

## Council on Open Data

September 3, 2015

10:00AM - 12:00PM

Maryland Transportation Department (MDOT)  
7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, MD 21076  
Harry Hughes Conference Room, Lower Level

### **Introductions (Barney Krucoff, State GIO)**

- Luis Estrada (Deputy Secretary of DoIT) to open the meeting with some comments
  - Learned a bit of what Council is working toward, only second meeting in attendance
- Introducing Luis Luna who assumes the role of Vice Chair of Council on Open Data
  - As part of the initiative to improve performance of government, Luis is new StateStat Director
  - Luis' background includes:
    - A graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park
    - A graduate from Georgetown University Law Center
    - Worked 20+ years in Federal Government, on Capitol Hill and at numerous agencies
    - Run Non-profit Organizations on the Eastern Shore
    - Is a resident of the Eastern Shore
  
- Welcome Delegate Cullison
  
- Regarding today's agenda, we have:
  - Several guest speakers from the State and public sector
  - Will discuss changes to Public Information Act (PIA) law in Maryland
  - Several counties have changed data distribution policies based on work coming out of this Council and they will share their stories
  - Businesses and persons using data provided, will share how they are using data, maybe there is other data they want to see or discuss how we can make more/new data available
  - Show SDAT property data recently launched and display data freshness dashboard
  
- Esri ELA News
  - Handshake deal was hung up on terms and conditions
  - DoIT decided to exercise the option year and made initial request to the Board of Public Works (BPW) in early August
  - It was discovered that Former Governor O'Malley had been paid by Esri for numerous speaking engagements
  - Decision to fund option year of Esri ELA has been deferred twice
  - First time DoIT responded to questions raised by the Comptroller
  - Second time the Comptroller requested the presence of an Esri representative
  - Next meeting is scheduled for September 16
  - If option year funding is approved, GIS software support continues through 8/31/16

- If option year is not approved, Server and Desktop licenses are in perpetuity, which would persist, but cloud services would go dark
- DoIT would work to get a contract for cloud services only
- It is expected that the option year will be approved by BPW and if it is will come back to talk about long term procurement
- Currently in a contract extension from 9/1/15 to 10/1/15
- Could not extend beyond this date based on actions that were available
- DoIT is in full compliance and we will understand where we stand on the 16th
- Will send out message on the 16th to the GIS email list serve
- Go to <http://imap.maryland.gov/Pages/imap-subscribe-signup.aspx> to get your contact information added to this email list serve

## **Council to Report to New Legislative Committee: “Joint Committee on Legislative Information Technology and Open Government” (Barney Krucoff)**

- First meeting is scheduled for September 8
- Barney Krucoff has been invited to testify at this meeting
- This will be the first time this group has met and they are still trying to determine the direction of this new Committee
- List of Committee members is available
  - Of note, Delegate Cullison and Senator Ferguson are not on this Committee
- Want to solicit, at the end of this meeting, advice of what to include in testimony
  - History and legislation of the Council on Open Data
  - Actions taken last year
  - Annual Report
  - Open to additional opinions and suggestions
- Request advice from Delegate Cullison, no advice at this time

## **Changes to the Public Information Act (Adam Snyder, Office of Attorney General)**

- 2015 session of the General Assembly had 3 bills that impacted PIA
- 1) Chapter 136: General Provisions - Public Information Act - Enforcement, Fees and Exemptions
  - 2) Chapter 266: Public Information Act - List of Contact Information for Governmental Unit Representatives
  - 3) Chapter 350: Public Records - Inspection

### ***Chapter 136:***

#### **General Provisions - Public Information Act - Enforcement, Fees and Exemptions**

- Focus on Chapter 136 because this one is the most far reaching
- Effective date: October 1, 2015
- Covers three main categories:
  - 1) Effects changes to process of reviewing PIA requests to provide more transparency
  - 2) New fee provisions for uniformity across state and local agencies
  - 3) Offers new alternatives to judicial reviews that occur under the Act

