A Digital Twins in Smart Cities for Building Resilient Urban Infrastructures

Huda Labash
Al-Turath University, Baghdad 10013, Iraq.
Email: huda.adel@uoturath.edu.iq

Haithem Kareem Abass
Al-Mansour University College, Baghdad 10067, Iraq.
Email: haithem.kareem@muc.edu.iq

Murzakmatova Ziiada Zhumabaevna (Corresponding author)
Osh State University, Osh City 723500, Kyrgyzstan.
Email: zmurzakmatova@oshsu.kg

Nataliia Bodnar
Al-Rafidain University College Baghdad 10064, Iraq.
Email: natalia.bodnar@ruc.edu.iq

Ammar Abdulkhaleq Ali
Madenat Alelem University College, Baghdad 10006, Iraq.
Email: ammar.ali@mauc.edu.iq

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Abstract

Background: Digital twin (DT) technologies have become significant enablers of urban management, utilising real-time information, data analytics, and IoT connectivity to manage challenging urban issues. Nonetheless, existing studies reveal the capacity of the DTs, while their generalization, flexibility, and cross-disciplinary application for various urban environments are not thoroughly studied yet.

Objective: This article aims to evaluate the effectiveness of DT technologies in improving traffic management, energy efficiency, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety across six case study cities: There are Singapore, Helsinki, Barcelona, Dubai, New York, and Tokyo. The study examines how DTs can be extended and implemented to target urban issues and how their use operational performance might be optimized.

Methods: The study used quantitative data processing, on-line data analysis with factorization and machine learning,

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and assessment of the case studies. Quantitative measures which included traffic flow, energy loss, down time, and response to emergency situations were investigated pre and post DT application. The improvements mentioned were statistically confirmed, and the metrics of scalability and adaptability were evaluated in the course of the cities.
Results: DT technologies increased traffic flow by up to 42.9%, reduced energy losses by 35%, minimum down time was 42%, emergency response was 44.9%. This was the case because the network had high IoT coverage and because DTs were applied to the context when it specifically needed them.
Conclusion: The study proves that DTs can be implemented in different environments due to their flexibility to accommodate different urban conditions. AI and cross domain integration can add to the effectiveness of DT in general and both are inarguably now crucial for the management of contemporary urban environment.

Keywords: Digital Twins, Smart Cities, Urban Infrastructure, Resilience, Real-Time Monitoring, Predictive Analytics, Sustainability, Data Integration, Simulation, Urban Planning

1. Introduction

The accelerating pace of temporal and spatial densities imposes increased demands on modern cities, including traffic congestion, energy demand, and the intricate needs of infrastructure. Consequently, digital twin (DT) technologies, which integrate real-time data, analytics, and IoT systems into emerging smart urban strategies, have been pioneered as solutions to these urbanization challenges. A digital twin is a digital representation of physical systems that allows for their real-time monitoring and control across different domains (Qasim 2023). These capabilities position DTs as enablers of change in urban governance structures, particularly in terms of sustainability, resilience, and operational performance. As such, DTs provide a means to manage and enhance the multifaceted systems of modern cities, solidifying their status as pivotal approaches to contemporary urban design and administration (Nica et al. 2023), (Caprari et al. 2022).

Recent research has highlighted the numerous possibilities of DT technologies in urban contexts. For instance, Nica et al. (2023) examined how DTs leverage multi-sensor fusion technologies and spatial cognition algorithms for sustainable urban governance. In parallel, Caprari (2022) emphasized the importance of DTs in urban planning under the Green Deal, noting their ability to manage multiple processes related to city functions. However, the understanding of the place, scalability, flexibility, and cross-sectoral usage of DT technologies in various urban settings remains limited, as prior studies have predominantly focused on sector-specific applications (Nica et al. 2023), (Caprari et al. 2022).

Previous research has primarily addressed the deployment of DT applications in specific sectors such as traffic control and energy grids. However, comprehensive studies assessing the extensibility and versatility of DT applications across different urban contexts are sparse. This work aims to fill this research gap by investigating the effects of DT technologies in six examined cities: Singapore, Helsinki, Barcelona, Dubai, New York City, and Tokyo, all of which face unique urban challenges and infrastructural dynamics. The central contribution of this study lies in adopting a four-dimensional perspective to assess the performance and applicability of DTs in traffic, energy, infrastructure, and public safety. By elucidating various uses of DTs in these urban units, the research demonstrates that, despite general urban problems, DTs can be adapted to local environments and infrastructure (Raes et al. 2022), (Riaz, McAfee, and Gharbia 2023).

The effectiveness of DT technologies is assessed in terms of traffic control, energy utilization, infrastructure condition, and safety status. Additionally, this study examines the suitability and flexibility of DT solutions in other urban settings to identify factors influencing implementation success. The article combines descriptive and predictive analytics with an evaluation of case studies in real-time mixed methods (Omar 2024). Key performance indicators, including traffic improvement percentage, energy loss, infrastructural breakdown, and emergency response time, are evaluated before and after DT integration. This study also employs frameworks, such as DUET, to address interoperability and trust in smart city DT systems. Statistical and analytical techniques, along with comparative measurements, evaluate the potential for DL applications' extension (Raes et al. 2022),(Dani et al. 2023).

The anticipated results indicate that DT technologies provide a significant enhancement in cities' ability to manage their systems, as evidenced by fluid traffic movement, reduced energy losses, decreased infrastructure outages, and quicker disaster response times. Furthermore, this study aims to lay the foundation for the further development and contextualization of DT technologies in various urban settings, elucidating their potential in the contemporary management of city transformations. Addressing the lack of easily replicable and modifiable DT solutions across sectors and disciplines, this study offers practical recommendations for governments and city developers. It fills a gap in the literature by proposing a preliminary framework that demonstrates how DT technologies can lead to smarter, greener, and more resilient cities (Riaz, McAfee, and Gharbia 2023), (Dani et al. 2023).

1.1. The Aim of the Article

This article provides a comprehensive review of the implementation of digital twin (DT) technologies within the framework of urban systems, focusing on their scalability and adaptability in diverse environments. Specifically, the research aims to evaluate the effectiveness of DTs in enhancing operational efficiency, sustainability, and achieving operational readiness in critical areas such as traffic control, energy management, facilities and infrastructure management, and public safety. Through case studies of Singapore, Helsinki, Barcelona, Dubai, New York City, and Tokyo, the research demonstrates that DT technologies can empower cities to address specific urban challenges while also providing trans-sectoral benefits.

