



Responsible Sensing Lab

Designing city sensing systems
that people accept

05:00 AM

Toward a smart & sensing city

A tech push approach

Striving for efficiency, safety and livability

Collecting a wealth of data to solve interconnected problems



source: New York Times



a car
pulls up at
07:30 a.m.

the device
enters the
school yard

THE CHALLENGE

Can we have a responsible digital city as balance between the two?

SMART SYSTEMS
THAT BRING
THE CITY

MORE LIVABILITY
MORE SAFETY
MORE EFFICIENCY

TENSION

SMART SYSTEMS
THAT RESPECT
CITY VALUES

AUTONOMY
TRANSPARENCY
HUMAN CONTROL
PRIVACY



How do we make the digital city responsible?

Legal & Regulatory

Formulating new laws to prevent undesired outcomes

Auditing systems

Methodically checking whether systems do what we expect them to do

Procurement

Specifying desired outcomes in buying digital solutions

Insourcing

Enhancing public control over digital systems by doing it oneself

Design

Redesigning sensing systems to prevent value conflicts

SENSING SYSTEMS TODAY





How do we design
Responsible Sensing Systems?

VALUE CONFLICTS?

Can we overcome value conflicts
between innovation drivers
and city values?

SMART SYSTEMS
THAT BRING
THE CITY

MORE LIVABILITY
MORE SAFETY
MORE EFFICIENCY

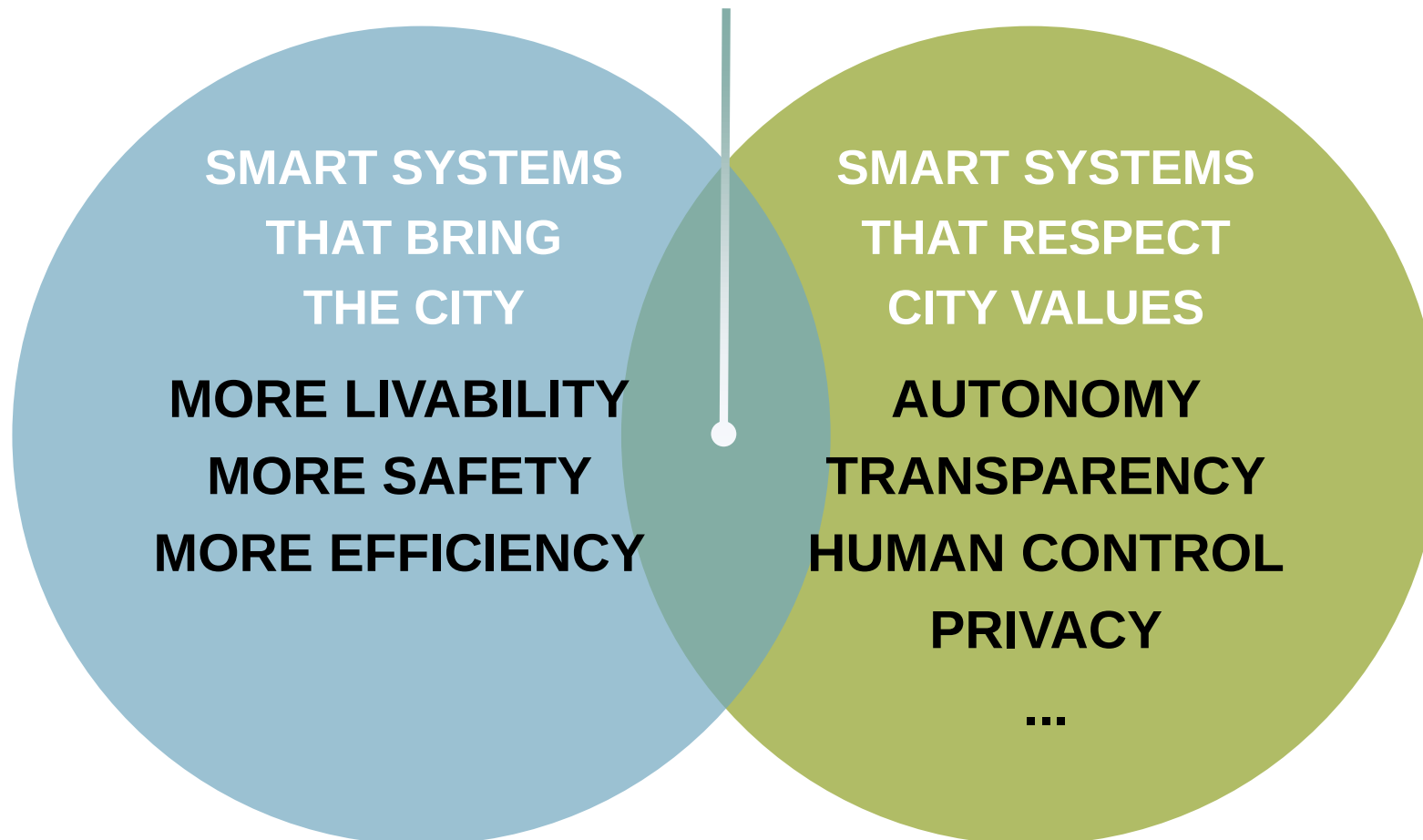
SMART SYSTEMS
THAT RESPECT
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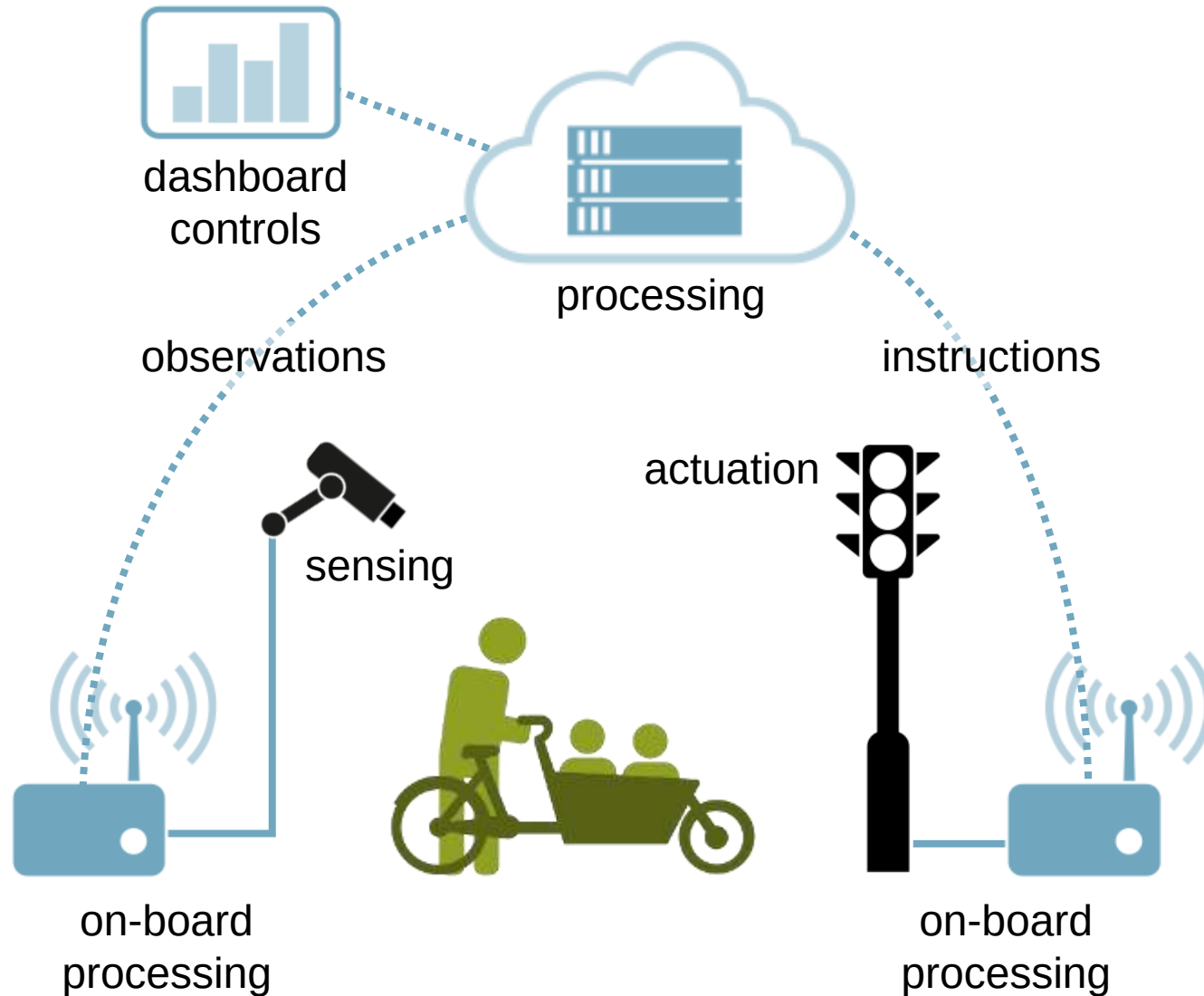
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VALUE CONFLICTS?

