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COPY: Government Performance and Finance Committee
SUBJECT: Open Data Annual Report – April 5, 2017
DATE: March 31, 2017

SUMMARY:

The City Council's Open Data resolution stated that staff would report annually to the Council and public on the initiative. This briefing will fulfill the requirement to publically report on the City's progress in implementing the Open Data Initiative.

STRATEGIC POLICY PRIORITY:

- Encourage and promote an efficient and effective government, which is fiscally sustainable and guided by engaged residents.

BACKGROUND:

The City has a long history of releasing data to the public. In August of 2014, the City's launched an open data portal to provide data directly to the public. The site, TacomaData, is the City's primary means of proactively sharing data with the public.

In an effort to improve the City's practices on open data, the City applied in June 2015 to participate in the Bloomberg Philanthropies' What Works Cities Initiative to accelerate the use of data and evidence to engage the community, make government more effective, and improve people's lives.

In 2016, the City Council reaffirmed its commitment to using data to make government more transparent and efficient and to promote civic engagement by passing an Open Data policy.

ISSUE:

The goals of the Open Data resolution are to increase transparency and engagement, improve accountability, and effective service delivery. The intent is to focus is on releasing high value data sets for the public while excluding sensitive and protected information. The City Council's Open Data resolution stated that staff would develop a process to oversee the open data initiative and report annually to the Council and public on the initiative. This briefing will fulfill the requirement to publically report on the City's progress in implementing the Open Data Initiative.

ALTERNATIVES:

This is an informational briefing only.

RECOMMENDATION:

This is an informational briefing only.

FISCAL IMPACT:

This is an informational briefing only.