State of Open Data, City of South Bend

August 31, 2014

Current Status

Launched on August 22, 2013, the City of South Bend Open Data Portal has increased transparency and access to city data while helping to promote good government and making the basics easy.

Highlights
In its first year, the Open Data Portal served 220,000 page views and spans over 5.5 million rows of data. The portal debuted with 12 public datasets and 10 GIS maps. Currently, the portal contains 25 datasets and dozens of maps, charts and views.

Public Datasets Published: 25 (listed in order of popularity)
- Employee Compensation
- South Bend Vacant and Abandoned Properties
- Chronic Problem Properties*
- Council Voting Record*
- Code Enforcement Cases
- Business Licenses
- Committee Attendance*
- 311 Call Center Activity by Day*
- Social Services St. Joseph County
- South Bend Certified Realtors*
- Financial Assistance to Non-Governmental Entities
- 311 Contact Management Cases*
- Grant Disbursements
- Parks Locations and Features
- Public Facilities
- Check Register – Accounts Payable*
- Common Council Standing Committees*
- Detailed Disbursements For Funds With Departments
- Summary Cash & Investments Combined Statement
- Fund Cash Balances – Monthly
- City of South Bend Energy – Liquid Fuel Usage*
- Council Meeting Attendance*
- City of South Bend Electricity Usage*
- City of South Bend Natural Gas Usage*
- Animal Care and Control Monthly Statistics*

*Dataset added after portal launch

Data quality
- Automated updates to dynamic datasets are more reliable due to recent server configuration changes

Plan

To improve online public access to public data and maintain data quality, the following objectives have been established for 2014-2015.

Public Engagement
- Increase involvement with the developer community via intentional interaction with groups such as Hack Michiana
- Increase number of datasets that are developer-desired and API enabled
- Promote public interaction by prominently highlighting 'Suggest a Dataset' on the City website

Data Quality and Growth
- Research best practices for converting the City budget into a dataset
- Increase number of GIS-connected maps for dynamic map generation
- Initiate dialogue with 311 Director to identify datasets based on 311 call types and requests
- Identify and publish additional datasets at the City agency level
- Increase integration with data stored on SharePoint
- Inquire with St. Joseph County departments regarding City-relevant data (Health Department restaurant inspections, for example)
- Continue review of existing datasets for integrity and update compliance