Alaska Smart Communities Forum
October 27, 2016
Meeting Summary

The following notes are from the recent Alaska Smart Community Forum October 27, 2016. More than 40 people attended the event. Accompanying these notes are the slide presentations and references for further reading (see back page for list). At this event we:

- explored more examples of what local organizations are doing with data, especially GIS data
- enjoyed a detailed presentation from a successful smart community, Rancho Cucamonga, California
- heard updates from all the current working groups, especially Data and Portals, Applications, and Lessons Learned
- …and, had group discussion to develop a set of objectives for this evolving Alaska Smart Communities effort.

Please review these notes, the accompanying attachment. Next up will be a survey to all participants focused on our mutual objectives so we can draft a charter for Alaska Smart Communities. For comments or questions, please contact Doug Miller (doug.miller@wostmann.com) or Eric Wyatt (eric.wyatt@matsugov.us).

1. **Rancho Cucamonga** (SEE ATTACHED SLIDES)
   Solomon Nimako provided a detailed presentation on how this city has developed and is expanding its data sets and applications to serve citizens. Some highlights:
   a. Success strategies
   b. Web apps and mobile apps
   c. Collector app to expedite citizen comments and concerns to resolution
   d. Graffiti inspection and removal solution
   e. Traffic enforcement dashboard
   f. Fire incident heat map
   g. My Community, My Parcel applications – various data about property

2. **Alaska Railroad – Aaron Butterer**
   a. Presented tools, maps and online storyboard
   b. Started the GIS work mostly from scratch
   c. Gather ROW and Parcel data from cities
   d. Use the GINA layer for better imagery
   e. Leverage LIDAR data from the natural gas pipeline survey work
   f. Discussed differences in alignment of section lines from BLM versus other sources
   g. Found BDL to be an excellent source for some imagery
   h. Would be great to have ONE source or service for imagery rather than multiple sources of various quality
   i. Discussed a trespassing app to enable passers-by to log an incident when they encounter a trespasser on AKRR property (e.g. someone encamped along ROW)
   j. Would be great to collect “monument” data from multiple sources…surveyors, other agencies, projects and create ONE source for monument data

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3. **MTA – Sierra Alcantra** (SEE ATTACHED SLIDES)
    a. Working to make more data real-time
    b. Discussed the nature of authoritative sources, need to define for different data types
    c. Suggestion was made during this discussion to bring together fire authorities in the state/local agencies with MEA, MTA, MatSu Borough to better leverage data being collected

4. **Portals and Data Working Group** (SEE ATTACHED STORY LINK)
    a. Data Portal
        i. Window into information and applications
        ii. Brings information together from diverse sources in a uniform method.
        iii. Not to be bound by any specific data type
    b. Data: Spatial, Tabular, Financial, PDFs, Applications, Etc.
    c. Data vs Application: An informed user might what's the fish passage results, while an uninformed user just wants an application to inform him of the best spots to fish.
    d. Next for this group: Smart Community Data Portal, to include Discoverable Data; Metadata Search Tool, including…
        i. Evaluate joining forces with State of AK on Geospatial Clearinghouse
        ii. Build partnerships with known organizations
        iii. Define what the hosting solution is
        iv. Continue to identify available data of interest to the Alaska Smart Communities group and build-out a directory on a MatSu data site.
    e. Other notes:
        i. Ideally there is a one-stop shop for various data; envision a portal of portals whereby the MatSu, Muni, other organizations can have own portal, but point people to other portals and data sources available for various needs.
        ii. Not want to re-create data from other sources; distributed authoritative data

5. **Applications Working Group** (SEE ATTACHED SLIDES)
    a. This group explained a concept to enhance the public's ability to locate social services providers by enhancing Alaska 211
        i. Add a spatial component
        ii. Incorporate a transportation component that gets citizens from where they are to where they need to be
        iii. Leverage existing apps to yield an integrated, effective and rapid result
    b. An objective is to enable user to select social services of interest near "me" and near public transportation routes.
    c. Would combine Alaska 211 + ArcGIS + LinkAK
    d. This group will continue specify and being building an application.

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6. **Participation Working Group**
    a. Doug contacted a few new potential participants to attend this Forum.
    b. Will contact more state agencies, local cities and non-profits to invite them to attend and learn more about the potential to leverage data and apps.

7. **Partnership models**
    a. This small group has started to gather information on ways agencies partner to combine efforts to secure grant funding for projects.
    b. Noted that the more we are able to combine efforts among multiple organizations, the more likely we may secure grants for projects.