- Under old law, requestor that was dissatisfied could go to court or initiate administrative appeal to go to Office of Administrative Hearings
  - Both options involve lawyers, were expensive, time consuming and formal
- Under new law, eliminate administrative review and in its place have two new streamlined ways to seek review:
  - 1) PIA Compliance Board:
    - Modeled on Open Meetings Compliance Board
    - Very narrow jurisdiction over fee disputes beyond \$350
    - File a complaint and get resolution
    - This board can issue binding decisions and require agencies to refund the difference in costs
    - Requestors can appeal decisions in Circuit Court
    - Informal process, letter of complaint is filed and Board turns to agency for response
    - 95% of issues will be resolved through paper interactions, quickly
    - Low-cost resolution, faster way for appeals
  - 2) Ombudsman
    - Has broad jurisdiction, but limited power
    - Can consider any dispute under PIA, for example: the time a request is taking, how exclosure is being handled, quoted fees, etc...
    - Mediator only, get the two parties together, hear the complaint of requestor, call agency representatives and discuss to see if the parties can resolve issue between themselves
    - Does not render decisions, no jurisdictional review
    - Cannot compel agency to give records under dispute
    - Very informal, really talking through issues, trying to see if there is a misunderstanding
    - Impartial 3rd party who acts as a go between
    - This position can do a lot of good, because a lot of disputes can be resolved if the two parties come together and explain reasons on both sides
    - Can potentially adjust request to get what is requested without causing triggers of other, more cumbersome actions
- Change judicial review provisions, can still go straight to court
- Requestors can seek up to \$1,000 in statutory damages if agency improperly withholds or charges for information
- In many ways, the Bill is designed to increase transparency in PIA, not alter exemptions
  - 1) Most importantly, creates 10 day letter
    - Agency has documents requested from them, but cannot provide within 10 days of request
    - Agency has to write the requestor a letter or email and inform the requestor that the response will take longer than 10 days, give requestor estimate of fees and timeframe of response
    - Try to begin the dialogue between the two parties and assure the requestor that the request has been received
    - Most requests will need to follow this process

- 2) When an Agency denies access to records, the Agency has to describe record withholding in greater detail
  - Elaborate why data is being withheld and provide more explanation as to why disclosure might be contrary to public interest
  - Enhances responses, denial letters less formalistic and more explanatory

3) Change in fee provisions

- Can only charge based on actual costs
  - When charging for locating document, reviewing documents to determine if appropriate for disclosure, must charge pro-rated salary of all involved in these processes
  - Had flat fee in the past, some fees were not specified in regulation, some agencies used different matrices
  - These new provisions provides some uniform response
- New grounds for waiving fees, previously only when fee waiver was in public interest, now indigents can get waiver
  - Other bills are less far reaching:

**Chapter 266:**

**Public Information Act - List of Contact Information for Governmental Unit Representatives**

- Requires all agencies (state and local) to identify, on website, who the PIA contact is and provide their contact information
- Send contact information to Office of Attorney General where it is compiled and published on website and in PIA manual (paper copy)
- Avoid situation where requestor submits request and gets bounced around for awhile before finding the final destination
- Avoids question about when 30 day time period begins

**Chapter 350:** Public Records - Inspection

- Most minor, but might align most closely with this Council
- Each custodian must identify types of records that will be available to the public and must maintain a list
- Previously custodians could consider this, now a mandate
- Agencies can identify some data that could be hosted on website, making it immediately available
- Allows for no fee to be charged and eliminates long response time
- Get certain types of records out of agency quickly, avoid delays and expenses related to requests

**Question:** Does Chapter 350 indicate what types of records are included?

- It is up to the agency to decide what types of records are included, but guess it will be things fairly public to begin with
- If requestor requests something else, they might see a smaller fee
- Must post list of records immediately available, but does not require they are on website, but some agencies do post on website to speed things up

**Question:** State and local agencies required to follow?

- State focused, but thinks it applies to both, not 100% sure

**Question:** Does OAG have training for designated contacts and can we reach out to let them know of current open data portals?

