



IdeaStarter

# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

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## Annual Report

### ABOUT IDEASTARTER

IdeaStarter is an annual campaign in which employees can submit ideas to receive funding for **prototype** testing and potential implementation. This first-of-its-kind process was born out of the City's Alliance for Innovation Academy who discovered there was a need for employee's ideas to be heard and tested.

**Innovation** in local government is often limited by resources such as time and money. The goal of IdeaStarter is to **eliminate the barriers** for innovation within the organization and provide support in developing and testing employees ideas as provided by the Office of Performance and Innovation.



IdeaStarter Pitch Finalists recognized by City Council at March 2018 Budget Retreat

**35**

**Ideas Collected**

**12**

**Pitch Finalists**

**5**

**Funded & Tested**



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## Annual Report

### PROJECT UPDATE 5: Optimizing Building Inspection Routes

Submitted By: Randy Stewart, Building Inspector

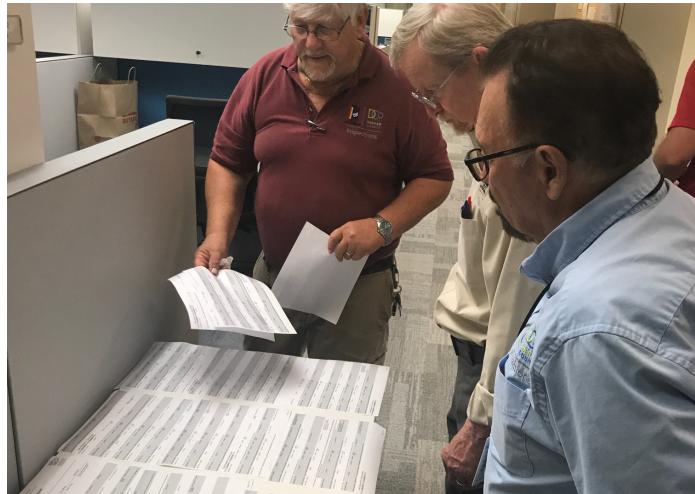
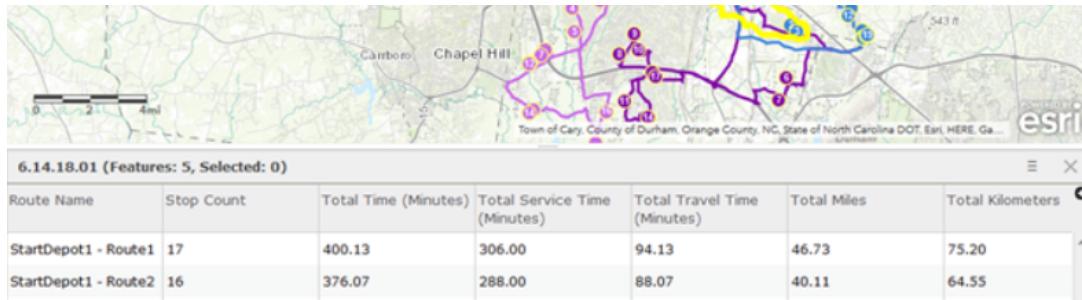
Total Cost: \$500

**IDEA:** The idea is to develop a route planning system that will equally distribute workload among building inspectors and optimize inspection routes by utilizing existing ESRI technology. Currently, inspections are assigned to inspectors by outdated geographical territories and then divided up through a manual process every morning.

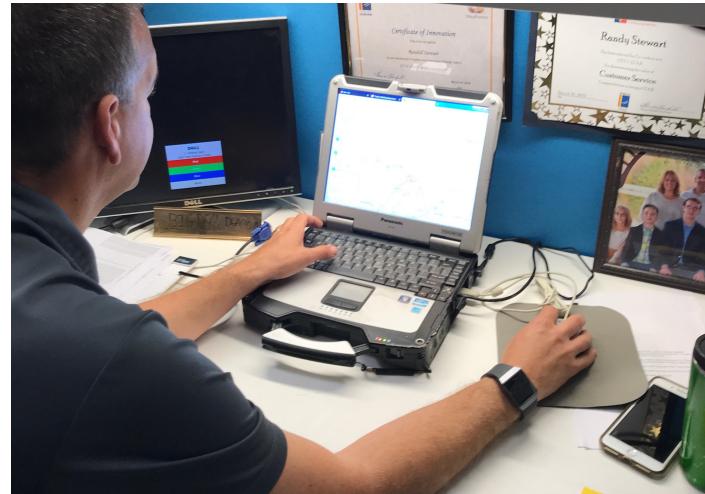
**UPDATE:** Building Inspector Randy Stewart developed the WARP (Work Assignment and Route Planning) system utilizing the City's existing ESRI technology within a few months and piloted the system with coworkers. The pilot was successful and proved that workloads and routes can be optimized by one person in less than 30 minutes.

#### PROJECT TAKEAWAYS:

1. By reducing the manual route process every morning that could take up to an hour for six employees the Inspections department is **on track to saving \$62,520 annually in labor costs.**
2. A pilot period is critical to process improvement projects to allow for time to receive user feedback to tweak the prototype. During the pilot testing Randy was able to implement suggestions to improve the system from his colleagues which resulted in buy-in and ultimate success of the system.
3. The new system now eliminates the need for manual division of labor and route generation as optimized assignments are pushed out to employees through their smartphones.
4. There is already interest from other division supervisors and departmental leadership to test out WARP with other divisions and work groups.
5. A special thank you is owed to the City's GIS department and ESRI tech support for providing amazing customer service and serving as partners throughout the prototype development.



Inspections employees dividing up the day's routes among each other with paper copies.



Randy Stewart assigning the day's routes using the new online WARP system.