Open Data @ The City of Vancouver

URISA BC   May 20, 2010

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Agenda

- GIS Data Dissemination (in the old days)

- The Open3 Council Motion

- Open Data—initial steps

- Open Data demo

- Summary & Next Steps

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"Open" Data—previous era (back to at least 1995)

- Sell/license the data

- Considered outsourcing the licensing & dissemination

- Made it available at no cost if appropriate

- There was no money in it

- It was an administrative pain

- It was a hassle fulfilling requests

"Open" Data—previous era

- Generally 75 to 125 requests per year

- Many fulfilled for free

- GIS Team pushed for doing it at no cost
  – this approach was never fully approved

- GIS Team did a lot of thinking about how to do it for free

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And then along came the Motion

- THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Vancouver endorses the principles of:

  – **Open and Accessible Data** – the City of Vancouver will freely share with citizens, businesses and other jurisdictions the greatest amount of data possible while respecting privacy and security concerns;

  – **Open Standards** - the City of Vancouver will move as quickly as possible to adopt prevailing open standards for data, documents, maps, and other formats of media;

  – **Open Source Software** – the City of Vancouver, when replacing existing software or considering new applications, will place open source software on an equal footing with commercial systems during procurement cycles.

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Open Data

Council Motion – What It Says and Doesn't Say

- The City should freely share data to all subject to
  - Privacy
  - Security
  - "As much as possible"

- No funding initially
- No specific direction to departments to "fork it over"
- No explicit authority for IT to just do it
- No discussion about data quality

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Open Data—initial steps for v1

- Get something "out there"
- Establish a relationship with the local Open Data developers community
- Think about constituencies
  - Citizens
  - Programmers & Application Developers
  - Commercial Users
  - Academics & Researchers
  - Other government entities

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Open Data—initial steps for v1

- Created design for the website

- Created narrative content for the website

- Determined what data could be easily released
  - Generally (98%) public VanMap data because
    - We understood it
    - It had already passed the security & privacy tests

- Engaged FME consultant to help with ETL scripts

- Thought about the infrastructure required

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Open Data—Terms of Use

- Lengthy discussions with Law

- Comments received from open data community which resulted in plainer English

- Terms of Use allow all uses as long as they are legal

- Terms of Use do not convey ownership in the data

- Credit to the City not required but it is encouraged

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Open Data—Terms of Use

- Liability is with the user, not the City (some have trouble with this)

- City reserves the right to stop publishing data

- Users can not sue the City over the data

- Some would like same license everywhere
  - COV TOU have been copied by other Open Data sites

- Some like the Creative Commons license

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Open Data – Launch of v1 beta

- Launched Open Data Beta v1 website on September 15 2009

- About 50 datasets, limited formats, limited updating

- Provided feedback mechanisms on the site to help prioritize new data requirements

- Provided links to non-City wiki and blogs

- Participated in hackathons

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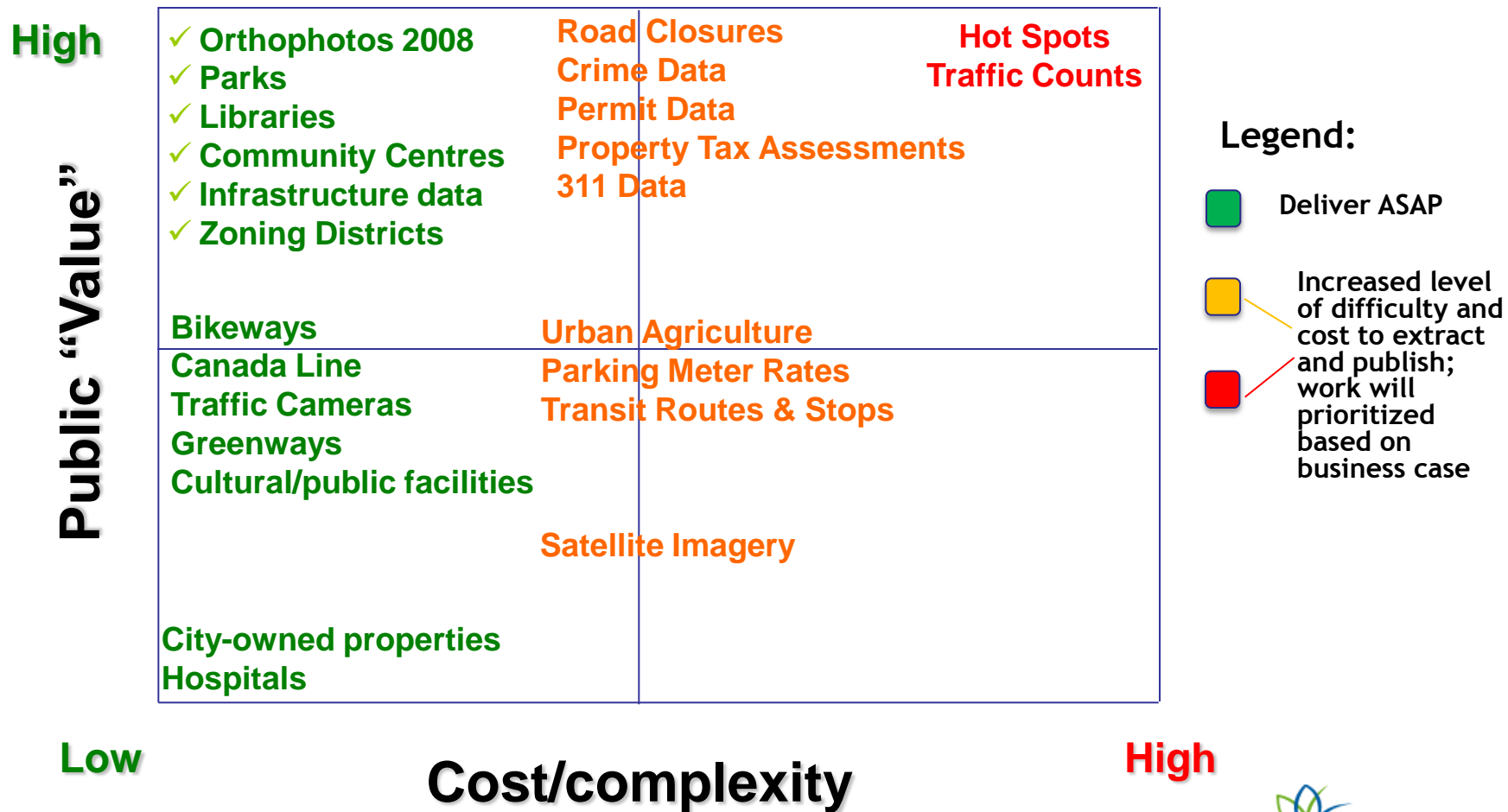
Open Data – v1 Reactions