- No, get contact info, but do not have an easy mechanism, chat room or email list to circulate information to these individuals
- OAG go to MACo and MLL to get this information out to the broader community
- There is a dialog, but this would be a good idea to formulate
- However, contacts might change with some frequency
- We can discuss and could compile and create email list to share with Council

**Question:** Talked about having a database of PIA requests, concerns about understanding when a request becomes a PIA request

- Traditionally, treat every inquiry as a PIA request, seeking records from agency
- Includes email request, such as can you provide me this and there is a quick response, process is not relevant, but if you get this type of request and it is not fulfilled in 45 days, this could be argued in court as not a formal PIA request
- Narrowing to requests that come to PIA contact could limit the burden
- PIA requests and responses public, there are limitations, because some responses go to someone who has a greater level of access than the general public
- Really rare that two people ask for the same information
- Having a big database of responses could be helpful, but do not expect it to stanch the flow of PIA requests
- Tracking approach is a good idea to see how agencies are doing to respond to PIA requests, some local governments have started doing this
- Hopefully because of new law, all requests will come to PIA contact person
- Created email address in OAG for purpose of custodians to send contact information and it has become a lightning rod for sending PIA requests
- People looking for a clear place to send requests
- Do not think requests will really be coming into a lot of employees, might get some emails that are informal requests, but most requestors want a clear place to put these types of requests
- PIA Coordinator for agencies where all requests should be forwarded to, can do this now
- Agencies will have a stronger argument now that the contact person is clearly posted, if requestor sent request to someone else and the request took some time to get to the right person and the clock was already running, so the response was delayed

**Question:** How many PIA custodians are there for each agency? For the state?

- Law does not specify which agencies have to have PIA custodians
- Have been advising that this person's contact information should be on the website
- Can be a shared responsibility

**Question:** Emailed someone, in need of a plat, from SHA and they replied back with it in attachment Is this ok? Would they in the future be told to forward all these requests to the PIA contact person?

- Departmental policy question, do not think they will do this
- PIA process can be fairly rigid with responses, so if agencies are getting requests from colleagues in different agencies, will treat less formally, but if there is a dispute, it might be reviewed under PIA regulations

**Question:** If state is getting a number of requests that are referred to counties and municipalities do they get a large amount that are referred out?

- Get some PIA requests seeking local government records, does not happen a lot, in that situation typically respond by saying the records are not in our custody, you might want to speak with local government, who can be reached at this address and might have the documents you seek
- With new document of PIA contacts we can be more specific of who the PIA contact is for different entities
- Could forward request, but then there are questions about when they received the request from agency and then requestor, usually just tell requestor where to submit request directly

**Comment:** Federal government will be piloting program for Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and will be posting responses to a central website, to reporter this is not ideal, but this will be interesting to see how it plays out

- PIA and state government records management section applies very broadly to local and state government officials

**Question:** Has PIA manual been updated to reflect new legislation?

- Updated as of October 1, 2015 and will go live first thing October 1 with new law going into place
- In Maryland there are no grounds where someone has to reveal themselves as a PIA requestor, unless they are requesting a fee waiver or requesting information that is not in the best interest of the public to release, then additional contact information is required to determine if release of requested data is appropriate

## **Changes to County GIS Data Distribution Policies and Effect of Last Year's Change to GIS Data Sales Law**

### **Bud Gudmundson (Washington County) (Slides Available)**

- Bud Gudmundson, involved with selling data for a number of years
- 2001 policy of GIS distribution put in place, 2007 it was revised
- GIS office was authorized to set the price and did not have to go back to Commissioners
- Over the years data sales have been trending downward, because data was getting old, data was available from the state (parcel data, for example) and general industry trend of open data
- State law was impetus to push for free and open data, Washington County was hesitant, customers were engineers and surveyors and was not sure if they were charging their clients for the data, get it free from county and charge clients was in question
- Thought it was a good idea as economic development incentive to make open data

