

Newlab at Michigan Central: Safer Crossings Pilot Project Overview

Project Description:

Snowbotix, a Detroit-based robotics company, and Smartcross, a UK based pedestrian crossings tech startup, will team up to develop a crossing guard robot that can help pedestrians cross intersections safely. The goal is to determine whether a portable, off-grid pedestrian crossing solution like this could address safety concerns when pedestrians cross unprotected areas of roadway. We will use this project to determine technical feasibility, desirability (user acceptance & usability) and viability (potential for commercialization). We will conduct initial testing & calibration in a controlled lab setting before testing the robot outside the lab. Once the robot passes specific safety & quality gates, we will pilot the robot in controlled use cases at specific partner locations in Detroit. These include: 6th & Porter St with Most Holy Trinity Schools, St. Anne & Bagley with Roberto Clemente Recreation Center, Trumbull & Abbott St with Detroit Hispanic Development Corporation.

Components of the Solution:

- Snowbotix robot
- Smartcross wireless receiver & call button
- Smartcross android & ios app
- Smartcross cross-assist stand

Project Goals:

1. Test and validate the technical feasibility of a crossing guard robot (*Does it deploy as expected? Can it operate semi or fully autonomously? etc*)
2. Gather user feedback on the usability and desirability of this as a safe crossing solution from the community
3. Evaluate the commercial viability of this solution and service

Project Point of Contacts:

Connie Loh, Program Director, Newlab Detroit

connie.loh@newlab.com

313-330-2214

Contact for:

- General project overview, goals, timing
- Community Engagement plan for pilot

Sasi Prabhakaran, CEO & Founder, Snowbotix LLC

sasi@snowbotix.com

313-913-5679

Contact for:

- Safety plan
- Liability insurance
- Technical questions on the hardware & software system of the robot
- Data collection and processing
- Operating procedures

Steve Pearson, CEO, Smart Technology Ltd. (Smartcross)

steve.p@smart-grid.uk

+44(0) 1772 364384

Contact for:

- Technical questions on the Smartcross “cross assist” hardware & software system