Memorandum

To: Executive Policy Committee (February 10, 2016)
From: Dustin Dilts
Date: February 8, 2016
RE: Item No.2 “Open and Accessible Data initiative – Machine Readable Format”

Purpose
To raise concerns that only limited amounts of data are being publicly shared by the City of Winnipeg, and identify examples where other opportunities exist (beyond the 27 identified).

Additional Opportunities
Based on my experience using and making maps in the field of urban design and landscape architecture there are additional data-sets that would be useful for the public; in many cases this can be as simple as exporting a file and uploading it. The attached Table 1.0 (page 2) shows some of the datasets that would be easy to provide to the public within a very short time-period.

Land Information Services Branch
Some of the data mentioned in Table 1.0 is managed by the Land Information Services Branch of Property Planning and Development, and can be purchased from the City for costs of up to $230,000 depending on the dataset (Source: City of Winnipeg Website, Planning Property and Development, Maps and Digital Data for Sale; url:www.winnipeg.ca/ppd/maps_price.stm).

This cost can make information out of reach for individual citizens, smaller organizations and businesses, **limiting opportunities** for creativity, innovation, and constructive discussion in our City to those who have the financial resources.

This raises questions around the competing objectives of revenue from the sale of data while at the same time trying to become more open and transparent. If information already exists and the taxpayer is paying for the creation of this information, then why is the City charging for it in an era of OpenData?

An Example Comparison to Another Jurisdiction (Vancouver)
Two basic examples;

1. If I am working on a project in Winnipeg and want to create a map showing Zoning and overlay it with other sets of information using mapping software, I must pay for this data. If I am working on a project in Vancouver this information is free.
2. Property Tax Assessment information on a City-wide basis; in Vancouver this information is provided for free. In Winnipeg, to receive this information on City-wise basis, it must be purchased as it is only freely available for a single property a time.

Suggested Next Steps

1. Provide online, a full list of **ALL** datasets, ranking the perceived difficulty in providing this information to the public (low, medium or high) for each piece of information;
2. For each dataset list the challenges that exist in providing this information on the Open Data platform (barriers to implementation);
3. Create an implementation strategy including clearly defined timelines and budgetary needs required to make all of this information public;

Regards,

Dustin Dilts

Table 1.0 – Additional Data List

Dataset	Implementation Difficulty	Barriers to Implementation
Zoning	Easy	This information is viewable online, however it is not currently downloadable.
Floodway, flood fringe lines	Easy	None.
River Countours	Easy	None.
Transit Station / Stop Passenger Volumes and Transit Routes	Easy	None. See page 305 of Pedestrian and Cycling Strategy for reference.
Bike Infrastructure – Existing and Proposed	Easy	None. See page 74 and 172 of Pedestrian and Cycling Strategy for reference.
Sidewalks – Existing and Proposed	Easy	None. See page 69 and 130 of Pedestrian and Cycling Strategy for reference.
Natural Areas	Easy	None.
City Owned Land	Easy	None.
Provincial / Federally Owned Land	Not Known.	Not Known.
Aerial Imagery	Easy	None.
Pavement Areas	Easy	None.
Vacant Land	Easy	None.