RESPONSIBLE SENSING SYSTEMS



DESIGN CHOICES



- Which type of sensor technology?
- Which local and cloud intelligence?
- What does it look like?
- Where is it placed?
- What does it explain about itself?
- How can you interact with it?
- How can you know you can trust it?
- How can you contest it?

EXAMPLES

DOMAIN

Electric vehicle
charging

INNOVATION DRIVER

Smart charging
for efficient use
of electricity grid

CITIZEN CONCERN

Lack of
understanding
of automatic
prioritization in
charging needs

RESPONSIBLE SOLUTION

Transparent
charging station



EXAMPLES

DOMAIN

Scan cars

INNOVATION DRIVER

Scan cars for
cost-effective
collection of
data on public
space

CITIZEN CONCERN

Uncertainty
of which data
is collected

RESPONSIBLE SOLUTION

Showing what
the scan car
sees



EXAMPLES

DOMAIN

Public
playgrounds

INNOVATION DRIVER

Sensor-based
usage data
collection for
efficient
playground
planning

CITIZEN CONCERN

Kids' privacy

RESPONSIBLE SOLUTION

No-camera,
millimeter wave
sensing



WE REDESIGN SENSING SYSTEMS INTO RESPONSIBLE SYSTEMS

CONCEPTUALIZE

DESIGN

PROTOTYPE

TEST

IMPLEMENT

- With and for public owners of sensing systems
- With academic partners
- Fast prototyping
- Marineterrein as a test location

CONCEPTUALIZE

DESIGN

PROTOTYPE

TEST

IMPLEMENT

- Set up lab organization
- Execute design projects (5 concepts and 3 prototypes)
- Set up sensor showroom

2020

CITY OF AMSTERDAM

start 2021

**POLICE
ENERGY COMPANIES
WATER
MANAGEMENT
TELECOM**

end 2021

**OTHER EUROPEAN
CITY REGIONS
INDUSTRY PARTNERS**



✖ Gemeente
✖ Amsterdam
✖

PARTNERS



✖ Gemeente
✖ Amsterdam
✖



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Our offer:

- An executed process to explore, design, prototype and test your challenge
- Internationally acclaimed design researchers
- Space for prototyping and testing at Marineterrein

Your commitment:

- A case (a digital physical system meant to sense, analyze and ultimately steer)
- Time of your project team
- Interest in implementing any solution on your roadmap

WHY FOCUS ON DESIGN?

