Minutes – Executive Policy Committee – November 13, 2024

REPORTS

Item No. 7 2024 Open Data Annual Report

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

The Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service and recommended to Council:

1. That this report be received as information.

DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,

That the recommendation of the Winnipeg Public Service be concurred in and forwarded to Council.

Carried

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Title: 2024 Open Data Annual Report

Critical Path: Executive Policy Committee – Council

AUTHORIZATION

Author	Department Head	CFO	CAO
J. Bodnarchuk	T. Gooch	T. Graham	S. Armbruster, Interim CAO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On September 30, 2020, Council requested the Public Service submit an annual report to Council detailing the progress of the City's Open Data program, to advise on the progress and successes of the preceding year.

Key achievements of the past year include:

- Seven new datasets released to the public.
- One new Open Data-powered application to facilitate access to data, increase transparency and illustrate alignment to key priorities.
- Transitioned from the Open Cities Index to What Works Cities Open Data Certification Criteria for benchmarking.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That this report be received as information.

REASON FOR THE REPORT

On September 30, 2020, Council directed the Winnipeg Public Service to submit an annual report to Council detailing the progress of the City's Open Data program, and to advise on the progress and successes of the preceding year.

IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS

There are no implications of the recommendations.

HISTORY/DISCUSSION

History

On May 30, 2012, Council adopted the following:

1. That the City of Winnipeg endorse the principles of:

    A. Open and Accessible Data - the City of Winnipeg will share with citizens, businesses and other jurisdictions the greatest amount of data possible while respecting privacy and security concerns.

    B. Open Standards - the City of Winnipeg will move as quickly as possible to adopt prevailing open standards for data, documents, maps, and other formats of media.

On March 20, 2013, Council adopted an Open Data Initiative which endorsed the principles of providing Open and Accessible Data that could be shared with citizens, businesses and other jurisdictions the greatest amount of data possible while respecting privacy and security concerns.

On June 25, 2014, Council adopted the "Open Government Initiative - Improvements to the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act Process" which directed the Winnipeg Public Service to implement a new process for Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA) requests. This process would focus on the concepts of openness and transparency in providing government data, while ensuring privacy and security of data for citizens and businesses, in keeping with the Open Data Initiatives adopted by Council.

On September 16, 2015, Executive Policy Committee requested that the Public Service conduct a review of all City data sharing and identify opportunities to apply machine readable format along with a review of security and privacy considerations and report back within 90 days.

On October 26, 2015, the City Clerk's office prepared a report outlining leading open government initiatives in other jurisdictions and broad recommendations on next steps for the City of Winnipeg in implementing open government.

On June 6, 2016, the City hired a full time Open Data Administrator to manage and promote the City's Open Data program. Having a dedicated staff member accelerated the City's Open Data program by focusing on new datasets, new collaborations and new projects built with Open Data.

On September 30, 2020, Council adopted the International Open Data Charter. The Charter represents a globally agreed upon set of principles for publishing Open Data that is:

1. Open by Default;
2. Timely and Comprehensive;
3. Accessible and Usable;
4. Comparable and Interoperable;
5. For improved Governance and Citizen Engagement;
6. For Inclusive Development and Innovation;

The core priority of the Open Data program is the release of new City of Winnipeg datasets. Since September 2023, the Open Data team has released seven new datasets: Infrastructure Plan Funding, Cycling Network, Department Diversity Stats, Web Analytics, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service – Fire Responses, Vacant Property Fires, and Legacy River Levels.

Discussion

On September 30, 2020, Council concurred in the recommendation of the Executive Policy Committee and adopted the following:

1. That the International Open Data Charter be adopted, to update the endorsement made in 2012.

2. That the City of Winnipeg continue to expand the Open Data program by releasing additional departmental data as outlined in the International Open Data Charter, while respecting privacy and security concerns.

3. That the Winnipeg Public Service be directed to submit an annual report to Council detailing the progress of the City's Open Data program, to advise on the progress and successes of the preceding year.

The Open Data Annual Report summarizes the activities and work done with the City's Open Data over the last twelve months and highlights upcoming initiatives and goals.

Benchmarking

In 2015, the Public Sector Digest launched Canada's first Open Data benchmark – the Open Cities Index. This index measures the maturity of municipal Open Data programs by evaluating their readiness, implementation and impact. With no specific guidelines for what an Open Data program should be, the City used this survey as a rubric to develop the program. For 2015, the City of Winnipeg placed 20th. In 2016, the rank improved to 10th, relative to other Canadian cities. In 2017, Winnipeg jumped to third across Canada. After the Public Sector Digest paused the index survey in 2018, the 2019 score pushed Winnipeg to 2nd place. Finally, in 2020, the Index was expanded to all North American cities, and while Winnipeg ranked back down to third, the overall score improved 22 percent year to year to 96.30 percent, a near perfect score.

