budget - Budget 2013 - Funding Request

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Date: Wednesday, June 12, 2013 11:34 AM
Subject: Budget 2013 - Funding Request

Budget 2013 - Online Funding Request Form

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Oral presentation requested: no

Comments/Suggestions:
Open Data Examples:
http://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?
vgnextoid=9e56e03bb8d1e310VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD
http://www.lib.uwaterloo.ca/locations/umd/digital/opendata.html

Description of project/program:
Open as many raw data sets as possible. Opening data sets allow
private firms to use those data sets to develop apps and
programs based on them. One example is transit data, by
opening the xml feed you are currently receiving, existing
programs can feed into that data and provide realtime bus
schedules, tourist information, directions to their place of
business. Example from toronto:
http://webservices.nextbus.com/service/publicXMLFeed?
command=routeConfig&a=ttc&r=501 Currently the city is
investing large sums of money to develop their own platform for

- 88 -

these schedules, however the work has already been done by service providers like Google, Bing and Apple. In turn these companies provide acces to programers to use their amalgamated code in Apps and websites, allowing businesses to include robust features on their apps and websites allowing them to add public transit information to their business. This is one minor use case for open data. In addition to reducing costs for the city, this has the added benefit of helping local businesses, and allowing local programers and app developers test their programs in a live environment. There is a real danger in losing talented people to other municipalities that offer open data, as those programers are currently disadvantaged by living in Sudbury.

Estimated one-time cost:
While costs would vary depending on the data set and wether the set is a live feed or static. Cost should be negligible as this is all data the city is already collecting and would just need to be published openly. Cost savings are also hard to accurately predict as this would prevent the need for the city to develop their own programs for things like tracking buses, but would also give citizens hire value for their dollar by allowing them access to a much larger catalog of options when interacting with city information. The cost of not opening the data is a stunted technology sector.

Estimated on-going costs:
Ongoing costs should be neutral as once the programming is in place collected data will be made available automatically. Ongoing savings would be significant as municipal employees would not be chasing a moving technology target. In the bus example, we have developed a bus stop system that is still in beta yet is woefully out of date already. Yet a robust collection of apps is already waiting for the data, free of cost to the city and it's citizens.

file://C:\Documents and Settings\scr01clk.2HDN3P1\Local Setti...   6/18/2013