



## Balancing the Implementation of Security Measures and the Free Flow of Commerce

The **Urban Commerce and Security Study (UCASS)** is analyzing and assessing the impact of security measures on economic activities in urban centers across the nation. UCASS researchers are developing a sophisticated decision support tool to help decision-makers, planners, and analysts evaluate the potential effects of implementing various security initiatives in their cities.

Three Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Science and Technology (S&T) Centers of Excellence are collaborating on UCASS:

- Center for Visualization and Data Analytics (CVADA)
- Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events (CREATE)
- National Transportation Security Center of Excellence (NTSCOE)



UCASS simulation model of pedestrian activity on blocks 1-4 on Broadway in Lower Manhattan

Stakeholders in the New York/New Jersey (NY/NJ) metropolitan area involved in the UCASS project are providing data elicited through surveys, interviews, and expert feedback. Stakeholders include:

- Port Authority of NY/NJ
- Local and state government agencies, such as emergency management offices and police departments
- Real estate and financial sector firms
- Local economic development organizations
- Workers in area offices and shops

## A Suite of Tools to Help Cities Optimize Economic Activity While Providing Effective Security

There is often a perceived conflict between freedom of economic activity and the need for increased security. If checkpoints are set up, how will this affect local businesses and citizen behavior? Is there a better security measure that will produce the same level of protection but have less impact on economic activity?

Through an in-depth study of security and commerce in Lower Manhattan in New York City, UCASS researchers are developing a methodological approach to understand the interplay between security and economic activity. This methodology will then be applied to other urban areas.

The UCASS project will integrate a suite of modeling and simulation tools to assess the tradeoffs or synergies between security and commerce into a single decision support tool with the ability to share information among multiple stakeholders, planners, decision-makers, and first responders. This decision support tool will consist of several components:

- Economic modeling
- Pedestrian behavior simulation modeling
- Risk modeling
- Threat analysis
- User handbook

### Stakeholder Involvement in UCASS

- The DHS Office of Policy's Office of Strategy, Planning, Analysis and Risk is using the risk assessment methodologies developed to inform resource allocation decisions.
- Lower Manhattan residents completed online surveys about how they would respond to various types of security measures, such as street closures or bag checks.
- New York Police Department law enforcement officials assisted in threat scenario development.
- Business sector stakeholders, such as Silverstein Properties and the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, provided information about what factors are considered when developing and implementing security in day-to-day operations.