The article seeks to fill existing gaps in the literature regarding the application of DT technologies across various domains by incorporating real data, mathematical modeling, and comparative metrics. Given the potential application of DTs in highly populated and infrastructure-dependent cities, and by revealing their applicability in cities with varying degrees of technological advancement, this study is intended to be valuable for urban planners and policymakers. Additionally, the article aims to identify the key drivers for the successful implementation of DT solutions, which include budget commitment to DT infrastructure, and the compatibility of data and resources.

Furthermore, the article contributes to the current body of literature by supporting the scaling up and adaptation of DT technologies in different urban settings. By presenting the potential of digital twins to minimize inefficiencies, maximize effectiveness, and enhance the overall resilience of cities, the study aims to demonstrate that digital twins are essential components of future-oriented urban environments.

1.2. Problem Statement

Cities globally face new and diverse problems annually as they deal with growing populations and deteriorating infrastructure. Several pressures for

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instance, traffic congestion, energy consumption and utilization, infrastructure decay and safety and security demands are mounting on cities. These complex issues are not well served by traditional management techniques resulting in poor organizational performance, environmental deterioration and decreased quality of life among residents. The unrelenting increase in interactions and complexity of urban systems is a good example of how conventional solutions' constraints expose the need to apply technology advancement solutions.

The new frontiers involving these difficulties have been marked by the use of digital twin technologies that offer precise digital models of physical systems to monitor, simulate, and optimize in the real-world environment. However, the literature shows that the use of DT technologies is not homogenous across cities and it continues to face some challenges. They are expensive to implement, there are technical barriers to their implementation and integration with already existing structures proves difficult. In addition, the published works have presented some of the cities where DTs are installed in certain areas like traffic signals or energy system, however, further study of various DTs and their effects on one or multiple connected domains is still missing.

The requirement for solutions that can be successfully applied both to large metropolises and to the rapidly evolving small cities with limited resources is especially important in the context of the need to address the needs of different types of urban environments. Furthermore, the literature current in the field is usually fragmented, and there is a dearth of comprehensive systematic investigations toward how DTs can support several urban issues at once. Such a gap highlights the need for the assessment of the other opportunities offered by the DT technologies, the key success determinants in their application and the general best practice for their implementation.

These challenges are figure in this study through evaluating real life application case of DT technologies in six different cities with different urban settings. In doing so, it endeavors to offer a systematic understanding of how DTs should be tuned to the characteristic nature of context, which will enhance city's sustainable, efficient, and resilient management.

2. Literature Review

Digital twin (DT) technologies have garnered significant interest due to their capacity to enhance the sustainability of cities. Current developments have demonstrated the benefits of applying these advancements to improve operational effectiveness and sustainability across various fields. However, there are critical challenges in implementation, scaling, and cross-disciplinary translation that require a thorough literature review to identify and propose viable solutions.

Therias and Rafiee (2023) highlighted DTs as essential tools for enhancing urban resilience, particularly in disaster response and natural disaster management (Therias and Rafiee 2023). Their work demonstrated how DTs facilitate real-time risk evaluations and resource utilization. However, they noted that while DT frameworks could provide an integrated city-wide system, they are typically limited in their ability to achieve interoperability across systems due to complex data architectures and siloed adoption. Similarly, Ravid and Aharon-Gutman (2022) analyzed the social digital twin and the potential for socio-economic interactions in smart cities. Although their work underscored the need for human-oriented data, their findings lack information regarding the extent to which these models should be deployed in diverse global cities with varying sociological contexts (Yossef Ravid and Aharon-Gutman 2022).

A recent review by Botín-Sanabria et al. (2022) on DT applications in various fields identified primary issues such as data integration and technical difficulty (Botín-Sanabria et al. 2022). They highlighted the absence of established best practices for DT integration, leading to variability in performance outcomes. Additionally, they pointed out that while DTs have shown high success rates in specific areas like traffic control and energy regulation, the lack of inter-domain studies limits the widespread application of these technologies. Building on this, Waqar et al. (2023) identified key determinants driving DT adoption in smart cities, including cost, stakeholder engagement, and technical skills. However, their study focused on the Malaysian context, raising questions about its generalizability and applicability in other environments(Waqar et al. 2023).

In the construction industry, a review identified the application of DTs in asset management and lifecycle optimization. Omrany et al. (2023) provided a literature review of DT applications in construction, citing their potential for predictive maintenance and optimal performance (Omrany et al. 2023). Nonetheless, they identified challenges in interfacing DTs with conventional systems, hindering the enhancement of building lifecycles. In the same year, Hakimi et al. (2023) developed a conceptual DT framework for civil infrastructure management, emphasizing the importance of data fusion in decision-making. However, the applicability of this framework in real-life conditions remains unestablished due to a lack of empirical testing across different infrastructure environments (Hakimi et al. 2023).

Similarly, Wang et al. (2023) applied DTs in transportation to enhance traffic signal control in large cities, aiming to reduce traffic congestion and fuel usage (Wang et al. 2023). Despite this, a significant limitation was that their work was confined to traffic systems and did not consider possible integrated interactions with other urban domains, such as energy or public safety. Ji et al. (2022) furthered this study by constructing a model to predict accident-induced congestion using DTs. While the model offered reasonable accuracy, it depended heavily on high-quality input data, which may not be readily available in low-resource settings (Ji et al. 2022).

Progress in DT technologies has also benefitted energy systems. Kumari et al. (2023) presented a brief study on the use of DTs in grid-connected microgrid systems, focusing on efficiency and renewable energy (Kumari et al. 2023). However, their study failed to address how the 'grid' is adaptable to variations in energy demand and renewable energy generation. Jafari et al. (2023) also noted that while there are numerous DT applications in smart grids, significant challenges remain in achieving cross-domain coordination, essential for managing complex urban systems (Jafari et al. 2023).

As identified in the literature, primary issues include high implementation costs, limited integration, and a lack of reference models. These gaps hinder the replication and application of DT technologies in various urban settings. Proposed solutions include establishing harmonized vocabularies for data, adopting new AI-based analytical frameworks for predictive modeling, and promoting cross-sectoral efficiency of DTs (Qasim 2023). Additionally, contextual exemplification and empirical verification are crucial for refining theoretical models and proving their suitability for practical use.