In 2023, the Open Cities Index was discontinued. A new benchmark was identified: What Works Cities Certification.

In 2017, What Works Cities (WWC) launched their Certification program to benchmark, recognize and celebrate local governments for their exceptional use of data to inform policy decisions, allocate funding, improve services, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and engage residents. Certification is open to all cities in North, Central, and South America with a population of at least 30,000.

In 2019, the City of Winnipeg completed an Assessment for WWC Certification, and among other Criteria, earned 2 of 4 Open Data Criteria and were credited with "In Progress" status on 2 more.

2019 Open Data Criteria Assessment Results

1. In Progress: Your local government has a publicly available codified open data policy that commits to data transparency and proactive public disclosure of local government data and data practices. 63% of all applicant cities do this.

2. In Progress: Your local government has a documented process for publishing open data. 33% of all applicant cities do this.

3. Yes: Your local government publishes open data to a central, public online location. 69% of all applicant cities do this.

4. Yes: Your local government adopts Civic Data Standards. 40% of all applicant cities do this.

In 2023, the City updated their Assessment based on WWC's revised Criteria, earned 3 of 4 Open Data Criteria, and were credited with "In Progress" status on 1 more.

2023 Open Data Criteria Assessment Results

1. Yes: Your local government has a publicly available, codified open data policy that commits to data transparency and proactive public disclosure of local government data and data practices. 56% of all applicant cities do this.

2. Yes: Your local government provides clear "how-to" guidance to help all internal and external users (city staff, residents, businesses, etc.) access, analyze, engage, and use open and shared city data. 46% of all applicant cities do this.

3. Yes: Your local government publishes open data to a central, public online location. 71% of all applicant cities do this.

4. In Progress: Your local government tracks and documents insights about internal and external data users and incorporates user needs into the design and implementation of its data and analytics services and transparency practices. 31% of all applicant cities do this.

In 2024, the City updated their Assessment and earned 4 of 4 Open Data Criteria.

2024 Open Data Criteria Assessment Results

1. Yes: Your local government has a publicly available, codified open data policy that commits to data transparency and proactive public disclosure of local government data and data practices. 56% of all applicant cities do this.

2. Yes: Your local government provides clear "how-to" guidance to help all internal and external users (city staff, residents, businesses, etc.) access, analyze, engage, and use open and shared city data. 46% of all applicant cities do this.

3. Yes: Your local government publishes open data to a central, public online location. 72% of all applicant cities do this.

4. Yes: Your local government tracks and documents insights about internal and external data users and incorporates user needs into the design and implementation of its data and analytics services and transparency practices. 30% of all applicant cities do this.

Dataset Count

The core priority of the Open Data program is the maintenance of existing and release of new City of Winnipeg datasets. An increasing trend in the count of Open Data Datasets is a key performance indicator and is reported in multiple places, including the Corporate Strategic Plan and the Municipal Benchmarking Network Canada (MBNCanada). The definition used by MBNCanada states “regardless of the formats the data set is being provided in, it will only count as a single data set.” Thus, for purposes of MBNCanada, there are 179 Unique Datasets and Maps as of the date of this report. For purposes of other reporting, there are 245 Total Datasets and Maps.

As of the date of this report, the City of Winnipeg has published publicly through the Open Data Portal (data.winnipeg.ca):

- 176 Unique Datasets
- 69 Maps
    - 3 Unique Maps
    - 66 Maps based on a Dataset

- 245 Total Datasets and Maps

New Datasets

Since September 2023, the Open Data team has released 7 new datasets (see Table 1).

Table 1. Released Datasets since September 2023

Dataset	Release Date	Description
Cycling Network	2023-11-03	This data set comprises the on and off-road cycling infrastructure that makes up the cycling network. It includes City owned infrastructure (e.g., multiuse paths and protected bike lanes) as well as some spur routes and other private infrastructure.
Infrastructure Plan Funding	2023-11-29	Consolidation of departmental investment planning data representing a prioritized set of total infrastructure needs that are either funded, partially funded or unfunded. Visualization available here: https://legacy.winnipeg.ca/infrastructure/infrastructure-plan/
Department Diversity Stats	2024-01-15	The City of Winnipeg Diversity Dashboard data conform to Statistics Canada anonymization standards.
Web Analytics	2024-05-27	Daily snapshot of the web and API usage of the Open Data portal. Updated weekly based on the internal

		analytics of the Tyler Data and Insights platform. Value column represents number of accesses for each asset in the day period.
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service - Fire Responses	2024-07-30	Fire incidents responded to by the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service. Incident based fire statistics by property type, property subtype and fire cause.
Vacant Property Fires	2024-07-30	Fire incidents at vacant properties responded to by the Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service.
Legacy River Levels	2024-08-19	This dataset provides a historical record of river levels for the Assiniboine and Red rivers at various locations around the City of Winnipeg, covering the period from February 2003 to March 2018.

