

ITS Strategic Roadmap – FY16

Open Data

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Background

There is a wealth of information housed within government. Though this data is collected, analyzed, secured and managed through its existence by government agencies, the data is actually the property of citizens. This data has traditionally been available outside government via means such as public records requests, but a new model of transparency has developed over the last decade which proactively presents data to the public. This is open data.

Mayor Dean signed executive order #043 in 2014 which established the open data initiative. By providing high-value government data in an open format via an Internet open data portal, Metro Government seeks to promote citizen involvement in government, increase the transparency of government business, and promote partnership opportunities between Metro departments and agencies.

The open data initiative is aimed at gathering and providing this information to the public in a way that is easy to understand, always available, and sustainable. Having access to this data will enable citizens to become more engaged with their government and help provide solutions to civic problems the government may not be able to provide. As defined by Executive Order, within Nashville, open data sets only represent certain types of information and are presented only in machine readable format. See the Executive Order for more details.

Another aspect of the executive order beyond the presentation of data on the Internet is the creation of a network of Metro employees who are responsible and interested in presenting open data for use by other departments and the public.

Stakeholders in this initiative include the Mayor's Office of Innovation; open data portal vendor, Socrata; the Nashville Civic Brigade, affiliated with the national organization Code for America; the National League of Cities; the departments and agencies of the Metropolitan Government; civic technologists; and Metro's citizens.

Current Strategic Drivers

1. **Citizen Demand: Transparency** (High) – Citizens want openness, accountability and honesty from their government, and sharing data with citizens is government's obligation and allows citizens to hold public officials accountable.
2. **Fostering an Innovation Culture** (High) – With guidance from the Mayor's Office of Innovation, Metro is working toward a culture of continual improvement through innovative ideas and processes.



3. **Program Sustainability (High)** – Like any new initiative of the government, it would be perceived as a waste of taxpayer dollars to establish a Metro-wide program that was unable to be sustained, especially in the situation where citizens came to depend upon data provided.
4. **Departmental Demand: Data Sharing (Medium)** – Metro employees are interested in understanding what data sets are available in other Metro departments and agencies to facilitate data analysis.
5. **National Open Data Movement (Medium)** – There is a national movement among Federal, state and local governments to provide data to the public through open data portals. This effort has been promoted by national municipal organizations like the National League of Cities and the US Conference of Mayors.
6. **Civic Brigade (Medium)** – The Civic Brigade is a new organization that has been chartered by members of the local Nashville software development community interested in bettering the workings of government through technology. The group is affiliated with the national organization Code for America, which supports over 100 other civic brigades around the country. The members of the Nashville Civic Brigade bring to the table skills and ability to perform projects for Metro departments and agencies that either would not get funded, don't have funding, don't have priority, or address a need unanticipated within Metro Government. As a new organization, they lack a track record of success and sustainability, and are seeking opportunities to collaborate with Metro Government to identify datasets to publish, and specific problems to solve through software development.
7. **Business and Organizations Demand for Data (Low)** – Businesses and Organizations want data feeds from which they can develop their own analyses and applications for private or commercial purposes.

On the Horizon Strategic Drivers

1. **Pending Administration Change (Medium)** – With the coming of the end of the Dean administration, a new administration is likely to have different, and currently unknowable, thoughts regarding open data.

Short Term Goals (0-6 months) 7/1/15 – 12/31/15

#	Goal/Objective	Est. Start	Est. Duration
1	Continue to cultivate and publish high value datasets on the Open Data Portal as submitted by Metro Departments.	7/15	6 months
2	Migrate the current Socrata Open Data Portal to the Socrata's new platform, which contains a new "Internal" portal, as well as the existing "External" portal	7/15	3 months
3	Hire Open Data Manager position (Pending approval of FY 2016 budget funding)	7/15	3 months



4	Complete protocol development and implementation rollout of Metro ITS Data Center hosting of open source apps developed by Code for Nashville/Civic Brigade.	In process	ongoing
5	Develop annual calendar of community hackathons for Metro participation (National Day of Civic Hacking, Code Across America, HackforNashville, etc.)	7/15	1 month
6	In partnership with Planning GIS and OMB, coordinate and support the data geeks network.	7/15	ongoing
7	Meet with potential community technology partners to identify collaboration opportunities around open data portal (area universities, community dev user groups, etc.)	7/15	ongoing

Medium Term Goals (6-18 months) 1/1/16 – 12/31/16

#	Goal/Objective	Est. Start	Est. Duration
1	Support annual calendar of hackathons	In process	ongoing
2	Meet with Code for Nashville leadership on quarterly basis for project updates	1/16	ongoing
3	Implement identified and prioritized community partner collaborative projects	1/16	ongoing
4	Create a public platform to show the queue of datasets to be published on the open data portal	1/16	1 month

Long Term Goals (18-36 months) 1/1/17 – 6/30/18

#	Goal/Objective	Est. Start	Est. Duration
1	Determine continued viability of Socrata open data platform as it nears end of initial 3 year term. Potential exists for 2 1-year extensions or to go through procurement process for alternate solution.	7/17	6 months

Related Roadmaps

- Web Applications
- Data Center and Environmental
- Mobility
- Nashville.gov

Other Resources

- Mayor Dean’s Executive Order #043