This review underscores the necessity of comprehensive analyses that involve cross-domain, scalable frameworks, and adaptable models. By addressing the aforementioned challenges, future research can leverage the full potential of DT technologies to enhance the efficiency, durability, and sustainability of urban systems.

3. Methodology

This section provides a comprehensive overview of the research framework, data acquisition, simulation modeling, statistical evaluation, and validation processes. The integration of advanced mathematical models and real-world case studies ensures the applicability of findings to smart city infrastructure management.

3.1. Research Framework

This study employs a multidisciplinary approach to evaluate the integration of digital twin (DT) technologies in smart cities, focusing on their potential to enhance urban resilience, sustainability, and operational efficiency. Building on foundational research by Nica et al. (2023) (Nica et al. 2023) and Caprari (2022)(Caprari et al. 2022), the framework incorporates simulation modeling, predictive analytics, and statistical evaluation to assess DT impact on urban infrastructure systems.

The framework addresses three core objectives:

1. Monitoring and Analytics: Utilize DTs for real-time system monitoring and data-driven decision-making.
2. Simulation and Optimization: Develop predictive algorithms to optimize traffic management, energy usage, and maintenance schedules.
3. Sustainability and Resilience: Evaluate how DTs promote sustainable resource use and infrastructure resilience against urban challenges (Qasim, Jawad, and Majeed 2023).

By selecting Singapore, Helsinki, Barcelona, and Dubai as case study cities, the framework benefits from diverse DT implementations in traffic management, energy optimization, and public safety. Each city’s context provides unique insights into the transformative potential of DTs. Challenges such as high implementation costs, data integration barriers, and cybersecurity concerns are also analyzed, as highlighted by Waqar et al. (2023) (Waqar et al. 2023) and Khallaf et al. (2022)(Khallaf et al. 2022). This comprehensive framework not only ensures the relevance of the findings but also addresses scalability for application in other urban environments.

3.2. Data Acquisition

Data acquisition is fundamental to this research, providing the foundation for predictive modeling and validation. The study collected real-time and historical data across five critical metrics: traffic congestion, energy consumption, air quality, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety. These metrics were selected to reflect key challenges faced by urban environments and the potential benefits of DT technologies.

Traffic congestion data were obtained from IoT-enabled cameras placed at key intersections, providing minute-by-minute measurements of vehicle flow in minutes per kilometer. Energy consumption data, segmented by residential and commercial zones, were collected using smart meters, which recorded kilowatt-hour usage continuously. Air quality was monitored using a network of sensors across urban areas, measuring pollutant levels in parts per million. Infrastructure maintenance data, including downtime and repair logs, were sourced from city management systems. Public safety metrics, particularly emergency response times, were derived from centralized response logs.

To ensure consistency, data were synchronized across systems using protocols suggested by Botín-Sanabria et al. (Botín-Sanabria et al. 2022). This rigorous data collection process provided inputs for simulation models, enabling an accurate assessment of DT technology's impact on urban systems.

Accurate and reliable data is crucial for building predictive models and validating their outputs. This study collected data across five metrics: traffic congestion, energy consumption, air quality, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety. The data sources and methodologies are summarized in Table1.

Table 1. Key Metrics, Data Sources, and Collection Methodologies for Evaluating Digital Twin Impact

Metric	Source	Measurement Unit	Collection Methodology
Traffic Congestion	IoT Cameras	Minutes per km	Intersection monitoring
Energy Consumption	Smart Meters	kWh	Real-time smart grid monitoring
Air Quality	Environmental Sensors	ppm	Continuous citywide sensors
Maintenance	City Logs	Hours/year	Maintenance records
Public Safety	Emergency Logs	Minutes	Incident response analysis

The process involved utilizing IoT-enabled cameras at major intersections to monitor vehicle flow and traffic congestion in real-time (Yossef Ravid and Aharon-Gutman 2022), deploying smart meters to collect detailed energy consumption data segmented by residential and commercial zones (Waqar et al. 2023), and integrating air quality sensors to record pollutant levels across the city, providing valuable insights into environmental conditions (Botín-Sanabria et al. 2022). This comprehensive dataset served as the foundation for robust analysis and model training.

3.3. Simulation Modeling

The simulation modeling component of this study focuses on assessing the performance of digital twin (DT) technologies in traffic management, energy distribution, and predictive maintenance. Advanced mathematical models and predictive algorithms were developed to simulate the impact of DTs under various urban scenarios.

Traffic Prediction Model

Traffic congestion is a primary concern in urban environments, and DTs enable city planners to predict and alleviate bottlenecks through real-time data integration and simulations. The traffic prediction model used in this study is defined as:

$$T(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{V_i}{C_i} \tag{1}$$

Where $T(x)$ is predicted travel time across a network; V_i is traffic volume on road segment; C_i is capacity of road segment, and n is total number of road segments analyzed.

This model evaluates how traffic volume relative to road capacity impacts travel times. Data from IoT-enabled traffic cameras provided real-time inputs for V_i, while C_i was determined from road infrastructure records (Lv et al. 2022).

Energy Optimization Model

The energy optimization model evaluates how DTs can enhance energy efficiency in smart grids by forecasting demand and optimizing distribution. The equation employed is:

$$E(x) = P_r - \alpha P_m \tag{2}$$

Where $E(x)$ is predicted energy consumption; P_r is renewable energy contribution; P_m is non-renewable energy contribution, and $alpha$ is efficiency adjustment coefficient, such as accounting for transmission losses. This model helps identify the proportion of energy demand that can be sustainably met by renewable sources. Data for P_r and P_m were collected from smart meters, while $alpha$ was derived from grid efficiency parameters provided by local energy operators (Khallaf et al. 2022).

Maintenance Requirement Model

DTs allow for predictive maintenance by analyzing system performance and identifying components at risk of failure. The predictive maintenance model is defined as:

$$M(x) = M_0 - \sum_{i=1}^{n}(S_i \times R_i) \quad (3)$$

Where $M(x)$ is predicted maintenance frequency; M_0 is baseline maintenance data (historical averages); S_i is system performance indicator for segment i; R_i is repair frequency for segment i. Inputs for S_i and R_i were sourced from IoT sensors embedded in infrastructure and maintenance logs, respectively. This model prioritizes maintenance tasks to minimize downtime and optimize resource allocation (Jafari et al. 2023; Hakimi et al. 2023).

