

Mark K. Dowd
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Mark K. Dowd is the founder and Executive Director of Smart Cities Lab, a nonprofit that provides a venue for cities to share what works and partner with the innovation community to forge new solutions to their stubborn challenges. He is also a Visiting Scholar at University of California Berkeley where he is working with cities to find innovative ways to accelerate the adoption of new mobility technologies. Mark also serves on the Urban Air Mobility Strategic Advisory Group.



Prior to starting Smart Cities Lab, Mark served several different roles in the Obama Administration. He was a Senior Advisor in the White House Office of Management and Budget and a Senior Advisor in the White House Council of Environmental Quality. Mark also was a member of President Obama's Hurricane Sandy Task Force and served for three years as a senior member of the President's Auto Task Force, where he worked on the historic restructuring of General Motors and Chrysler.

Mark also served as a Senior Advisor to U.S. Department of Transportation's Secretary Foxx and a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Research and Technology where he worked on issues related to technology and innovation. Mark is the architect of the Smart City Challenge that fundamentally changed the way American cities approach mobility.

He received the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gold Medal as well as awards from the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, the U.S. Attorney's Office (Southern District) for his work on the GM and Chrysler bankruptcies, and the U.S. Department of Transportation for creating and executing the Smart City Challenge.

Mark's nongovernmental service includes the Director and Assistant General Counsel at the Association of Global Automakers where he worked on policy development for advanced vehicle technologies. Mark practiced law for thirteen years in New York City at the law firm of Schulte Roth & Zabel, specializing in transactions, restructuring, litigation, and regulatory matters as they relate to environmental and energy issues. Mark attended Rutgers College and Seton Hall University School of Law.