Open Government Operating Board

9/7/2016 Exploration of Strategic Questions

Strategic questions considered

- 1. How might we restructure the Open Government Operating Board?
 - a. We might consider sub-groups or committees: working, advisory, executive.
 - b. We might determine different timing of meetings, phasing subgroups more frequently and executive meetings quarterly.
- 2. How might we determine membership?
 - a. After completing the analysis of initiatives, we would consider how to re-scope the Charter of the Open Government Operating Board, figuring out membership as we draft.
 - b. We might consider adding a support team to be available for advice.
- 3. How might we think about support for these initiatives?
 - a. Look at those initiatives in this order: i) prompted by Council action, ii) Management priorities, iii) collaboration between Departments, iv) Department Priorities, v) Idea Accelerator.
 - b. Identify project leads, where projects are, and what help projects might need
- 4. How might we manage and prioritize the portfolio of projects?
 - a. Check in with Capital Planning on lessons in portfolio-based work.
 - b. Connect DDAC to considering a portfolio-based approach in the future

Next Steps

- Continue analysis to include Council Action, other initiatives, competencies, capabilities required https://airtable.com/tbl1eMQdkXZyASp0s/viwz7JEL1nVY9G0H7
- Visualize how initiatives connect and relate to strategic commitments and directions
- 3. Define actions/transactions needed to support the prioritized initatives
- 4. Inform and begin new charter draft

Background & Details

Reason for the meeting

- → As part of the Open Government Partnership Subnational Pilot, we have committed to up our game in supporting principles of transparency, accountability, technology/innovation, and civic participation.
- → We have seen a growing number, breadth, and depth of initiatives before us.
- → Innovation Office, CTM, and TARA staff analyzed these initiatives and found:
 - They have been prompted both internally by City of Austin entities, as well as externally by philanthropic, civil society, and Federal entities.
 - ◆ They relate to open government principles in different ways.
 - They are in various stages of development (discovery, work begun-underway-complete, operations, ready to pivot/iterate).
 - They represent different sizes, scopes, and level of partnerships/cross-collaboration.

Things to think about

- ★ There is a lack of appreciation we need to do a better job of socializing the big picture
- ★ We need to be clearer on those things which we are directed to do by Council
- ★ We need to focus on outcomes, and report back on those outcomes
- ★ We need to look at the intersections of these initiatives, because they may relate to other initiatives to create better leverage (ex: intersection of Tech Hire, Digital Inclusion, and PC Refresh)
- ★ How do we know what we don't know? We need more input, and a broad assessment.
- ★ We need to discuss priorities to balance what we've been directed to do, what's been initiated by Departments, and what was externally prompted by outside entities

Key Insights from Analysis of Initiatives

- Benefits of a structured, collaborative discovery & learning process
 - Digital Inclusion Strategic Plan (Co-created in 4 months, passes Council, creates strong networks)
 - USDOT Smart City Challenge (teams collaborated, advanced the cause by 3-4 years within span of 6 months. Bases loaded.)
 - Homelessness Outreach Street Team (HOST) (home run Council briefing focus on cross-sector learnings)
- "Take a City to lunch" Decade
 - Entities look to Cities for issues that cannot be solved nationally or internationally
 - Examples: USDOT Smart City Challenge, Tech Hire, Bloomberg What Works, Open Government Partnership
- Informal, grassroots networking and collaboration; empowering staff
 - ➤ Cross-sector: HOST, USDOT Smart City Challenge, Digital Inclusion
 - Internal City of Austin: Open Data, Wireless Task Force, Fellows Program

Benefits to gain; Risks to avoid

→ Benefits

- Align and Connect initiatives
- Better awareness
- ◆ Powerful, unexpected combinations create leverage and move the needle
- Channel created for future initiatives.

→ Risks

- ◆ Being overcommited/overextended with no reconciliation process
- Being irrelevant and disconnected
- Missed tactical opportunities