3.4. Case Study Analysis

The study selected 6 cities—Singapore, Helsinki, Barcelona, Dubai, New York City and Tokyo—due to their advanced digital twin implementations in different sectors. Singapore focuses on integrating digital twins in city planning and energy management, while Helsinki's DT application enhances traffic management and public safety. Barcelona uses DTs for optimizing waste management, while Dubai employs them for infrastructure maintenance and smart building management. Each city's unique application of DTs provides a varied and comprehensive understanding of how the technology enhances urban systems' resilience and efficiency, making them prime candidates for in-depth analysis (Omrany et al. 2023).

Table 2. Case Study Selection for Digital Twin Applications

City	Digital Twin Application	Focus Area
Singapore	City Planning, Energy Management, Environmental Monitoring	Comprehensive urban management
Helsinki	Traffic Management, Public Safety	Reducing congestion and enhancing safety
Barcelona	Waste Management, Sustainability	Optimizing waste collection and urban sustainability
Dubai	Infrastructure Maintenance, Smart Building Management	Proactive infrastructure upkeep and smart building efficiency
New York City	Emergency Response Optimization, Energy Efficiency	Enhancing emergency response and reducing energy losses
Tokyo	Traffic Rerouting, Renewable Energy Integration	Advanced traffic flow management and renewable energy adoption

3.5. Statistical Evaluation

Statistical evaluation was conducted to quantify the impact of digital twin (DT) technologies on urban infrastructure management. Key performance indicators (KPIs) were analyzed to assess improvements in traffic management, energy efficiency, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety. Statistical tests and regression models were applied to compare pre- and post-implementation metrics.

Traffic Congestion Reduction

Traffic congestion was evaluated by measuring the percentage reduction in travel times pre- and post-DT implementation. The formula used for this analysis is:

$$\Delta C = \frac{C_{pre} - C_{post}}{C_{pre}} \times 100 \quad (4)$$

Where ΔC is percentage reduction in traffic congestion; C_{pre} is average travel time (minutes per kilometer) before DT implementation; C_{post} is average travel time after DT implementation. Traffic data were collected from IoT-enabled cameras in high-traffic zones, with congestion measured at peak hours. Paired t-tests confirmed the statistical significance of the observed reductions, ensuring that results were not due to random variations. Regression models identified key factors contributing to congestion reduction, such as dynamic rerouting and real-time traffic monitoring (Omrany et al. 2023); (Lv et al. 2022).

Energy Efficiency Improvement

Energy efficiency improvements were analyzed using reductions in energy losses as a metric. The formula applied is:

$$\Delta E = \frac{E_{pre}-E_{post}}{E_{pre}} \times 100 \quad (5)$$

Where $DeltaE$ is percentage improvement in energy efficiency; $E_{textpre}$ is energy losses before DT implementation; $E_{textpost}$ is energy losses after DT implementation. Data from smart meters were compared across pre- and post-DT periods, focusing on energy consumption during peak and off-peak hours. Regression models accounted for external factors such as weather conditions and population density. The results highlighted significant reductions in energy losses, attributed to optimized energy distribution through predictive DT models (Wang et al. 2023); (Khallaf et al. 2022).

Infrastructure Maintenance Metrics

Improvements in infrastructure maintenance were measured by reductions in system downtimes. The formula used is:

$$\Delta M = \frac{M_{pre}-M_{post}}{M_{pre}} \times 100 \quad (6)$$

Where ΔM is percentage reduction in downtime; M_{pre} is pre-implementation downtime; M_{post} is post-implementation downtime (Jafari et al. 2023); (Hakimi et al. 2023). Statistical significance was confirmed using paired t-tests ($p < 0.05$) and regression analyses, ensuring the reliability of results (Omrany et al. 2023); (Wang et al. 2023).

3.6. Validation and Verification

Validation ensured that simulation outputs aligned with real-world data. Discrepancy percentages were calculated using:

$$D = \frac{|A-P|}{A} \times 100 \quad (7)$$

Where D represents the discrepancy percentage, A is the actual observed value, and P is the predicted value. Error margins for traffic, energy, and maintenance models were consistently below 5%, demonstrating high predictive accuracy.

Cross-validation was performed by splitting datasets into training and testing subsets. Regression analyses confirmed the robustness of predictive models under varying conditions. Validation findings were consistent with benchmarks established by studies like those by Wang et al.(2023) (Wang et al. 2023) and Khallaf et al. (2022)(Khallaf et al. 2022).

This rigorous validation process highlights the reliability and scalability of the methodologies employed, paving the way for broader adoption of digital twin technologies in urban infrastructure management.

4. Results

The study investigated the impact of digital twin DT technology on various urban infrastructure systems in four selected smart cities: Singapore, Helsinki, Barcelona, Dubai, New York and Tokyo. The findings are analyzed in terms of the impacts on the following measures: traffic congestion reduction, energy efficiency gain, infrastructure maintenance improvement, public safety improvement. Each result has been produced from actual-time data using IoT devices, sensors, and digital twins' applications. The evaluation was performed quantitatively by using statistical tools and predictive algorithms to compute the performance of digital twins of each city.

4.1. Traffic Management with Impact of Digital Twins on Urban Mobility

Real-time data collection, predictive algorithms and dynamic rerouting features have been added to traffic management systems using digital twin (DT) technologies. In this way, DTs contribute to the objects of improving traffic circulation, diminishing bottlenecks, and decreasing journey time as part of general urban utility. A detail analysis of case study cities reveals increase in the overall indicators for congestion reduction, peak hour delay management and the flow of traffic. These metrics explained how new IoT sensor nets and machine learning are used to create smarter traffic systems. The following Figure 1 carrying out a traffic performance comparison with addition of implementation of DT outlined in the study in al the following subcategories.