Open Data Based Applications

One new application based on Open Data was launched since September 2023.

The Interactive 2024 Infrastructure Plan is based on the Infrastructure Plan Funding Open Data dataset, and is updated twice a year. It is updated each year when the preliminary budget is released and again when the budget is approved.

Based on feedback received from internal and external stakeholders, several improvements were made in the City's 2024 Infrastructure Plan to facilitate access to data, increase transparency and illustrate alignment to key priorities. This has mainly been accomplished through the development of an Interactive Infrastructure Plan allowing users to navigate through various departments, services and strategies.

Within the Interactive 2024 Infrastructure Plan:

- Users can select a financial period and a funding category (see Figure 1).
- By default, the 10-year capital cost, including amounts forecasted and amounts unfunded, is displayed by Service Area in both chart and table form (see Figure 2).
- The 10-year Capital Plan displays the forecasted amount and unfunded amount by year, and the Infrastructure Funding Level displays the total 10 year amounts, along with the total Deficit (see Figure 3).
- The details for each investment are shown in List and Map form and based on the user's selections for financial period and funding category, various summaries are displayed (see https://legacy.winnipeg.ca/infrastructure/infrastructure-plan/ for more information).

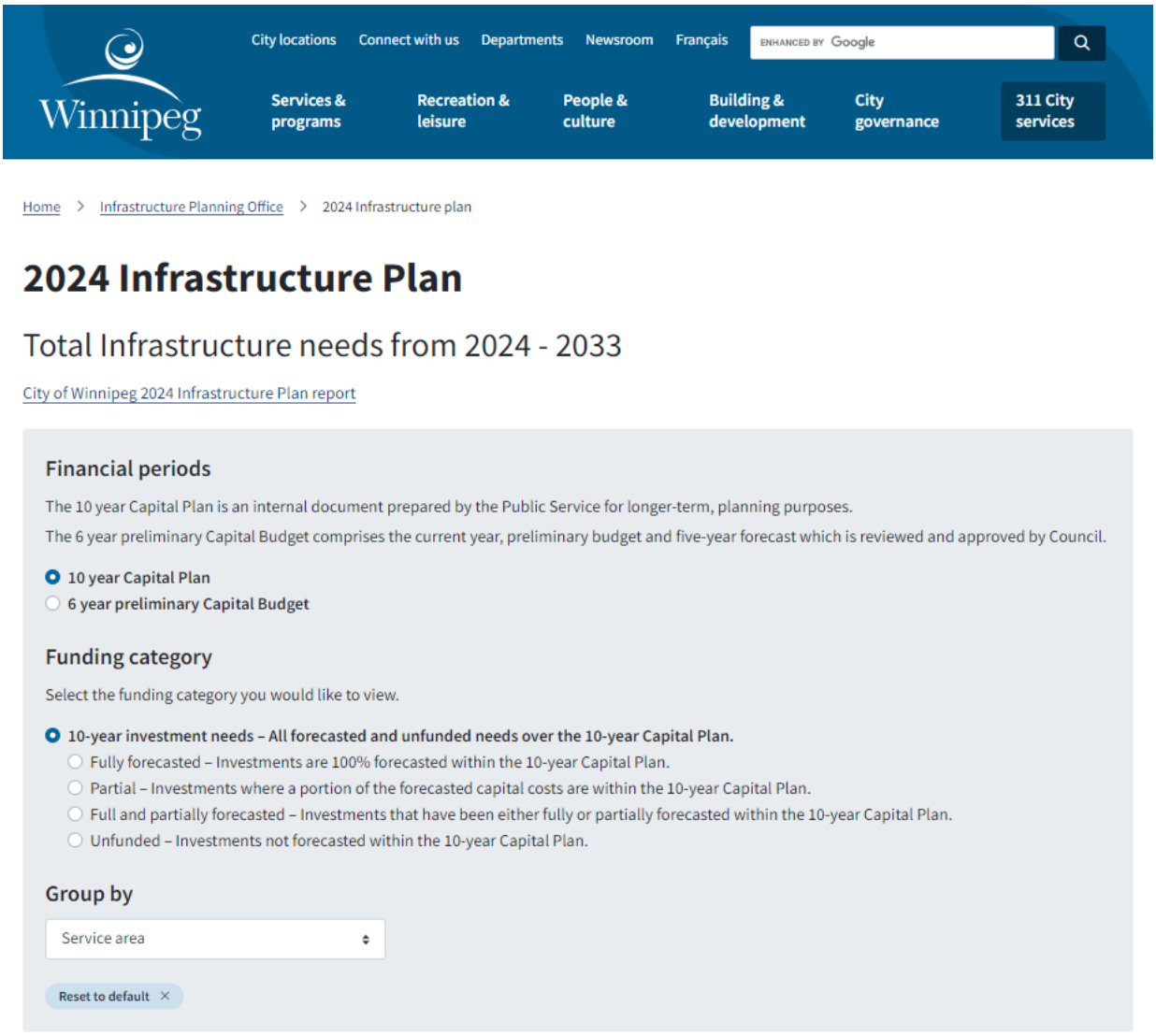
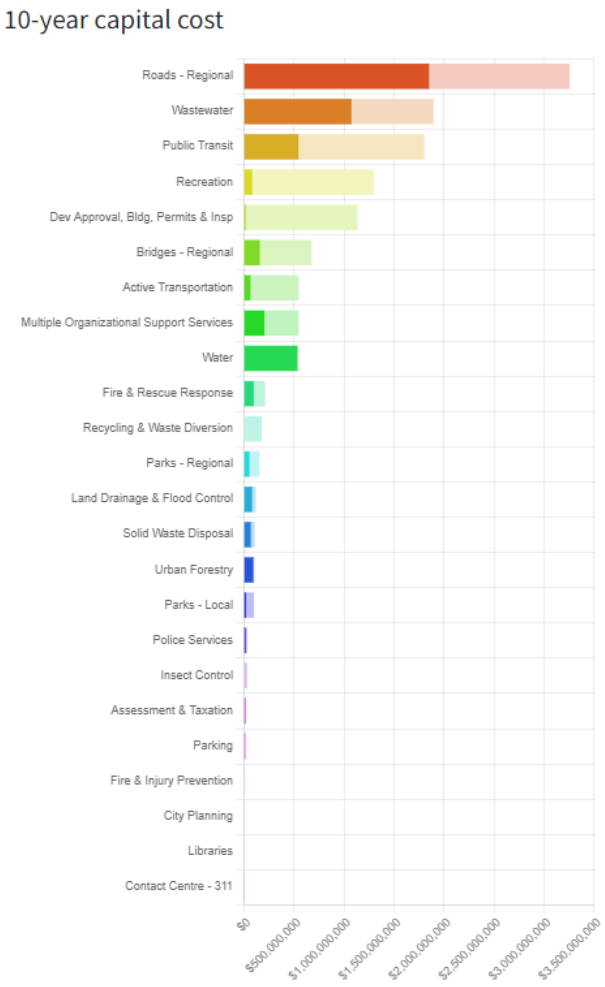