- Got Engineering Department and Economic Development Department on board and took to County Administrator and was approved
- Got support and thanks from local engineers and developer community
- Talked with Allegany County about how they should go about drafting an open data policy for their county
- Since 2002 the number of dollars selling geospatial data, jump in FY08 when got new data, but not big revenue generator overall
- Website of available data from GIS Office, effective July 1, 2015 all fees have been removed
- Require an order form and signing of a license agreement still
- Feel that it is important at this point to know who is getting data and state limitations of accuracy
- Might be dropped order form and license agreements in the future
- List of available datasets is considerable:
  - Parcels, LiDAR, orthophotos (all can be obtained from county or local source)
  - Zoning, planimetrics and some other information can be obtained from locals only

### **Jim Cannistra (MNCPPC - Prince George's County)**

- Jim Cannistra, now working for MNCPPC of Prince George's County as Information Management Director
- Previously spoken with Council as employee of MDP
- Now doing same stuff, but for different organization
- Prince George's County Planning initiated open data initiative
- Have comprehensive, enterprise geodatabase with 200+ data layers
- One of the first counties in Maryland to implement GIS
- Was part of the program to sell GIS data and services to recoup these initial costs
- Since 1992 data was only available through sales
- In early years, a fair amount of money was collected
- Since 2008, have been maintaining 200+ lease agreements
- Lease agreements were for no fee entities, such as non-profits, other counties and municipalities
- Launched open data program this year, going full force, data now available at no cost
- Everything available, except for a few minor exceptions
- Data available in multiple formats (geodatabase, shapefile, dxf and imagery)
- Implementing a process of monthly refreshes with latest data
- Open map services for those who want to connect through GIS applications
- Implemented unrestricted use policy, people can use data however they want, sell it, put on websites
- Asking for attribution of where the data originated to be included
- Still fee based custom products and robust web-based resources
- A lot of countywide data sets, in .zip files and ready for download
- 6,500 data downloads since July 1st, a lot of different end users
- Most of the data is seamless countywide, a lot of download activity
- After release, over couple month period, expected numbers to go down after initial marketing, but has been continuous stream of downloading

- How legislation impacted, was last nail in coffin, for pursuing open data initiative for county, long been advocating PG release the reins on data, saw what other agencies were doing
- try to change program that was in place for 20 years, legislation made that job easier to effect change, didn't have to go to county planning board or commissioners, legis was in place, focus on implementation of program instead of having to convince people, portrayed as something that had to be done, very happy that this was accomplished with backing of legislation

**Question:** State agency uses data from Washington or Prince George's Counties and makes a derivative product, can this derivative product be distributed?

- Restriction of the sale of data directly, but when modified or combined with other data, can sell as another product

**Question:** Is the county saving money by not selling data?

- Where one or two people who were dedicated to handling those requests, 200 lease agreements that had to be signed annually, processing and tracking and responding to requests, definitely saving labor time
- Now when people call they are pointed to the website
- Metadata included with all downloads, with use and accuracy limitations for each dataset
- Washington County does not have the volume of Prince George's County, so did not have a significant change

**Question:** Are there use cases related to the data?

- Cannot speak of specifics, no first hand testimonials
- What has been downloaded: property data, planimetrics, topography and buildings, core basemap information
- Surprised that downloading includes "weird" off-shoot datasets that are available
- Primarily engineering and development communities are end users of the data

**Question:** Has Hagerstown incorporated parcel data in with Washington County data?

- Incorporated into county data that is available for download

**Question:** Since legislation has passed, would it be useful for a local government survey of what is being done at the local level in response to the legislation?

