

Late Backup

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Comments on FY2014 Budget

Digital Inclusion

- Opportunities are gathering to enhance digital capabilities and equity in our community:
 - Addition of a fourth wireline broadband provided (Google)
 - Two providers committed to gigabit residential (Google and AT&T)
 - Google Fiber Community Connections Program
 - Involved community partners such as Austin Free-Net and Skillpoint Alliance
 - We should take advantage of these circumstances
- Support two Community Technology and Telecommunications Commission recommendations.
 - Recommendation 20130508-010: Fund "Connected Austin" survey at \$50K
 - Recommendation 20130508-010A: Increase Grant for Technology Opportunities Program (GTOPs) by \$25K to \$200K
- Ongoing: support tasking TARA to develop a strategic digital inclusion plan.

Open Government and Civic Technology

- Concerned about lack of civic tech initiatives in the FY14 budget
- CTM budget process is "customer driven". Who is the customer (i.e. which department) for civic tech?
- The "Office of Civic Innovation" funded FY2013 (awaiting implementation) could play this role
- Commission recommendation 20130612-010 proposes some "shovel ready" ideas
- Hope for a fuller discussion at Aug 28 Audit and Finance Committee meeting

Office of Civic Innovation

- Proposal presented by Open Austin in Aug 2012
- Council approved \$250K "seed funding" for FY2013
- FY2014 budget includes \$251K and 2 FTEs for "Innovation Office" in Financial Services budget
- Community has been excluded from development of this proposal
- First community contact was at July 2013 CTTC meeting, at conclusion of development phase, to kick-off recruiting effort
- Concern: current direction is focused on bringing innovation to city processes (which is good), but to the detriment of the community engagement role originally envisioned
- Request: Council redirect these funds for the civic technology innovation effort as proposed and funded back in FY2013