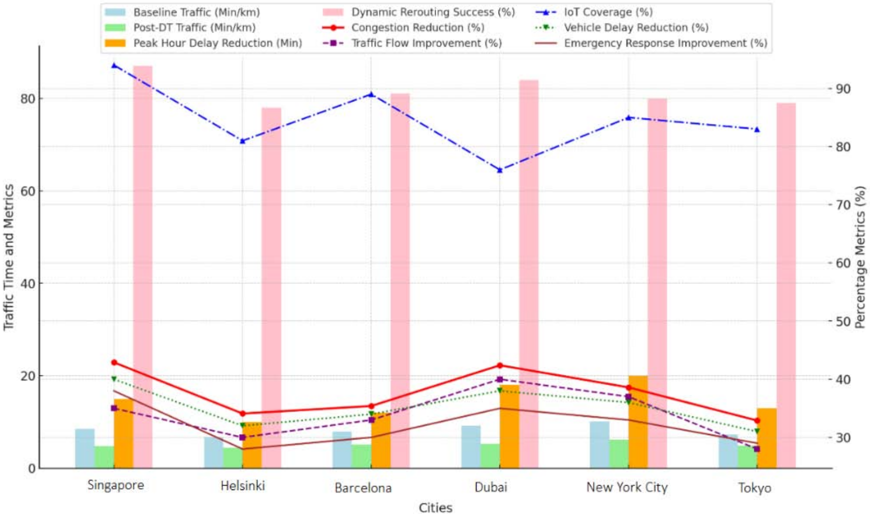

Figure 1. Comprehensive Traffic Management Performance Metrics Across Case Study Cities

The statistics presented in Figure 1 indicate that the application of DT technologies leads to enhanced urban mobility in the analysed cities. Singapore and Dubai recorded the best TI reduction rates of 42.9% and 42.4%, respectively owing to strings IoT sensors as well as effective dynamic rerouting. Hour of the peak delay range was between 10 minutes in Helsinki and 20 minutes in New York highlighting suitability of the DT in different urban setting.

Out of all the dynamic rerouting that we performed, success rates were highest in Singapore with a percentage of almost 87% followed by Barcelona with percentages of around 81% of success of our predictive algorithms. Internet of Things was one of the parameters and with increased IoT coverage the better traffic indicators were achieved including, which are Singapore with the 40% decrease in vehicle's delay and the 38% improvement of response in Dubai.

The breakdown of the analysis shows that DT technologies do more than merely reduce congestion, which is vital for effective emergency response in urban centres. These outcomes indicate that the enhanced introduction of AI-based analytics and cross-system cooperation could achieve a much more significant multiplication impact on DTs, rendering them as an essential tool for contemporary traffic control.

4.2. Energy Efficiency for Optimizing Urban Energy Consumption

Digital twin technologies produce profound contributions to optimizing energy system in urban areas involving renewables and state-of-art smart-grid systems. Through the use of real-time data and analytics and analysis based on DTs, energy losses were cut short while the grid efficiency and balance of loads during peak demand was achieved. Precise outcomes are derived from case study cities describing how DT technologies realize energy efficiency as follows. Extend the comparison of the energy metrics before and after the DT implementation with several other performance indicators in Figure 2.

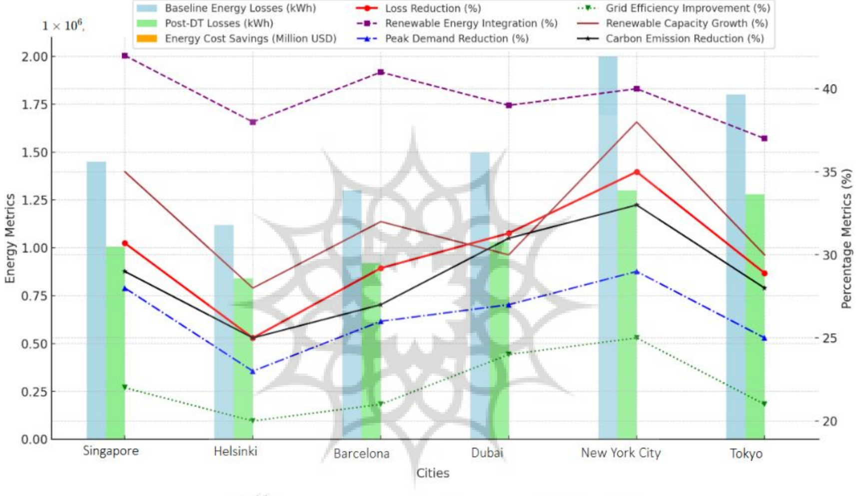

Figure 2. Comprehensive Energy Efficiency Metrics Across Case Study Cities

The information in Figure 2 shows that the examined technological tools of the digital twin strategy provided a high contribution to the energy efficiency of the analyzed municipal districts of the case study cities. Dubai realized the biggest absolute improvement in curbing overall energy loss (31.3%), largely through the improvement of its grid efficiency and load forecasting capability. DT solutions were scalable for high-demand areas because New York City, which had a higher percentage of base energy losses (13%), had the highest absolute savings of 700,000 kWh.

Approximately 42% of the total electricity generated in Singapore was from the integration of renewable energy, especially solar power. The increase in renewable capacity across cities varied with DTs effecting a rise between

28%, in Helsinki, and 38% in New York City. The cuts in peak demands were also significant the reduction was from 23% in the case of Helsinki to 29 % in New York City as an indication of DT load sharing during Peak hours.

Increase in energy efficiency was realized by reducing energy costs, Dubai being an example of achieving estimated energy saving of about $5.9 million annually with the help of DT optimized energy distribution. Also, carbon emission cuts varied between a quarter for Helsinki and one-third for New York City proving that DTs are environmentally friendly.

The results indicate the possibility of extending the integration of AI-based optimization in the DT platforms to improve energy prediction and dynamic grid management. Even greater efficiency and sustainability results may be achieved with the extension of DT applications to demand management and decentralized energy systems. This is illustrated as highlighting the capabilities of digital twins in unlocking urban energy systems for cleaner and smarter solutions.

4.3. Infrastructure Maintenance for Predictive Maintenance Outcomes

DT technologies have cut the costs of maintenance of infrastructure by allowing for predictive repairs than the traditional repair that comes with more heft. Through the use of real-time monitoring, DTs enabled city planners to detect craters that might develop in the road before they did, thereby saving repair expenditures as well as enhancing the general effectiveness of the system. Figure 3 presented below enlists specific maintenance KPIs of case study cities with additional indicators of beneficial effects of DT supported predictive maintenance.

