

SMART CITIES

The concept of smart cities is decades old but remains contested – in terms of what ‘smart’ exactly means, and who its enhanced technologies are actually for. Through years of research and working closely with cities, Eticas has identified several issue areas that must be explored when considering any new smart city project.

TECHNOLOGY GRAVEYARDS

The world is littered with abandoned smart city projects.

When private companies are given money to create pilot projects, excellent new services can be built. However, if a project is truly valuable, it must be built to last for years or decades.

SURVEILLANCE

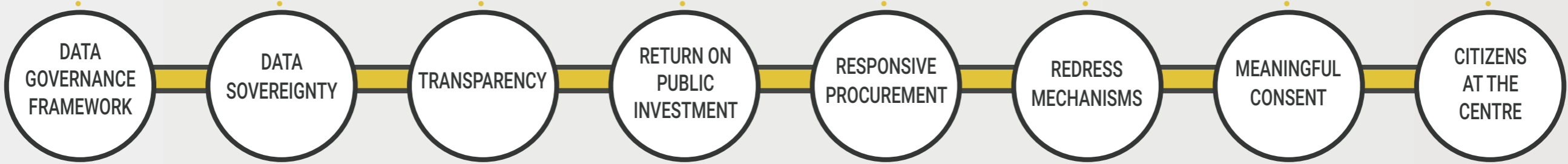
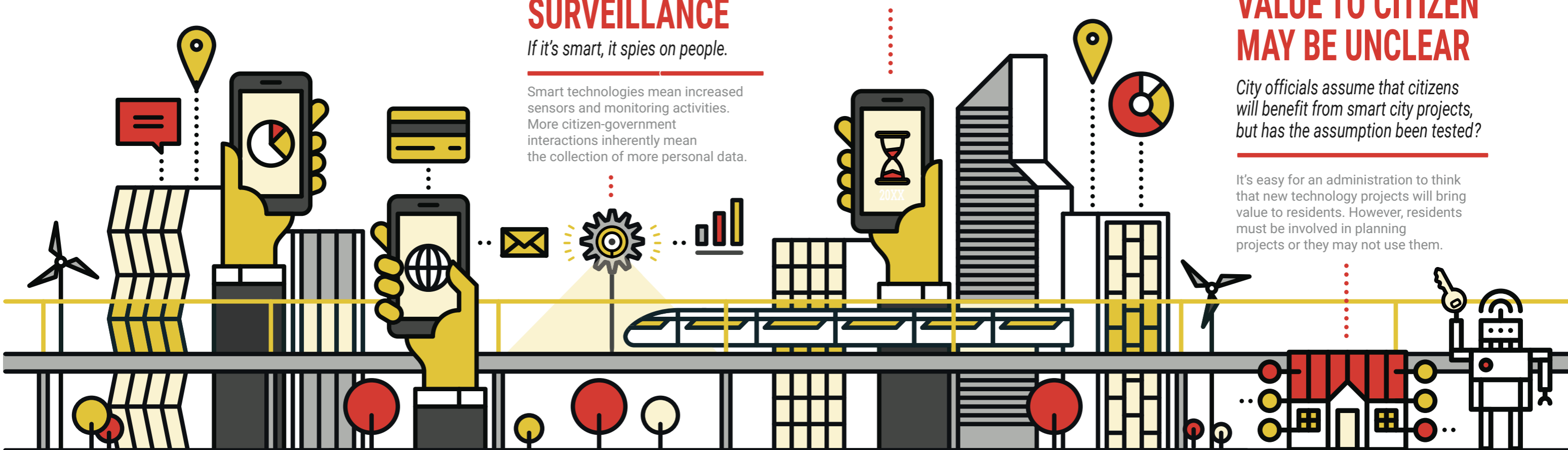
If it's smart, it spies on people.

Smart technologies mean increased sensors and monitoring activities. More citizen-government interactions inherently mean the collection of more personal data.

VALUE TO CITIZEN MAY BE UNCLEAR

City officials assume that citizens will benefit from smart city projects, but has the assumption been tested?

It's easy for an administration to think that new technology projects will bring value to residents. However, residents must be involved in planning projects or they may not use them.



Eticas Foundation advocates for ethical data governance in cities

There are many new technologies and services that can bring benefit to city residents and make government processes more efficient. To ensure sustainable smart city projects that have the support of citizens, ethics, privacy, politics and long-term business issues must be considered from the beginning.