

Sidewalk Labs' Quayside — Alphabet's Toronto 'Smart City' That Collapsed Over Data Governance

City Innovation Library · Good practice · Canada

Quality score: 24/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Alphabet's Sidewalk Labs spent 2.5 years and committed US\$50 million designing a sensor-laden Toronto waterfront district, then cancelled it in May 2020 after sustained privacy backlash and a board vote that had already shrunk the site from 190 to 12 acres.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Evidence of impact / measured results	1/3
Transferability / demonstrated replication	1/3
Scalability	0/3
Sustainability / continuity	0/3
Innovation	2/3
Inclusiveness / equity	0/3
Multi-stakeholder collaboration	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

[C-NAPSE web research](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[Sidewalk Labs \(Alphabet Inc.\) / Waterfront Toronto](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[ArchDaily: Sidewalk Labs Cancels Quayside Smart City Project in Toronto](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

[Wikipedia: Sidewalk Toronto](#) — accessed 2026-09-06

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