

City of Asheville Open Data Policy Implementation Update

May 9, 2017

Open Data Day - March 4, 2017

- About 25 people attended at Shiloh Community Center
- Opening talks by City Council & staff reps
- Open data & community group notes from group:
 - Relationships are at the heart of effective engagement
 - Context is critical
 - Equity requires effort
- Open data & policy-making notes from group:
 - Identify performance metrics *before* implementation
 - Improve & track communication
 - Make information more accessible
- Open data & local media notes from group:
 - More self-service data for reporting
 - Allow queuing of requests for not-yet-released data
 - Improve committee meeting records

More information:

<https://digitalsimplicity.io/open-data-day-2017/>



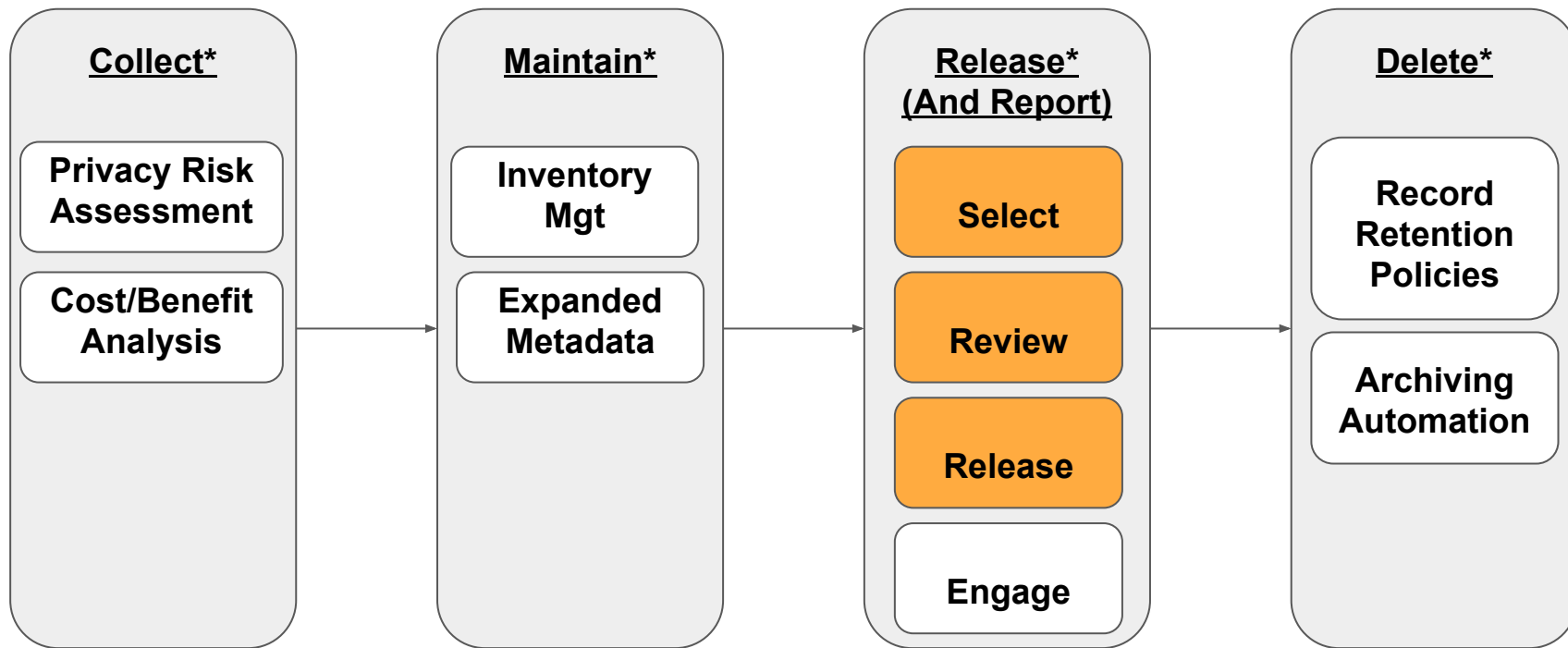
Contentious Data - Improving the Conversation

- Homeless arrest data & analysis
 - Public records request, Oct 2016
 - Analysis, press release, presentation by community members to Public Safety Committee, Nov 2016
 - Escalation in private and public meetings, Dec 2016 - Feb 2017
- IT facilitates
 - City manager appointed IT team to facilitate data conversation - Feb 2017
 - Prepared and convened a conversation with all stakeholders - Mar 2017
 - Recognized and acknowledged issues on both sides
- Identified a constructive path forward
 - More proactive, scheduled reporting on homeless data
 - Online forum at request of stakeholders (datatalk.ashevillenc.gov)

Updating Our Data Governance Thinking

- Current approach is fine for releasing open data, but does not include community data engagement follow-through after release
- By expanding our process to other phases of the data lifecycle and by deepening it through conversation and engagement, we can:
 - Improve data quality & accuracy
 - Provide better context for understanding data
 - Reduce cost and risk profiles
 - Improve data use benefits
 - Improve engagement with citizens, leading to better community relationships
- Implementation is just beginning

Expanded Governance Model - All Data



* See [Open Data Privacy](#), Berkman Klein Center, Harvard University, 2017.

Some relevant discussion can be found in recent DigitalSimplicity.io posts:

[Shared Data, Shared Systems: Getting Everyone On the Same Page](#), [Treating Data Like A Strategic Asset](#).

Other Updates & Context

- New version of SimpliCity for citywide dashboards still in development.
 - New Online budget site: <http://dashboards.ashevillenc.gov/budget>
- Open data portal
 - 5 new datasets since November
 - Upgrade scheduled this month
- Crime data collaboration with Buncombe County
 - Unified representation for use by SimpliCity, Open Data Portal, & Discover Buncombe
- IT business plan & budget metrics now include:
 - Attend and participate in at least 5 community events per quarter
 - Organize at least 3 data engagement and collaboration events per year
 - Publish at least 2 new data sets to the open data portal per quarter