8. **Lessons Learned – Erik Wyatt and Amos Auringer** (SEE ATTACHED SLIDES)
    a. Overview of "Hype Cycles" that occur with new technology and data ideas, trends
    b. The most successful smart community organizations possess these characteristics:
        i. Comfortable acting as "innovators" and "early adopters"
        ii. Visionary champion for smart technology and solutions that has a broad base of support for the mission
        iii. Data-driven management style
        iv. Learning organization and culture
        v. Bimodal IT capability
        vi. Well-defined, testable business cases
        vii. Proven competencies in informatics
        viii. Demonstrated ability to recognize, accept and learn from fast failures
        ix. Significant commitment of resources and development of skills
        x. Clear policies and effective communication to explain programs, impacts and outcomes to employees
    c. Align Smart Community objectives to
        i. Business and Community Objectives
        ii. Understand what we need to do, promote, invest in, etc.
    d. Challenges to face
        i. Clear objectives
        ii. Sustainability; once established How Do We Continue?
        iii. Privacy and Public Communications; communicate to Public about what will be communicated
        iv. Respond to the possibility of overwhelming Public Response; address possible need for more infrastructure & manpower
        v. Unintentional Consequences; ask other communities what they have experienced
    e. Are we a loose federation of like-minded people or want a more formal organization?
        i. We have begun as a loose federation
        ii. Formality can "mature" over time along with our Smart Community association
        iii. An organizational charter and written objectives is a good place to begin

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9. Group Discussion

Participants divided into groups to answer what our objectives should be as an Alaska Smart Communities group. Each group offered ideas on defining this and other questions to still answer going forward.

a. Objectives suggested from groups
   i. Platform for citizen engagement
   ii. Define data Standards
   iii. Create a data catalog all can participate in
   iv. Open data agreements – executive sponsorship
   v. Determine how to differentiate / decide among data and application needs
   vi. Suggest that the leading organizations drive structure / agendas for the organization with feedback from all those participating in the Forum
   vii. Suggest a SURVEY among participants to gather more input on objectives of the Smart Community effort, organization and mission

b. Organizational points/ideas from Groups
   i. Need to gain some executive sponsorship, support
   ii. Communication regularly among ourselves
   iii. Communicate in the right ways and times in a known path
   iv. Opportunities for cross training resources in our agencies
   v. Need to gain some level of buy-in from public
   vi. Partner with other groups, i.e., "AML"
   vii. Consider how we combine efforts to secure grants
   viii. Houston created an umbrella Smart Community organization to better compete for grant funding for initiatives
   ix. Consider how to combine efforts and organization of the new Alaska Geospatial Council and the Alaska Smart Communities Forum

c. Data-related points/ideas from Groups
   i. Decide how to release data
   ii. Data should go beyond ArcGIS
   iii. Decide how to publish data sources
   iv. Decide how to choose among the data sources
   v. What methods to use to gather, expose data and data sources
   vi. Who's creating data; who can share what?
   vii. Catalog → Who's making / maintaining

d. Participation suggestions from the Groups
   i. Invite local foundations, non-profit organizations to participate
   ii. Invite Public Safety to participate; area that makes sense to focus on
   iii. Include professional organizations – potential source of resources

10. Next Steps

The following are key next steps over the coming weeks leading to our next Forum in late January or early February.

a. Send a survey to all participants to refine the objectives for Alaska Smart Communities
b. Draft a project/program charter for all to review and comment
c. Provide regular updates to all participants between Forum events
    i. Survey results
    ii. Draft charter to review
    iii. Progress and feedback on working groups
        1. Data and portals
        2. Applications
        3. Participation
        4. Partnership models
        5. Executive buy-in and sponsorship
d. Publish public calendar; working group calls, Forum events, other related events
e. Provide references to reading materials of interest to participants

ATTACHMENTS/LINKS:

- Handouts
    - Alaska Smart Communities forum Agenda – 27 Oct 2016 – Final.pdf
    - Alaska Smart Communities Forum Hand Out.pdf
- Presentations
    - Alaska Smart Communities Forum Oct27 2016 – Intro.ppt
    - How does MTA use GIS mapping data.pptx
    - MSB Data Portals Story Map: https://msb.maps.arcgis.com/apps/Cascade/index.html?appid=e02604076b9c467c8e985645cea4ae6c
    - 20161027 Smart Communities – Applications Working Group.ppt
    - Lessons Learned Working Group.pptx
- Suggested Reading
    - Gartner: smart_city_governance_requir_313232.pdf
    - Gartner: industry_vision_the_local_go_307944.pdf
    - ESRI: Charlotte, NC Case Study: http://www.esri.com/~/media/Files/Pdfs/industries/government/local/2016-02-charlotte-icma-esri-case-study.pdf
- Participants
    - List of those invited to participate to-date

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