- Identify some of the counties and organizations that have not made their data available
- Target those counties for convincing to make data available and be consistent with other counties and local jurisdictions

## Public Data User Stories

**Crime Data:** Colin Drane, [SpotCrime.com](http://SpotCrime.com) (Slides Available)

- Founder of SpotCrime.com
- Successes and challenges based on recent legislation
- Company has been asking for crime data, around the country, for the past 8 years

- SpotCrime, started in Baltimore about 8 years ago, grown to the most visited crime mapping site in the national, annual basis sending about 140 million emails worldwide
- Consume data and push out through email and websites
- Drastic reduction of computing and hosting costs and movement toward transparency of police agencies
- Maryland is doing well compared to other states in regards to open data, with relatively many counties, cities, and towns providing data
- Most of the counties in the populated areas of Maryland are providing crime data
- What types of files of data received is also noted
  - Police agencies make data available in different formats out of different systems
- Anne Arundel County offered daily feed and reached out quarterly for updates
  - Shortly after legislation was passed getting weekly information in machine readable format
- Reached out to City of Frederick for data sharing, got rebuffed for 8 years
  - Because of legislation, Microsoft Excel file was provided
  - Requested again, policy changed and now in .pdf format, which can be reformatted
  - Third request on 2 different pages, which could be handled, but data results were changing
  - Asked why the file outputs are changing, response was do not want the data to be manipulated in Microsoft Excel file, did not get a chance to challenge
  - Old thought was do not want to give in a easy format that can be manipulated
- Are now getting the data, mapping crime data within City of Frederick, attributed to legislation
- A particular vendor used throughout the state, selling data in .csv format
  - Cannot get the data directly from the state in an easy to read format
  - This vendor can get the data and then clean and resell
- Generally seeing around the country, many police agencies cannot create simple reports for public consumption
  - Example: Denton, TX - Vendor controlling the data, vendor sells data to industry and profits from controlling the data
- Public portals around the country, crime data is the top dataset that public wants
- Where to go from here?
  - Larger police organizations are taking control of data and doing open data
  - Less technical police agencies are taking free offers from vendors, the vendors take control of data and agencies do not understand public costs of getting access to the data
- Would like to see that new software purchased has print button, non-proprietary and allows all to consume the data equally

### **Environmental Data: John Dawes, [Chesapeake Commons](#)**

- Open Data and Shared Knowledge
- Program of National Wildlife Federation
- Mission and goal: To arm small watershed and environmental organizations with custom software capacity, open source software developers, empower organizations to share and visualize data, use a significant amount of data
- Incredibly positive reaction from legislation response, getting access to necessary datasets

- Focus on using web based mapping services, developing to visual water quality monitoring, land use land change analysis, adding into applications with code and visual through the web
- Harbor alert site, decades worth of water quality data, share information from volunteer monitoring efforts
- Pulling in watershed boundaries, impervious surface and boundaries, being loaded into application for use
- Great to see APIs and application interface options of open data, connect code to data
- Issues have arisen when working with sewer overflows of what is the authoritative source(s)
  - Use open data resources to determine what information is available
  - Some information does not match from different sources of open data
  - Can have very different numbers
- Encourage use of GitHub, core of services at this organization
  - Track milestones of development projects and test open source code repositories
  - Predominantly used for code
  - Can collaborate in real-time
  - Version controlled and mostly free to the public
- Use case: maintain datasets with GitHub version control, host dataset, not a huge one, edit different cells and GitHub will track all of the changes
- See more effort of trying to come up with creative solutions, rather than off-the-shelf software solutions
- Recommend investing in developers at state level
  - Could be beneficial to open data
  - Also make sure data is being used in different applications
- Beta App Example: [dev.waterreporter.org](http://dev.waterreporter.org) which is being rolled out with partners
  - Allow citizens to share experience out on the water, interact with application
  - Mapping remote tributaries that not a lot of state officials can get to
  - Get a good understanding of what is happening in the river
  - Report pollution and government response
- Setting up geofencing algorithm, can send notifications in real-time of the different issues on the ground and solve water quality issues that are on-going in the area
- Thinking about data transactionally, built a UI and producing machine readable data, focusing on this in the open data initiative