- Launch very well received by bloggers, developers, GIS librarians, politicians, etc.

- Over 130 survey responses before survey closed

- Good input regarding additional data to include (e.g. bikeways identified by 50% of respondents)

- Awareness raised within the City and outside

- Picked up by media despite no press release

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Open Data – v1 Usage

- ## In first month of being live
  - Over 15,000 visits (average of 500+ per day)
  - Over 11,000 visitors
  - Over 45,000 page views

- ## The most popular downloaded files
  - Contours
  - Land base
  - Water
  - Sewer
  - Street lighting
  - Garbage zones
  - Orthophotos

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Open Data Beta Site
Initial Survey Feedback on Additional Data

High

Public "Value"

✓ **Orthophotos 2008**
✓ **Parks**
✓ **Libraries**
✓ **Community Centres**
✓ **Infrastructure data**
✓ **Zoning Districts**

Road Closures
Crime Data
Permit Data
Property Tax Assessments
311 Data

Hot Spots
Traffic Counts

Bikeways
Canada Line
Traffic Cameras
Greenways
Cultural/public facilities

Urban Agriculture
Parking Meter Rates
Transit Routes & Stops

Satellite Imagery

City-owned properties
Hospitals

Low

Cost/complexity

High

Legend:

■ **Deliver ASAP**

■ **Increased level of difficulty and cost to extract and publish; work will prioritized based on business case**

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Open Data – v2 launched January 20 2010

- ## More data
  - went from 50 to 100 datasets (plus packages)
  - Still almost all from VanMap

- ## More formats
  - most data in DWG, SHP, KML
  - some in XLS and CSV

- ## More currency
  - FME scripts update the data weekly

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Open Data – v2 launched January 20 2010

- Easier to find datasets
  - Every dataset explicitly listed
  - Many cross-referenced with alternate name

- Easier to get directly to data
  - Can click to the data directly from catalogue

- Mapping in Google Maps and Bing Map
  - Most datasets are available via one click
  - Those mapping services have limitations

- Improved updates
  - Web feed
  - Email
  - Sorry, no formal Twitter or Facebook yet

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Open Data – v2 launched January 20 2010

- Direct ICIS support
  - ICIS mentioned explicitly in Open3 motion
  - GIS file to feed ICIS's GIS file store
  - Address file to directly support Address BC's needs

- New survey

Open Data – v2 Usage

- From launch to mid-May
  - Over 46,000 visits (average of 400 per day)
  - Over 16,000 visitors (2,900 more than once)
  - Over 64,000 page views
- The most popular downloaded files
  - Water
  - Property Information
  - Streets
  - Contours
  - Olympic venues
  - Sewer
  - Orthophotos

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Open Data – Demo

- Open Data website v2 (January 2010)

- http://data.vancouver.ca/

Open Data – Applications

- [vantrash](#) (Luke to talk later)
  - http://vantrash.ca/

- [Flooding study](#)
  - http://www.straight.com/article-298192/vancouver/get-ready-rising-sea

- [Water fountain finders](#)
  - http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF&msa=0&msid=11553880353777 8874314.00047006f987f69c2cc39

- [Vanguide](#)
  - http://vanguide.cloudapp.net/

- [Vancouver reference map](#)
  - http://maker.geocommons.com/maps/8146

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Open Data – Next Steps

- Expand the data available

- Expand the use of FME Server

- Encourage development of new applications

- Listen to Darrin after lunch

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