Citizens experience the city in physical space

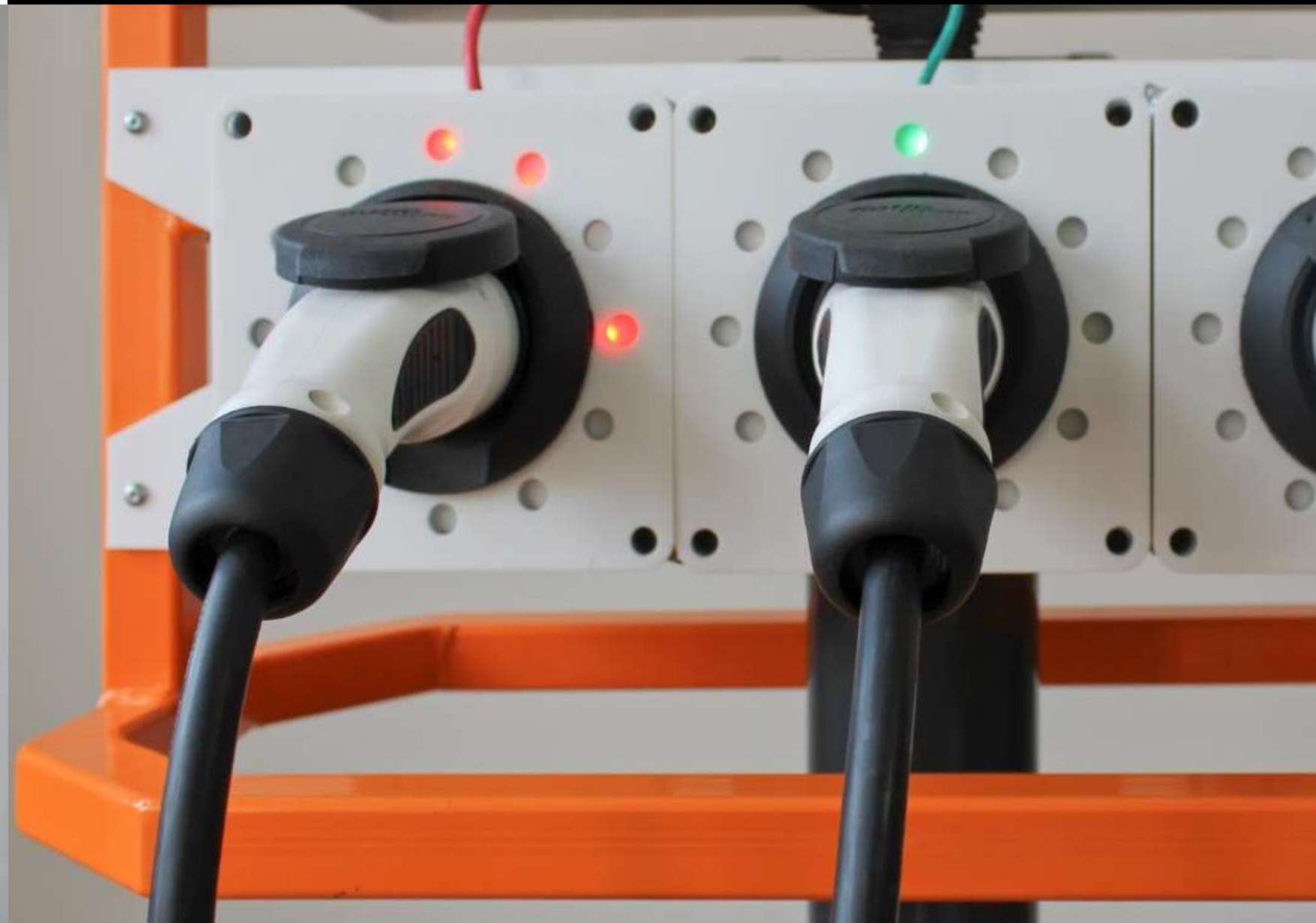
Sensors are their touchpoints with invisible digital systems

Current sensing systems are 'non-designed'

Data-minimization by design

**Design as an opportunity to empower citizens,
and to gain trust**

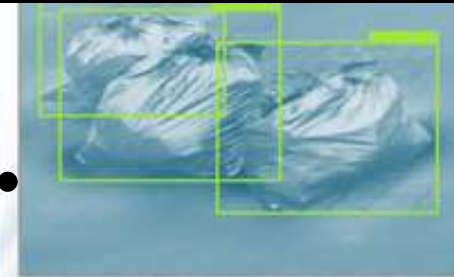
TRANSPARENT CHARGING STATION



HUMAN SCAN CAR

QR code links to
public platform for
scan car data access

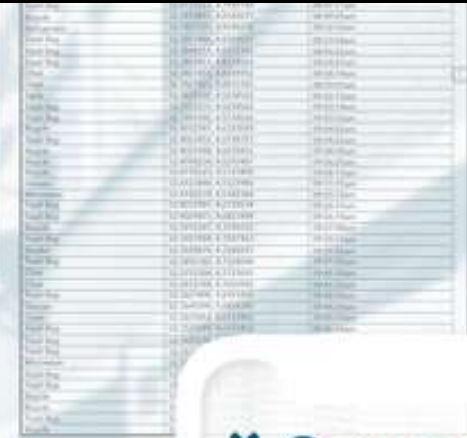
Web portal makes
scan car data public
and actionable



Notifications



A refrigerator on the curb is
available for pickup 1.2km away



Scan car searches its
environment for objects
like trash, donated
furniture, or missing bikes

AR tool creates
transparency on what
types of information
the scan car collects

