Alaska Smart Community Forum
July 28, 2016
Meeting Summary

The following notes from the Alaska Smart Community Forum provide some insight into the topics presented and discussed. More than 35 people attended the event on July 28. Accompanying these notes are the slide presentations and the summary results from a recent survey among Forum invitees. The survey is not statistically significant, but provided some initial insight for the discussion at the Forum; 13 responses were received among 80-plus people sent the survey.

Participants at the Forum identified areas of focus for data and applications as well as working groups with names of those who will participate in the initial working groups. The working groups are designed to bring together 3-5 people over the next 3 months to discuss in detail certain aspects of Smart Communities in order for a successful sharing and exchange of data, applications, and ideas. One working group will attempt to bring together data and create a new application to share in October.

Doug Miller will contact a facilitator for each working group to help schedule the first meeting for each working group. For comments or questions about the Alaska Smart Community Forum, please contact Doug Miller (doug.miller@wostmann.com) or Eric Wyatt (eric.wyatt@matsugov.us).

Introductions

1. Why are you here? These are key reasons for attending the Forum…
    a. Interested in public-private partnerships
    b. Ideas on improving communication with public
    c. Learn from others participating in the Forum
    d. Promoting careers in the local area
    e. Sharing data and how we work together
    f. Tools, concepts and how to deploy data and information
    g. More efficient emergency services
    h. Thriving, vibrant communities
    i. Better land use data and utility service availability
    j. Correct, accurate land use planning data
    k. Intelligent transportation
    l. Improve business processes and data
    m. Up-to-date capital projects data; road projects
    n. Better ways to get information out

Presentations

1. MatSu Borough
    a. Very interested in further expanding public notification services
    b. MSB intends to be a leader in Smart Communities, but not alone; like to see organizations work together on shared data and efforts
    c. MSB's is providing tools to accomplish MSB strategic goals; technologies, data, portal
    d. Provide nucleus with other organizations to engage with the public
    e. Interested in what tools all organizations are using; exchange ideas, leverage each other's efforts
    f. Data can be available in raw data or via API; data services available to the public

g. Have proposed a Transportation information portal that is in the conceptual stage
h. Presented GIS platform and storymaps
i. IT can figure out where data is coming from; pull data from local, state and federal
j. Among key technologies are:
    i. ESRI ArcInfo Online
k. Some of the data services created:
    i. REST Services to pull data directly
    ii. API
    iii. Parcel Viewer – Geocortex app
    iv. Wetlands Viewer
l. Continue to gather and post non-MSB data services via the MSB external site
m. Monitoring frequent ambulance location data and response via MiFi devices
n. Certain data services available online, some only internal, on-site
    i. Example: Parcel Viewer has more data available on the internal network about a property than is available online; some data is more sensitive than other
o. Recent "location value assessment" to gather location-based data requirements from MSB departments to more effectively and efficiently accomplish work.
p. Recent work to begin tracking illegal trash sites, overlay on map; use to plan inspections.

2. MEA
    a. Key technology is MapWise.
    b. Working today on better modeling the electrical network
    c. Track user outages, lines, all the components that go into the service network
    d. Like to be more responsive to customers who experience outages
    e. Have integrated accounting, customer services and mapping data to more easily identify customer locations and services at property, energy used, data meter is installed, etc.
    f. Do not see need to maintain as much data since can leverage the data services from MSB; parcel maps, road information, etc.
    g. MSB efforts on GIS and data services is inspiring ideas; MEA looking at more efficient ways to deploy crews and better serve customers and the questions they have.
    h. See a lot of potential for the wetlands map data; identify infrastructure that is in or near flood plains and adjust inspection frequency accordingly
    i. Consider options for capturing, gathering vegetation data in order to adjust frequency of weed abatement work.
    j. Collect outage events passively today whereby customer reports outage then MEA pings systems nearby to determine extent of the outage; MEA is now installing smart meters to gather outage info directly to improve response to outages.

3. Municipality of Anchorage
    a. Muni is focused on more transparency to the public
    b. Just announced a major OpenData initiative; more data, more apps, more integration of information to better serve the public. Now engaged with a company to serve as the platform for the OpenData Portal.
    c. Provide apps to the public to more easily engage with government

      d. Simplify access to data

      e. Like to move from descriptive analytics to more predictive analytics

      f. Muni recently implemented a solution for a completely digital process for submission, review of building plans (e.g. ePlan).

      g. Was awarded a Bloomberg grant to, among other things, help build out a transportation portal, LinkAK. Muni gathering multiple transportation data sources, overlay the data, and enable planners and public to view data about how different modes of transportation.

      h. By sharing and exchanging data, organizations and agencies can leverage a lot of data services and tools that are already available at lower cost than building on their own.

      i. The Muni presentation accompanying these notes provides more detail and links.