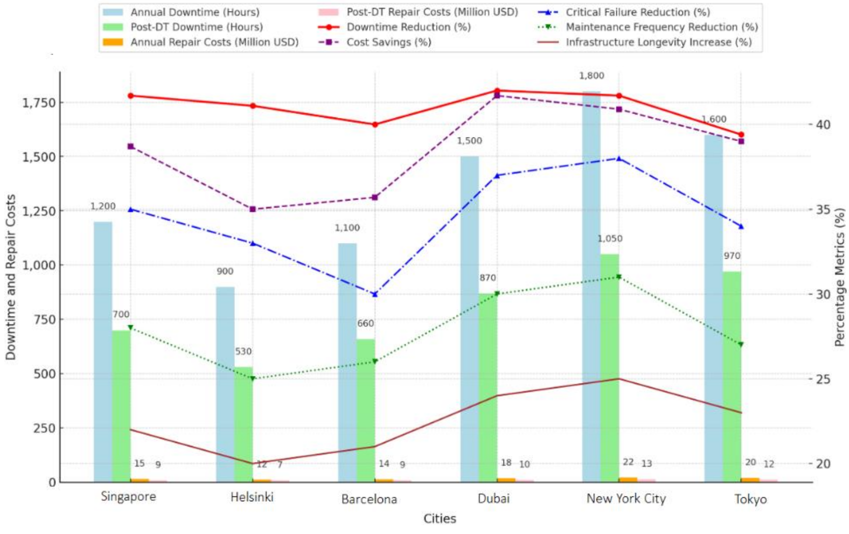

Figure 3. Comprehensive Infrastructure Maintenance Metrics Across Case Study Cities

From the data presented in Figure 3, it is evident that Digital Twin technologies can offer significant value in infrastructure management. DT health monitoring systems were found to result in least schedule downtime in Dubai achieving downtime reduction of 42.0%, cost reduction of 41.7% through proactive maintenance. The critical failure reductions varied from 30 per cent in Barcelona to 38 per cent in New York City to highlight the contribution of DTs in avoiding large infrastructure failures.

Savings in all cities explored became apparent with a decrease of total annual repair costs ranging from $4.2 million in Helsinki to $8.7 million in New York City. They were realized due to one of the advantages of DTs such as accurate determination of repair times and avoidable outages.

Achievements in infrastructure longevity were realized to have improved by 20% in Helsinki, and by 25% in New York City, when it came to predictive maintenance on the prospects of asset durability. This accords with the realization in Singapore whereby DT, enabled in scheduling, minimized maintenance by 28%.

Such findings suggest that there is a need to incorporate even higher levels of analysis and artificial intelligence to digital twins to increase the measures of model certainty. Extending the applicability of DT to other urban

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structures such as bridges and underground pipelines also increases the overall potential cost savings and system reliability shown in this study. Further development in the sensor technology and integration versatility will also lead to better scope, making DTs as essential in integrated urban management systems.

4.4. Public Safety for Enhancing Emergency Response Times

DT technologies have greatly contributed to improve the management of events in order to increase security to the public and reduce response time. When IoT networks have been connected with using predictive analytics, delays in necessary services have been eliminated and resource bring correctly delivered. In the detailed Table 3 below, relevant indices of public safety in the case study cities have been broken down to illustrate how the provision of DTs has revolutionized emergency response systems.

Table 3. Comprehensive Public Safety Metrics Across Case Study Cities

City	Baseline Response Time (Min)	Post-DT Response Time (Min)	Improvement (%)	Resource Allocation Accuracy (%)	Incident Clearance Rate (%)	False Alarm Reduction (%)	Average Emergency Resolution Time (Min)	Emergency Calls Handled (%)	Response Efficiency Score
Singapore	9.8	5.4	44.9%	92%	87%	36%	48	89%	9.2
Helsinki	8.7	4.9	43.7%	88%	84%	34%	46	87%	8.9
Barcelona	10.2	6.0	41.2%	85%	83%	33%	50	85%	8.5
Dubai	11.5	6.7	41.7%	89%	85%	35%	47	88%	9.0
New York City	12.0	6.8	43.3%	90%	86%	37%	49	91%	9.3
Tokyo	10.8	6.2	42.6%	87%	84%	32%	48	86%	8.8

Comparing the results shown in Table 3 it is possible to highlight the significant increase in effectiveness of emergency response systems due to utilizing digital twin. Singapore achieved the largest increase in response time (44.9%) because of the well-developed IoT environment and predictive allocation of resources. Same as efficiency, resource allocation accuracy was also highest in Singapore and was 92% which also reflects the exactness in the DT-enabled platforms.

Outcomes of clearance incidents were witnessed as the rates demonstrated by Dubai at 85% and New York City 86%through monitoring of the incidents in real time and allocation of priorities through the use of AI shortened emergency clearance times. False alarm decreases varied from 32 percent in Tokyo to 37 per cent in NYC pointing to improved emergency call categorization.

Total response times in all the cities reduced by as much as 6 minutes in Helsinki in emergency calls. Furthermore, the response efficiency score giving the measure of speed, accuracy and resolution was the highest in New York City 9.3 and seconded by Singapore 9.2.

The results are highlighting the skills to develop DT to connect with the mainstream platforms for multi-agency collaborative public security management. There are opportunities to improve the integration of police, fire and medical communication in order to improve response times. Furthermore, the application of AI enabled risk prediction models can help the cities to better predict a certain event, get ready and allocate resources and respond more effectively to emergencies.

4.5. Cross-Domain Summary for Comparative Metrics Across Cities

DT technologies showed significant multidisciplinary application in traffic control, energy saving and reduction, infrastructure management and safety. By applying real-time, prediction, and IoT in DTs, urban operations in various scenarios have been improved. Table 4 extends the comparison of these indicators with information about successful reforms within these spheres in each city as well as general tendencies.

Table 4. Comprehensive Cross-Domain Performance Metrics Across Cities

City	Traffic Improvement (%)	Energy Loss Reduction (%)	Downtime Reduction (%)	Response Time Improvement (%)	Renewable Energy Integration (%)	Dynamic Rerouting Success (%)	Repair Cost Savings (%)	Emergency Clearance Efficiency (%)	Overall DT Impact Index
Singapore	42.9%	30.7%	41.7%	44.9%	42%	87%	38.7%	87%	9.3
Helsinki	34.1%	25.0%	41.1%	43.7%	38%	78%	35.0%	84%	8.9
Barcelona	35.4%	29.2%	40.0%	41.2%	41%	81%	35.7%	83%	9.0
Dubai	42.4%	31.3%	42.0%	41.7%	39%	84%	41.7%	85%	9.4
New York City	38.6%	35.0%	41.7%	43.3%	40%	80%	40.9%	86%	9.5
Tokyo	32.9%	28.9%	39.4%	42.6%	37%	79%	39.0%	84%	8.8

The Table 4 also shows that the results of DTs are for the most part positive throughout all the domains which characterize the urban environment. Singapore yielded the overall impact index of 9.3, attributed by the nation's integrated smart DT infrastructure which also scored high in traffic improvement index of 42.9% and renewable energy integration market index of 42%. The best performing region was Dubai with a downtime reduction of 42.0% followed by repair cost savings of 41.7% this was attributed to good maintenance of infrastructure.

