AMONTario
ASSET MANAGEMENT ONTARIO

Asset Management Technical Assistance

Session # 1
Data & Information

Establishing an Asset Hierarchy & Developing an Asset Register

Establishing an Asset Hierarchy

(session 2A)

The ‘Line of Sight’

Data Management Outcomes

- Gain experience with:
  - Systematically organizing assets in the database;
  - Identifying the data to collect & store in an asset database; and
  - Using existing asset data to start or add to your database.

Asset Hierarchies

- A systematic organization of assets:
  - Creates a ‘Line of Sight’ between services, assets & accountabilities;
  - Maps asset relationships in the database;
  - Creates consistent definitions;
  - Increases data reliability & accuracy; and
  - Facilitates analysis, planning & decision making at all levels of the organization to serve different purposes.

An Infrastructure Asset

- Defining an ‘Asset’ is not always straightforward:
  - Different values & meaning at different levels of the organization;
  - Depends on the planning & decision requirements
- Key is that a municipality’s definition of ‘assets’ should be consistent throughout the asset register & hierarchy.

Tips for Defining an Asset

- A entity of interrelated components that has measurable benefit to service delivery
  - Can be limited or widespread in influence
    - A local water main pipe – limited influence
    - A water pumping system – widespread influence
- Loss of an “asset” would noticeably affect services for a period of time
  - E.g., Meeting customer service levels would be put at risk if asset is out of commission.

Asset Scalability

Asset	Degree of Influence or Criticality to Services	Potential Mitigating Factors
Local water main	Low to Moderate	Other watermains
Wastewater Pumping Station or Forcemain	High	On-site storage & overflows, standby power
Road or Bridge	Moderate to High	Other roads & routes
Community Centre	Moderate to High	Alternate locations, postpone activities
Elevator	Low	Other elevators, stairs

Finding the 'Asset' Balance

- Strike the right balance: Avoid being too granular in defining assets...
  - Difficult & costly to manage
  - Provides little or no value for decision making
- ...but also avoid being overly general.
  - Miss on planning & analysis opportunities
- Establish definitions that make sense for key users.
  - Avoid using purely financial definitions that might not fully capture the salient characteristics of the asset.
- Find the right common ground across Departments
  - E.g., Finance will need to consolidate asset data for financial reporting (FIR, infrastructure grants, etc.). Data needs may differ from those of Public Works.

Service to Asset Hierarchy

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Service to Asset Hierarchy

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Planning Applications

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Water Example

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Wastewater Example

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Roads Example

Note: another 'asset level' for major capital components like 'bridge decks' may be required.

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Exercise #1: Adanac Township
Establish the Asset Hierarchy

Task: Complete the ‘Adanac Roads Service to Asset Hierarchy’

Required Materials:

- Exercise 1 – Adanac Roads, Service to Asset Hierarchy (optional printed copies provided)
- The “Adanac Township Case Study Background”
- Table 1 – Adanac Township Infrastructure Summary
- Table 2 – Partial Adanac Township Database