4. State of Alaska Dept of Natural Resources

      a. Helps lead the Alaska Geospatial Council

      b. Presented storymaps of geographic data; recent successes with partnerships and funding to gather better, more detailed geographic data throughout the state.

      c. Have a current focus on getting more detailed elevation data.

      d. Discussed data gathering and formats and geographic reference sites.

      e. Discussed imagery data that is greater than five years old; objective is to have imagery updated at least 5 years.

      f. Working on a Wetlands Initiative to gather partners and update wetlands imagery.

      g. Unless you know where to look, very difficult for people to find all the relevant data they may want. DNR has a new Geo Portal initiative and is kicking-off a new statewide GeoPortal working group in September 2016.

      h. The DNR presentation accompanying these notes provides more details and links.

Survey Results

1. Accompanying these notes are summary survey results gathered prior to this Forum from invitees. Among the questions asked:

      a. What issues or opportunities would a Smart Communities platform help address?

      b. What benefits or results may occur by addressing those issues or opportunities?

      c. What are up to five types of data that you have that would be useful to your community or customers?

      d. What are up to five types of data that you want that you do not have or have not gathered?

      e. What questions or concerns do you have about sharing data with other organizations?

2. Key comments heard as we discussed the survey questions and answers

      a. There is interest in real-time road closure events; this information is very delayed today.

      b. Develop lists of assets and formats among all participating organizations in the Forum.

      c. Consider more "collector" apps to gather information from the public on events (e.g. abandoned vehicles, and the new "illegal trash sites" map by MSB).

      d. Gather, link to wireless data ranges in the area

    e. Gather student enrollment, employment, labor data to better understand the local work force, recent changes in the local work force, and opportunities to leverage the current work force. Like to build upon data gathered today by State of Alaska Dept of Labor and Workforce Development and federal sources.

    f. Gather demographic data on senior housing, medical services; need to determine what information is acceptable to publish publicly or not.

    g. Consider digitizing and sharing preliminary plats and subdivision pre-approval applications, rather than only after approval and recording final plats.

    h. Better collection and dissemination of building permit and land use permit data.

Working Groups

Working Groups were defined at the Forum to start documenting detailed lists of data assets, learn what works and what does not in Smart Community initiatives elsewhere, expand participation in the Forum and begin building a unique data set and application among some participants. Groups will meet 2-3 times over the next several weeks and produce work products. The groups may change or expand depending on how they go.

1. Portals and Data Catalog Working Group
   a. This group will focus on identifying and documenting existing portals and data sources that exist today for all participants to leverage. There are several "portals" forming today among participants.
   b. Initial participants:
      i. Pat Shier (Facilitator)
      ii. Terry Morganson
      iii. Matt Rykaczewski
      iv. Kenny Kleiwein
      v. Aaron Butterer
      vi. Ashley Seim

2. Applications Working Group
   a. This group will focus on identifying and gathering specific data to create a new application (or a design for one) of interest to most participants and the public. This effort may leverage a project already underway or data sources already available to make this a quicker effort.
   b. Initial participants:
      i. Brendan Babb (Facilitator)
      ii. Eileen Probasco
      iii. Joe Quickel
      iv. Kenny Kleiwein
      v. Matt Rykaczewski

3. <u>Participation and Membership Working Group</u>
   a. The purpose of this work group is to inform and expand participation in the Smart Communities Forum with non-profits, businesses and public agencies. **Note: Details and models for partnerships will be handled as a separate working group (below).**
   b. Initial participants:
      i. Doug Miller (Facilitator)
      ii. Eric Wyatt
      iii. Brad Spees

4. <u>Lessons Learned Working Group</u>
   a. This group will collect papers and experiences from other communities that have tried Smart Community initiatives to learn what works and what does not to create a sustainable Alaska Smart Communities framework.
   b. Initial participants:
      i. Eric Wyatt (Facilitator)
      ii. Mike Brown
      iii. Tina Miller
      iv. Mike Chmielewski
      v. Amos Auringer

Immediately following the July 28 Forum, two more "working groups" were identified to specifically look at partnership models to leverage resources among organizations and engage executive leaders for buy-in to and make suggestions for this Smart Communities effort.

5. <u>Partnerships Working Group</u>
   a. This group will determine how we can enable participants to leverage unique initiatives to avoid duplicate effort and share more information and tools.
   b. Initial participants
      i. Eric Wyatt (Facilitator)
      ii. tbd
      iii. tbd

6. <u>Executive Leadership Engagement</u>
   a. Convene executive leaders among participating organizations to validate the Alaska Smart Communities initiative. This may start with inviting executive leaders to attend the next Forum in October.
   b. Initial participants to lead and arrange:
      i. Eric Wyatt (Facilitator)
      ii. George Hays
      iii. tbd

///