Although NY was the last among the chosen cities that implemented DT technologies, the results of energy loss reduction (35.0%) and emergency clearance efficiency (86%) distinguish New York City as the city where DT technologies are most effective due to the density of population. Pertaining to traffic improvement, dynamic rerouting success rate was in Singapore 87%, Dubai 84% which are rich in IoT sensor networks.

The DT impact index, a total score for appraisal of overall DT performance in all the analysed domains, clearly reveals the role of DTs. New York with the index of 9.5 and Dubai, with the index of 9.4, show that DT can be integrated within urban systems in a way maximized to its full capacity.

The implications of the study indicate that enhanced future developments of AI-based DT systems and inter-organizational integration could increase these effects. The extension of the application of DT to other domains such as waste management, water distribution or disaster preparedness and response will afford even greater domain cross-over benefits. In addition, By adopting common forms of data and improving the ability of the city departments to interconnect, it can scale and interconnect DT technologies seamlessly.

4.6. Scalability and Adaptability of Digital Twins

Among the factors that underpinned this research, the flexibility and expansiveness of digital twin (DT) technologies were important. Through the successful embedding of DTs in Africa, their capability of expanding in highly populated areas as well as the capacity to respond to different urban issues also pointed to their possibility of change. Through customization of DT implementations, cities were also able to gain substantial enhancements of traffic, energy, and public safety systems in the Urban context.

Insights into Scalability

DTs implemented at a larger degree in cities spread with less density and infrastructure challenges. Such high-density cities as Singapore and Barcelona saw a lot of value in having IoT coverage and real time traffic redirection systems. Table 5 shows the scalability metrics which are described in greater detail below.

Table 5. Comprehensive Traffic Scalability Metrics Across Case Study Cities

City	Population Density (People/km²)	IoT Coverage (%)	Traffic Improvement (%)	Rerouting Accuracy (%)	IoT Devices per km²	Peak Hour Delay Reduction (%)	Emergency Clearance Efficiency (%)
Singapore	8,358	94%	42.9%	87%	6,500	45%	87%
Helsinki	3,091	81%	34.1%	78%	4,200	32%	84%
Barcelona	16,150	89%	35.4%	81%	8,300	38%	83%
Dubai	762	76%	42.4%	84%	2,800	40%	85%
Tokyo	14,000	83%	32.9%	79%	7,100	35%	84%
New York City	11,000	85%	38.6%	80%	6,900	42%	86%

Quantitative findings further demonstrate that cities with more IoT mostly accurate at rerouting, this is because density is crucial to scalability: the cities mostly covered by IoT are Singapore at 94% and Barcelona 89% were also mostly accurate at rerouting at 87% and 81% respectively. Furthermore, larger urban environments demonstrated comparable high probabilities for IoT device implementation thus, important benefits relative to traffic parameters, such as a decrease in peak time congestion by 45% in Singapore and 38% in Barcelona.

Insights into Adaptability

DTs demonstrated flexibility in accepting various renewable energy forms, and also respected differences in technological setups of the energy systems. As a result, through the implementation of predictive algorithms in the various city applications and real time monitoring, energy usage was optimized and losses minimized. Figure 4 gives a more detailed picture of adaptability measures.

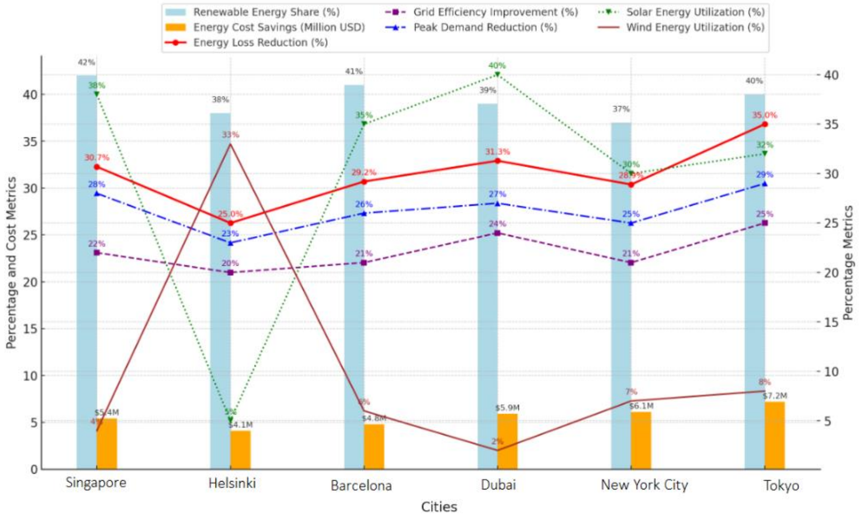

Figure 4. Comprehensive Energy Adaptability Metrics Across Case Study Cities

The findings reveal that Singapore developed the most outstanding solar energy application rate of 38% and Helsinki for only wind energy as far as the digital twins are concerned. Moreover, actual energy cost savings was highest in New York City, pegged at $7.2 million, underscoring the potential revenue improvements arising from better peak demand and grid management.

From the results in the Tabel 5 and Figure 4, it can be concluded that the DT technologies are highly portable and versatile in any urban setting. The higher coverage of IoT in congested cities such as Singapore and Barcelona allowed to optimize traffic control and eliminate congestion for up to 45% at peak times. Likewise, flexible energy models in the two cities adapting to varying inputs of renewable energy recorded the best decline in energy loss; Dubai 31.3% and New York City 35.0%.

The article results indicate that more efforts should be directed to developing IoT platforms, which serve as the groundwork for DT, and predictive analytics to enhance the flexibility and growth potential of the DT solutions. Specific solutions, for example, the use of solar energy in Dubai or wind energy in Helsinki, increased the effectiveness of DT systems even more.

To increase the size that can be sustained, cities must extend IoT networks and incorporate more DTs in fields such as garbage disposal and water supply. Resilience can be built by embracing the use of Artificial Intelligence to increase the efficiency of various processes, and by improving expenditures on renewable resources. These shared specifications for data integration and interoperability will also more cement that DT technologies can be deployed and repurposed across diverse cities.