Figure 1. Interactive 2024 Infrastructure Plan: Selection of financial period and funding category.



Service area	10 year capital cost	Amount funded	Amount unfunded
Roads - Regional (9)	$3,257,197,000	$1,853,077,000	$1,404,120,000
Wastewater (19)	$1,895,747,000	$1,075,945,000	$819,802,000
Public Transit (11)	$1,805,153,000	$546,829,000	$1,258,324,000
Recreation (23)	$1,301,958,000	$83,184,000	$1,218,774,000
Dev Approval, Bldg, Permits & Insp (3)	$1,136,744,000	$18,863,000	$1,117,881,000
Bridges - Regional (7)	$675,843,000	$159,975,000	$515,868,000
Active Transportation (3)	$548,082,000	$66,526,000	$481,556,000
Multiple Organizational Support Services (7)	$546,297,000	$204,279,000	$342,018,000
Water (14)	$538,768,000	$537,475,000	$1,293,000
Fire & Rescue Response (9)	$211,225,000	$98,954,000	$112,271,000
Recycling & Waste Diversion (2)	$179,250,000	$0	$179,250,000
Parks - Regional (3)	$153,109,000	$57,251,000	$95,858,000
Land Drainage & Flood Control (5)	$120,793,000	$83,530,000	$37,263,000
Solid Waste Disposal (5)	$106,300,000	$69,885,000	$36,415,000
Urban Forestry (1)	$104,609,000	$94,922,000	$9,687,000
Parks - Local (3)	$101,127,000	$20,755,000	$80,372,000
Police Services (5)	$35,225,000	$19,206,000	$16,019,000
Insect Control (1)	$32,463,000	$0	$32,463,000
Assessment & Taxation (2)	$17,929,000	$15,929,000	$2,000,000
Parking (1)	$14,462,000	$14,462,000	$0
Fire & Injury Prevention (1)	$10,509,000	$0	$10,509,000
City Planning (1)	$8,007,000	$0	$8,007,000
Libraries (1)	$7,721,000	$0	$7,721,000
Contact Centre - 311 (1)	$5,762,000	$2,496,000	$3,266,000

