



## **SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP**

May 6, 2022

### **RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL**

**S.T. No. 22-003 "Cyclomedia"**

Mayor Ben Walsh  
City of Syracuse  
City Hall Room 203  
233 East Washington Street  
Syracuse, New York 13202-1473

RE: *Surveillance Technology Working Group*  
*S.T. No. 22-003 "Cyclomedia"*  
*Summary Report and Recommendation*

Dear Mayor Walsh:

In accordance with Executive Order No. 2 issued on December 1, 2020, authorizing a Surveillance Technology Working Group ("STWG") to comprehensively evaluate surveillance technologies proposed for implementation by various City of Syracuse departments, and to seek out and consider related public input, STWG has completed its review of *S.T. No. 22-003 "Cyclomedia"* as proposed for implementation by the Department of Public Works ("DPW") and hereby recommends **APPROVAL** of *S.T. No. 22-003 "Cyclomedia"* based on the reasons and considerations as summarized within this Report and Recommendation:

#### ***S.T. NO. 22-003 "Cyclomedia" SUMMARY DESCRIPTION***

Cyclomedia would scan Syracuse's roadways with their car mounted LiDaR cameras. The technology is similar to Google Street view, but with more recent photographic data, and only City employees would have access to log in and view this information. DPW is looking to use Cyclomedia to provide 360° panoramic photographs of Syracuse's streets and Right of Way signage. This would allow DPW staff to be able to look at up-to-date images of City assets and traffic control devices. Neil Burke, from DPW, states that this technology would help streamline DPW's workflow and reduce miles traveled/field work; two factors that he states would help with saving money for mileage and reduce risk of employee injury during these trips.



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### **STWG FINDINGS**

DPW Transportation Planner, Neil Burke, submitted Cyclomedia's proposed implementation on behalf of the department. Neil verbally provided information on the technology and its proposed uses. In addition, Cyclomedia representatives came to one of the Surveillance Technology Working Group's meetings to answer questions.

Upon considering the information provided, the STWG sought input from Syracuse residents and local stakeholders. The majority of the feedback was deemed either positive or was a question, with comments generally focused on the benefits of using technology to help improve roads, sidewalks, and improving street signage in the City. There was some negative feedback that tended to rest on inaccuracies concerning the nature or scope of the technology (e.g. that video footage would be collected on a permanent basis). The STWG considered the public commentary in reaching its conclusion to recommend Cyclomedia's approval.

DPW and Assessment would have access to the data through a web portal. Access to this data is guarded by credentials. Information collected would be scrubbed by the provider's algorithm to blur faces, license plates, and any identifying information.

Cyclomedia staff informed the group that if the algorithm missed a section that needed to be blurred, such as through a store window, the City can put in a request to have this image blurred also, which Cyclomedia will then do. Cyclomedia deletes the raw images after they are blurred. The STWG reviewed public documents, as well as Cyclomedia privacy provisions and projects as part of the due diligence activities. Since Cyclomedia is based on the Netherlands, its system follows the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which is generally considered to have stronger privacy protection provisions than those present in the United States.

STWG is satisfied that adequate safeguards exist to prevent the misuse of this technology. The STWG voted for recommendation of *S.T. No. 22-003* at its April 26, 2022 regularly scheduled meeting as follows:



# SURVEILLANCE TECHNOLOGY WORKING GROUP

STWG Member	Vote In Favor	In Favor w/ Stipulations	Vote Against	Abstention	Absence
Martha Grabowski	X				
Tim Gleeson, Fire Department	X				
Joe Cecile, Police Department	X				
Kelsey May, Digital Services	X				
Sharon Owens, Deputy Mayor	X				
Michelle Sczpanski, Neighborhood Development	X				
Johannes Himmelreich	X				
Daniel Schwarz				X	
Jennifer Tifft, Neighborhood Development	X				
Mujtaba Tirmizey, Office of Corporation Counsel	X				
Mark King	X				
Ken Stewart	X				
Nicolas Diaz, Accountability, Performance & Innovation	X				
Jason Scharf, Accountability, Performance & Innovation	X				

## SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Affixed hereto is the public commentary feedback sought and received by STWG, as reviewed and considered in recommending *S.T. No. 22-003*. Also affixed are SWTG’s meeting slides containing relevant notes and discussion points relative to *S.T. No. 22-003*.

## CONCLUSION

Based on the aforementioned considerations, SWTG RECOMMENDS *S.T. No. 22-003* “Cyclomedia” FOR **APPROVAL**.

Very Truly Yours,

Nicolas Diaz  
Chair

Surveillance Technology Working Group