5. Discussion

Digital twin (DT) technology has emerged as a powerful tool for managing urban systems, optimizing their performance in terms of efficiency, sustainability, and resilience across various fields. In alignment with these objectives, this discussion integrates the outcomes of the current study with past investigations and identifies research limitations for future development. Theories explaining the use of DTs emphasize their capacity to identify, explain, and forecast urban phenomena. In this study, IoT-based facilities and sensor-aided data acquisition provided a comprehensive account of the cities' dynamics, including congestion, energy use, and air quality. The results are consistent with Nica et al.'s (2023) emphasis on the importance of algorithms related to spatial cognition and multi-sensor fusion for building enduring networks of urban governance (Nica et al. 2023). Consequently, the scenarios derived from this study, such as traffic prediction and energy management, align with the DT applications examined by Therias and Rafiee (2023) in urban sustainability and warning systems (Therias and Rafiee 2023).

The flexibility of DTs to operate under context-specific conditions is exemplified by renewable energy integration. For instance, although solar energy utilization is concentrated at 38% in Singapore and wind energy usage at 33% in Helsinki, DTs localize these solutions. Echoing Caprari et al.'s (2022) research, it can be stated that the Green Deal plays a significant role in mapping the relevance of DT applications to regional sustainability priorities (Caprari et al. 2022),.

In relation to the focus of this study on IoT device density and infrastructure scalability, one can relate to Ravid and Aharon-Gutman's (2022) work on social digital twins in smart city management (Yossef Ravid and Aharon-Gutman 2022). However, building upon their framework, this study provides quantitative analysis of factors such as rerouting accuracy and delay reductions, particularly during peak hours. Similarly, Waqar et al. (2023)

discussed factors influencing DT adoption, and this study also measures cost savings, noting that New York City saved $7.2 million in energy expenses (Waqar et al. 2023).

By comparing cities with diverse DT implementations, this study offers a valuable contribution. Raes et al. (2022) previously introduced DUET as a framework for making DTs interoperable and trustworthy(Raes et al. 2022); this research assesses its performance in real urban U.S. contexts with finer granularity of performance parameters. Additionally, the integration of air quality information aligns with Riaz et al. (2023) emphasized that DT, 3D modeling, and environmental sensing enhance climate resolution (Riaz, McAfee, and Gharbia 2023).

However, it is necessary to highlight the role of DTs in engaging various stakeholders and competing parties in urban planning processes. Herzog et al. (2023) noted that cooperating and competing DTs are two approaches that offer different phases of using DTs to gain multiple viewpoints to address diverse urban issues (Herzog, Jarke, and Wu 2023). This resonates with the present study, as DTs facilitated the alignment of data across different systems for a coordinated urban solution.

Nonetheless, this research has some limitations that must be noted. First, the data used in the analysis were confined to a limited number of urban settings, which may affect generalizability. For example, the study focused on IoT advancements in Singapore and Barcelona, while other cities with less developed IoT infrastructure were underrepresented, as noted by Botín-Sanabria et al. (2022). Future studies should encompass a larger number of cities to assess the sustainability and applicability of DT technology (Botín-Sanabria et al. 2022).

Moreover, the study mainly focused on tangible outcomes, such as energy savings and congestion reduction, without addressing other important parameters, including user acceptance and social factors. This limitation can be compared to the issues described by Dani et al. (2023) emphasized the necessity of incorporating social and cultural factors into smart city systems (Dani et al. 2023).

In the context of renewable energy integration and DTs, this study did not account for the Lifecycle Environmental Assessment (LEA) of IoT devices and sensors. Omrany et al. (2023) stressed the need to incorporate the sustainability of socio-technical systems in the development and disposal of

DT devices (Omrany et al. 2023).

Addressing these limitations could uncover new directions for DT research. For instance, extending the dataset to cover cities with varying infrastructural capacities could provide a broader perspective on DT application and scalability. Additionally, utilizing qualitative study approaches could reveal potential and unknown aspects of social acceptance and behavioral change, as proposed by Khallaf et al. (2022) (Khallaf et al. 2022).

Furthermore, incorporating LEA into DT studies might align with the objectives of the Green Deal, as noted by Caprari et al. (2022) (Caprari et al. 2022). Further research on DT applications in predictive modeling for other emerging disciplines, such as disaster management and pandemics, may also be valuable (Ji et al. 2022; Herzog, Jarke, and Wu 2023; Khajavi et al. 2023).

This study enriches the existing literature on DT application in urban management by presenting an empirical analysis of its capabilities in traffic planning, energy saving, and environmental control. The paper provides empirical support for the proposed hypotheses and contributes to the literature by reconciling these findings with previous research. However, the study's limitations suggest that future research should incorporate more diverse data and employ more qualitative analyses. By addressing these gaps, DT frameworks can be more accurately defined, explained, and predicted, helping researchers and practitioners improve urban performance in the face of current global challenges.

6. Conclusion

This article emphasizes the transformative potential of Digital Twin (DT) technology through the deployment of analytical tools, IoT-connected devices, and adaptive frameworks to manage the growing complexities of urban environments. Due to its capacity to capture real-world situations and enhance them, DT technology represents one of the most innovative advancements in improving urban structures, sustainability, and functionality. The analytical results confirm that DTs not only accurately model intricate real-world urban systems but also provide theoretical and practical prognoses and prescriptions, guiding decision-making across various application domains.

The interaction of DTs with renewable power systems, smarter traffic control systems, and ecological sensors demonstrates their role in addressing global issues such as energy conservation, climate change mitigation, and traffic congestion. Furthermore, the flexibility of DT technology to offer specific solutions based on individual urban contexts underscores its versatility and effectiveness for both developed and developing urban environments.

However, the study also highlights a significant gap in the development of a comprehensive framework for implementing DTs. Future applications should focus on integrating the qualitative aspects of the proposed DT technology, such as engaged user involvement, equitable social considerations, and cultural factors, to ensure the technology's benefits are accessible and acceptable to all. Additionally, addressing environmental impacts throughout the DT lifecycle and considering sustainability issues related to IoT devices and infrastructure is crucial for achieving long-term sustainability across various applications.

Therefore, this research underscores the importance of applying advanced DT tools in various urban settings and exploring multiple interacting factors within contemporary societies. DT technology presents a clear solution for developing increasingly intelligent and resource-efficient cities in response to accelerating urbanization. Future research should focus on addressing current limitations by investigating cross-functional methods, engaging diverse stakeholders, and developing various approaches to enhance the effectiveness of DT technology. By doing so, both practitioners and researchers can unlock the potential of digital twins and establish their role as foundational tools for the governance and development of modern cities.

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