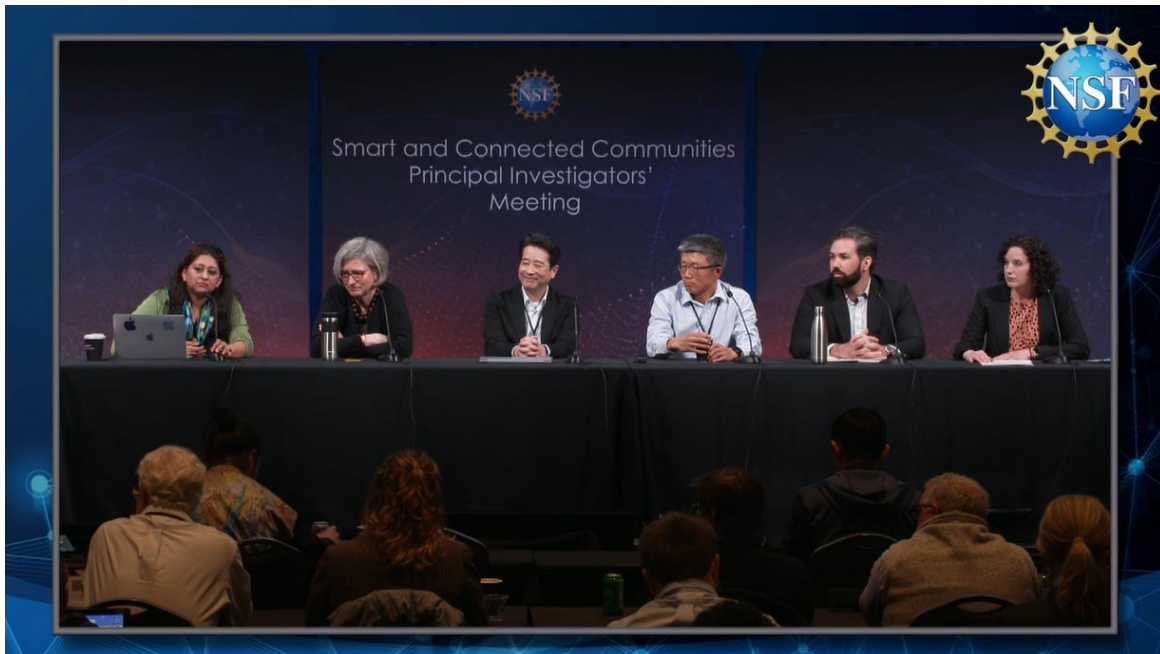


SCC PI MEETING AT VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, NASHVILLE, TN



Professors Soga and Comfort attended the National Science Foundation conference held for investigators of research projects funded under the Smart and Connected Communities Program at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, February 27-29, 2024.



The goal of the SCC program is to accelerate the growth of communities by integrating innovative technologies into basic community functions of economic development and entrepreneurship, safety and security, health and wellness, accessibility and inclusivity to improve the overall quality of community life. Conference attendees included principal investigators and co-principal investigators from the 161 projects funded under the SCC program. A small number of projects was selected for presentation to the audience of NSF program directors, investigators from other SCC projects, administrators from Vanderbilt University, and local policy makers from Nashville. Professor Soga was invited to present a summary of our current project, *Designing Smart, Sustainable Risk Reduction in Hazard-Prone Communities* focusing on wildfire risk, that was very well received. Other projects addressed issues such as monitoring air pollution, identifying potential risks in city sidewalks, and measuring changes in the heat index of cities exposed to extreme heat. The conference provided a welcome opportunity to meet with researchers from other regions of the country as well as NSF program directors.