#### **Health Data: Matthew Eierman, [HDScores.com](http://HDScores.com) (Slides Available)**

- Restaurant/Health department inspection data, put in consumable format for consumers, credit rating, scoring algorithm based on inspection reports
- Built data management platform, enhances data, regardless of originally technology, as long as it is publically available or open data, 1,500 jurisdictions are covered
- 700,000 establishments across the country
- Data access in 29 states in multiple formats that are aggregated into a single dataset
- Annual economic value of food borne illness is \$93.1 billion dollars
- Multiple players in space with own issues and own needs
  - Government contracts, B2B

- Licensing varies in different jurisdictions
- A lot of data out there, but accessible in limited format, not comprehensible
- Make data actionable for consumers is of major concern, more government officials have come to the website to look at their data from their jurisdiction
- Aggregating, putting it in a consumable format and show impacts

**Property Data: Ryan Smith, PhD Candidate JHU/Himself (Slides Available)**

- Mapping, Open Data and Taxes
- Not a lot of interests in open data for work, but private interest
- Baltimore property taxes was first involvement done at a hack-a-thon
  - Merged datasets, combined and cleaned
  - Intended use for individuals to understand if they are paying a reasonable amount of annual property taxes
  - Compare with other people and see if amount is fairly assessed
- 2011 mayoral election voting dot map of votes for each party candidate
  - Data from historical elections
  - Geometry of jurisdictions and dot per vote to show vote distribution throughout the city
  - Just displaying, not politically motivated
- Received the open data from the Open Data Baltimore Portal
- Visualize Baltimore crime data, want to look at trends and create a way to answer simple questions
  - Answer the question “Is this a safe area”?
  - What is the definition of safe?
  - Data shows what types of crime occur in an area
  - Can show if crime goes up when the temperature goes up
- 2015 baltimore tax lien auction information
  - Data not on the open data portal, but website has historical data about past auctions
  - Information on who bid and how much they bid on each lien
  - Trying to come up with an estimate of how many properties are lost to the lien auction bidder

***The Real News Network (Press) has arrived to cover the remainder of the meeting***

**Question Posed to Panel:** Name one Maryland dataset that you wish was machine readable

- See property tax amounts to help people determine if they are eligible for credits
- Chesapeake Bay issues, phosphorous, annual implementation on animal feeding operations into .csv file format
- Restaurant establishment closings, permanent closures of restaurants, not closed for health department reasons, just closed for business

**Question for John Dawes:** Using GitHub, what are the backend formats?

- Format agnostic, can clone dataset to desktop and changes can be committed
- Workflow built for coding, editing different types, but accepts a lot of different formats

**Question:** Are there binary data formats merging issues?

- One issue is for very large datasets, editing tends to choke on file size

**Question** for John Dawes: Publish to github, how to maintain government authoritative source without handing out .pdf file?

- Something that does not know and would not know how to figure out because typically using the state data for use in code/applications
- “Authoritative source”, but not advocating, only making available for consumption in additional work

**Question:** What happens if column is removed and was being used in application?

- Reporting systems in place to show that dataset has failed and have to rewrite scripts, occurs quite a lot
- 10% change each quarter, have to go in and reevaluate structure of data, have historical data and then minor tweaks occur for the most part, with new systems, match existing with new records
- A lot of watershed boundaries are fairly static
  - If they change and are updated, advocate for web services and APIs
  - As changes are made then the changes are reflected automatically
  - Damage control constant, emphasize importance of documentation
- Have to have a certain level of acceptance of failure
  - Systems in place to look at failure rates and check against levels of acceptance
  - Million people reporting in as spot checks, cite the data and check based on reports

