



## City of Chamblee

*The future of mobility is here in Chamblee, and I am just so thrilled to be part of it.*

The City of Chamblee has been working on launching shared autonomous shuttles in their city. Chamblee may be a relatively small city, with a population of over 29,000, but they surely have a huge vision for the city as they plan to be a pioneer in the use of autonomous shuttles in Georgia. Chamblee has a three-fold goal involving mobility, economic, and environmental aspects. In terms of mobility, they aim to establish strong multi-modal connections, specifically the first and last mile connection to and from the Chamblee MARTA train station. For the economic aspect, the goal is to minimize traffic congestion and provide ease of access to market for business establishments in the area. Finally, the use of electric, autonomous shuttles is expected to reduce environmental pollutants.

This summer, I have worked closely with the Planning Department of the City of Chamblee and the team of Dr. Ellen Dunham-Jones of Georgia Tech to assist in the creation of a data management strategy plan for this project. The aim is to survey the best practices in collecting data to evaluate user experience of riding these shuttles. User experience is an aspect that is usually overlooked in evaluating transport services as the focus is usually given to measuring performance and efficiency of the vehicles. User experience however is a critical, if not the most important, factor as the passengers or riders are the ones who will sustain the use of these shuttles.

Aside from this main deliverable, I have assisted in the application and selection of autonomous shuttle vendor. There are three main manufacturers for the shuttle – EasyMile, Navya, and Local Motors. Chamblee has applied to different grants, each sponsored by a vendor. It was a good learning experience as I got to learn about the technology of these shuttles and how these vendors differ from each other. I was able to visit one of the micro-factories of Local Motors in Knoxville. Local Motors set themselves apart from their competitors as they produce shuttles via 3D printing, promising quicker turnaround time and better quality.

The internship experience is overall very rewarding and a unique learning opportunity. Aside from learning more about the technology of autonomous shuttles, I was exposed to the dynamics in planning and implementing this project. There are several sectors involved that should be considered and there are dependencies on the timeline. Nonetheless, to be part of implementing an innovation to having a smart, sustainable community is a great fulfillment for me and something I am proud of.

**-Rey Angeles**  
**Smart Community Corps, 2019**