square kilometre- gives new scope to integrating diverse Internet of Things (IoT) applications into city infrastructure, potentially revolutionising urban connectivity and data exchange through 6G technology, illuminating hope for the future of smart cities. This paper will comprehensively explore the profound roles 6G technology can play in developing and enhancing smart cities, essentially providing a complete analysis of how 6G can empower cities to overcome some of the current challenges they face, optimise their resource management, and break new standards in the urban planning and management practices of cities around the world. The discussion on its potential impact across these domains-from transportation and energy to healthcare and public safety-enables an articulation of the transformative potential of 6G in shaping future trajectories of urban living. This paper will illustrate real-life examples of where early adoption of 6G has already provided benefits and innovation in a wide range of urban contexts using cutting-edge case studies and emerging trends. It details possible future applications of 6G and the opportunities and challenges that may arise when implementing and incorporating this revolutionary technology into infrastructural frameworks within cities. In a nutshell, this paper provides an all-inclusive and prospective analysis of how 6G technology will impact the development of smart cities. It is meant to inspire stakeholders, policymakers, and urban planners by explaining its capabilities, applications, and implications about the transformative potential of 6G in redefining the urban landscape of tomorrow.

A discussion about its probable impact across those domains – from transport and energy to healthcare and public safety – enables an articulation of how 6G might really transform the direction of cities in the future. To this end, this paper will illustrate in real-world settings where the initial adoption of 6G has already resulted in some benefits and innovations in diverse urban environments, applying cutting-edge case studies and emerging trends. It discusses the potential future applications of 6G and what opportunity or challenge it could provide once installed and integrated with a city's infrastructural systems. Comprehensively, this paper provides an all-inclusive and prospective analysis of how the 6G technology will change the development of smart cities. It should be inspirational for stakeholders, policymakers, and urban planners to outline the capacities, applications, and implications of 6G as a tool to redefine the urban landscape of tomorrow.

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