**Question:** What has the success been in getting the health data in Maryland?

- Anne Arundel County, Howard County just updated system, get update soon, Montgomery County, Harford County and some of the Eastern Shore counties release their data
  - Varies by jurisdiction, some jurisdictions release more data than others
  - Maryland was data desert for a while
  - Baltimore City just passed legislation, have to report if an establishment closed due to an inspection
    - About 5,000 establishments, about 10 a month fail
    - Inspection data in Baltimore City for 120 establishments a year roughly of closures
    - Will not see all inspection reports, attempt at open data, but limited
  - Montgomery County uses Socrata with API that is easy to pull data
  - Images of .pdfs are being pulled in another jurisdiction which is difficult to convert

**Question:** Reasonable to expect a jurisdiction to have a common format that could be used? A lot of people use Microsoft Excel, but reasonableness of common format that is easily accessible and readable?

- Request data and pushed for Microsoft Excel file, almost 100% are using Microsoft Excel, so reasonable that there is a public document
- Health inspection data is subject to federal, state and local variances
  - Few standards, but standard bodies working on this

- Local variances allow for comparison of all data within the local jurisdiction, but not with another jurisdiction, because the variances are different
- Cannot force government to switch to a data standard
- Smaller subset .csv and Microsoft Excel is great to work with data
- APIs, web services work well for more technically savvy people, allow for easy access to working with data

**Question:** If there is metadata of data requested by federal government, everyone is doing that? Is that data sufficient or do you want all the variances?

- Reports are displayed differently in different jurisdictions, hard to standardize because of local variance
- If state requested that data be pushed from locals to state, state could control data uniformity
- Sometimes have to sacrifice the frequency of the data when overhead standards are applied
- For agencies in Maryland, open data portal is available for use
  - Paid for centrally
  - Can pull in via .csv and provide out through multiple formats
  - Geospatial data portal can also push data out in different formats

### **Update On Property Data Publication (Josh Exler, DoIT) (Slides Available)**

- Real Property Assessment
- First public facing version of real property assessment dataset is live
- Prominently featured on homepage of [Maryland Open Data Portal](#)
- Talked about making property owner name available, trying to determine the best way to do this
  - Public version does not have this information
  - Can contact the [DoIT Service Desk](#) and agree to terms of use to gain access to property owner names. Open Data Portal account needed to view this information
- Dashboard of approximately 2.4 million property assessment records in the state - Data Lens view
  - <https://data.maryland.gov/view/sjn4-j6z3>
  - Recommended way to access the data
  - Mapping, graphing, cross-filtering capabilities are available
  - Can look up specific properties, by address, city, ZIP or account ID
- Provides new capabilities to view records in bulk. All records in one place, previously only showed one record at a time.
- Old Socrata frontend view has links for data export, API access, charting, filtering, etc. Has some capabilities not present in the Data Lens view, but much slower to load. This is located at <https://data.maryland.gov/Business-and-Economy/Beta-Maryland-Statewide-Real-Property-Assessments-/ed4q-f8tm>.
- Input on terms of use to be solicited from the Council
  - What should or should not be included?
  - Discussion on whether property name data should or should not be included or restricted
  - Contact [Josh Exler](#) with comments or suggestions
- Data is not 100% yet, just went live yesterday
  - Getting data perfected is going to be a process

- Tweaking and debugging scripts is on-going
- All properties' records currently available

### **Dataset Freshness Dashboard**

- Due to time constraints this discussion will take place at the next meeting
- DoIT is generating weekly internal reports on whether each dataset on the Open Data Portal is up to date.
- The form of this report is currently a private Portal dataset (no public access). Public access will only be made available after the Freshness Dashboard is taken to the Council and dataset owners have had time to review and update their respective datasets.

### **Future Meetings**

**Date:** November 5, 2015 @ 1 - 3PM

**Location:** Maryland Department of Transportation, Harry Hughes Conference Center