Total investments	137
10-year capital cost	$12,814,280,000
10-year amount funded	$5,023,543,000
10-year amount unfunded	$7,790,737,000

Figure 2. Interactive 2024 Infrastructure Plan: 10-year capital cost chart and table by service area. Current as of June 26, 2024.

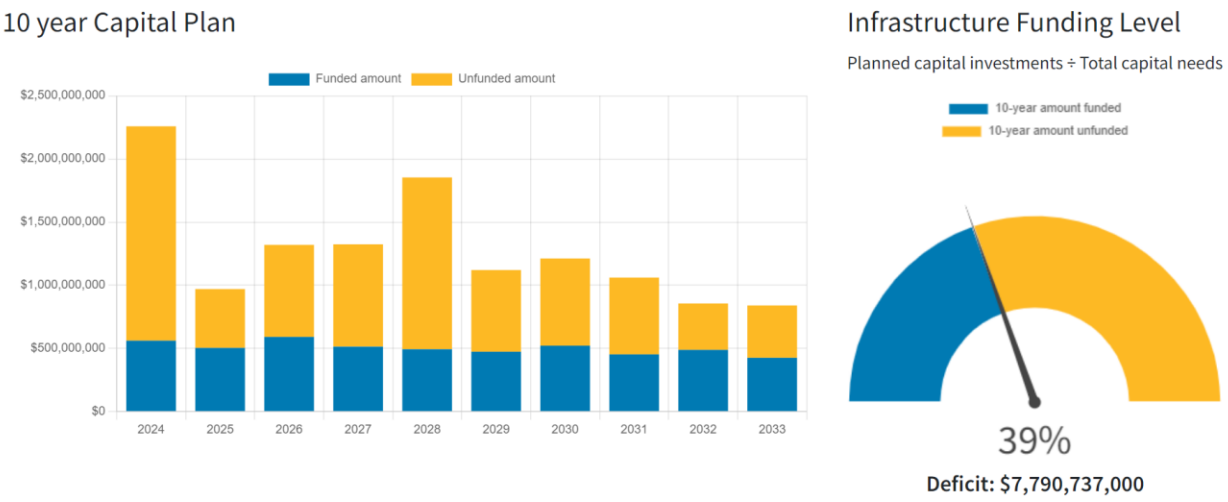


Figure 3. Interactive 2024 Infrastructure Plan: 10-year Capital Plan and Infrastructure Funding Level. Current as of June 26, 2024.

Future Plans

The Public Service will continue to sustain the current catalog, publish additional datasets as they become available, and improve the quality of published data while containing costs to provide the service.

Further, guided by the What Works Cities Certification benchmark, the City of Winnipeg's Open Data program will continue its leadership role in the North American Open Data landscape, using information and data to inform policy decisions, allocate funding, improve services, evaluate the effectiveness of programs, and engage residents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Financial Impact Statement

Date: September 12, 2024

Project Name:

2024 Open Data Annual Report

COMMENTS:

There are no financial implications in receiving this report as information.

Randy Bernard

Randy Bernard, CPA, CMA
Manager of Finance & Administration (Campus)
Corporate Finance Department

CONSULTATION

This Report has been prepared in consultation with:

- Open Data Steering Committee

OURWINNIPEG POLICY ALIGNMENT

Our Winnipeg 1.5 - Evidence-Informed Decisions: Invest in data and technology in order to support objective, evidence-informed decision-making; support open government and open data principles for collection and sharing; help coordinate records and information management; and improve process efficiency, results-based service delivery and accountability.

WINNIPEG CLIMATE ACTION PLAN ALIGNMENT

N/A

WINNIPEG POVERTY REDUCTION STRATEGY ALIGNMENT

N/A

SUBMITTED BY

Department: Innovation & Technology
Division: Innovation & Technology for Corporate Services
Prepared by: J. Bodnarchuk
Date: September 13, 2024
File No: N/A

Attachments: