

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Establish an Open Data Policy and create an Open Data Program for the City of Portland (Ordinance)

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Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

The City of Portland was one of the first cities to adopt an Open Data resolution and create an Open Data portal, CivicApps, in 2009 (Resolution No. 36735). Since then, Portland has fallen behind many other cities. Portland does not have an adopted Open Data policy, and has not established an Open Data program or governance system for data. CivicApps has not changed significantly since it was created, and the number and types of datasets released through CivicApps has not increased substantially since 2009.

In September 2016, the City partnered with Bloomberg Philanthropies' What Works Cities per Council Resolution 37236. The purpose of this partnership was to advance Open Data in the City, building on the 2009 Open Data Resolution.

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability has been leading this effort in partnership with the City Budget Office. BPS and CBO have been meeting weekly since October of 2016 with technical experts from What Works Cities and their partners in the Sunlight Foundation and the Center for Government Excellence at Johns Hopkins University.

This Ordinance expands upon the work completed as a part of the 2009 Open Data Resolution, establishing mechanisms for engaging all City bureaus in the proactive collection and distribution of City data.

Establishing an Open Data Policy and Program and a system of data governance in the City of Portland will result in:

- a) Increased transparency and improved public trust;
- b) Greater civic participation and engagement;
- c) Better access to data to inform and improve decision making;
- d) Reduced staff time devoted to responding to requests for City data;
- e) Greater likelihood of data-driven innovations in the private sector that increase the social and commercial value of City assets and improve the delivery of City services.

An Open Data Policy and Program, and the systems and standards that would result, are also fundamental to the City of Portland's Smart Cities efforts. Shared, standardized systems for collecting, managing, analyzing and distributing data are foundational requirements to meet Smart Cities goals of using data to inform decisions, to design and evaluate policies and programs, and to partner with the private sector to meet City goals around livability, affordability, safety, sustainability, and equity.

Financial and budgetary impacts:

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) has submitted a Decision Package for the 2017/2018 fiscal year budget that includes two FTE. One FTE will help coordinate citywide, cross-agency Smart Cities strategy and projects across bureaus and build partnerships among public, private, and academic institutions.

This Decision Package will also help establish an Open Data Program and Data Governance Team. The second FTE will be devoted to the Open Data Program, working with other bureaus and the community to develop a system of data governance and to identify resources and funding needed to ensure the Open Data Program is successful and sustainable.

If BPS does not receive both positions requested in the Decision Package, 1.0 FTE would need to be reallocated from BPS or another City bureau to manage this program.

Community impacts and community involvement:

This proposed ordinance builds on related community involvement through other processes including the Portland Plan and the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. The resulting Open Data Program also advances community involvement by making government data and analysis of government data more easily accessible by the public.

A primary goal of the Portland Plan implementation is to coordinate processes for data collection and data analyses, in order to allow bureaus, agencies, businesses, community organizations and Portlanders to base decisions on accurate and shared information. An Open Data Program will help achieve this goal by making data more readily available to City staff and the public, by improving the quality of data, and by building a foundation for data-driven decision making.

The Portland 2035 Comprehensive Plan Chapter 2: Community Involvement, Policy 2.11 states that the City will encourage publication, accessibility, and widespread sharing of data collected and generated by the City. Testimony to City Council during the Comprehensive Plan's adoption was strongly in favor of achieving these goals through an Open Data Program.

The City's Citywide Racial Equity Goals & Strategies cites "...improved access to data to measure the success of specific programmatic and policy changes and to develop baselines, set goals, and measure progress" as a key strategy. An Open Data Program would help achieve these racial equity goals by making data readily available and accessible, developing a more comprehensive inventory of City data, fostering a culture of using data to inform and evaluate City decisions, and giving the public increased transparency into the effectiveness of City programs and policies.

The Open Data Program and the Data Governance Team created to implement the Program will also:

- a) Identify methods for engaging external stakeholders, representative of diverse Portland communities, in the ongoing implementation of the Open Data Program;
- b) Work with the Portland community to help the City develop standards to determine which data sets are appropriate for public disclosure by balancing the benefits of open data with the need to protect information that is confidential;

- c) Establish mechanisms for prioritizing the collection of data to release through the City’s Open Data Portal which will consider existing and new signs of public interest;
- d) Encourage the public to utilize open data to help solve Portland’s most pressing issues, to boost economic development, and to build ladders of opportunity for Portland’s communities through innovative uses of data and technology.

Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

YES: Please complete the information below.

NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount