Information Technology Policy Advisory Committee (ITPAC) Meeting Summary

September 21, 2023
8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.
Remote Video Conference Meeting

Committee Members:

Name	District/Organization	Present	Not Present
Edward Blum, Chairman	Providence District	X	
Michael Aschenaki	Lee District		X
Carter Bates	Braddock District	X	
Anne Cahill	League of Women Voters	X	
Dennis Carlton	Sully District	X	
Rajni Goel	Dranesville District	X	
John Hanks	Federation of Citizens Association	X	
Susan Hoffman	Mason District	X	
Kendall Holbrook	Chamber of Commerce	X	
Richard Kostro	Mt. Vernon District		X
Mark Lay	NOVA Technology Council	X	
Brian McMahon	Hunter Mill District		X
Sean Rastatter	Springfield District	X	
Kathryn Walsh, Vice Chair	At Large Member	X	
VACANT	Fairfax County Public Schools		X

County Staff Present:
DIT – Greg Scott, (CTO); George Coulter; Nate Wentland; Mike Dent; Amaya Arnic; Greg Bacon; Rob Barr; Adam Eldert; Charles Gore; Brian Heffern; Michael Liddle; Linda Moore; Crispin Netto; Mike Palacios; Maura Power; Jeff Porter; Charmaine Reed; Anita Rao; Kim Satterthwaite; Randhir Singh; Velma Dessuit (Admin Support)
DMB – Mark Thomas; Kim Panzer
OPA/FOIA - Amanda Kastl

September 21, 2023 Meeting Agenda:

ITPAC agenda
September 21 FINAL.p

Note: Meeting materials were posted online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/informationtechnology/itpac and were sent to ITPAC members via email. This document will be posted on the ITPAC website.

ITPAC COMMITTEE MATTERS: Today's meeting was called to order at 8:04 A.M.

Verifying a Quorum and Clear Audio
Because each member of ITPAC is participating in this meeting from a separate location, it was necessary to verify that a quorum of members is participating, and that each member's voice is clear, audible, and at an appropriate volume for all members. Accordingly, a roll call was conducted, and each ITPAC member participating in this meeting was asked to state their name and the district/group they represent. It was confirmed that a quorum was present, and that each member's voice could be adequately heard by every other member of ITPAC on the call.

Electronic Meeting

Brian Heffern confirmed that today's meeting was the second of the two annual ITPAC meetings allowed to be held remotely under current Virginia law. To fully conform, ITPAC is required to note in the minutes what type of electronic communication is being used, and how we have arranged for public access to this meeting. ITPAC is conducting this meeting electronically through a dedicated Zoom video conference, and that the public may access this meeting by using meeting number **876 4931 4085** and enter passcode **117877** or live audio of the meeting may be accessed by dialing: **1-877-411-9748** and entering the conference code **2909363.**

Minutes
A motion to approve the minutes from the 7/13/23 meeting was moved by Kathy Walsh, seconded by Ed Blum, and approved unanimously.

Membership Matters
- o Membership expirations on December 31, 2023: Carter Bates, Ed Blum, John Hanks, Sue Hoffman, Kendall Holbrook, and Sean Rastatter. In addition, Mark Lay (NoVA Technology Council) requires reappointment. Mark continues to serve in the interim until a resolution is reached.

DISCUSSION:

The **"Issue of the Day."** segment is next on the agenda. This interactive discussion is placed on the agenda prior to any formal DIT presentations, to encourage meaningful discussion and conversation on IT topics of interest. This is an opportunity for ITPAC members to share insight into IT-related challenges and issues with which they are currently dealing and allow for discussion and/or DIT staff to ask questions.

- Chairman Blum asks about the County's security status given the recent ransomware attacks against MGM and other similar events. IT Security Program Director Charles Gore County responds by highlighting several increased capabilities, including the procurement of managed defense with Mandiant. He also highlights the County's continuous attack surface testing platform. After a discussion about the MGM situation, he notes that a primary lesson learned from this is the need for additional training for those with enhanced privileges as they were targeted in this case.
- Next, the conversation started at the last two ITPAC meetings on the appropriate and responsible uses of Generative AI/Chat GPT continues. Greg Scott and Maura Power provide a brief introduction to the ongoing work that has resulted in the development of a short training video produced by Amaya Arnic. The video is shown and ITPAC praises it as a good way to educate people on the topic. Suggestions for future follow-up include taking this and turning it into tangible policy, with guardrails and governance considered. ITPAC members share two links for further review/research on the topic, including one focused on Federal HHS use cases:

    - o https://datatonic.com/insights/responsible-ai-data-model-cards/
    - o https://www.hhs.gov/about/agencies/asa/ocio/ai/use-cases/index.html

- Sean Rastatter brings up the topic of the State of Green Energy – asking about the county footprint and what work is being done in this area. Brian Heffern responds that there is a good high level of summary of this topic on the County's website at: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/fairfax-green-initiatives; however, this would be an excellent topic for an in-depth presentation at a future ITPAC meeting. DIT will coordinate with the County's Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination on this topic.

AGENDA:

The first presentation is on the **Use of Deep Learning tools to extract land cover and ground features from imagery for Environmental Analysis.** *The main presenters are Mike Liddle and Greg Bacon*

- Mike Liddle introduces. Investigating innovative technology is one of the GIS Branch's main focus areas.
- Greg Bacon defines "Deep Learning" in GIS context. Helping to solve spatial problems through prediction, classification, pattern recognition and clustering.
- Specific to Land Cover Classification, there are many entities both within and external to the County who want this data and use it for many reasons including to increase the efficiency of field work.
- Use of these tools results in greater self-sufficiency and cost savings. This is a prime example of an area where data science and GIS technology converge to produce enhanced outcomes.
- Greg notes that there are numerous great examples of GIS technology being used and encourages interested parties to review the GIS Excellence page linked below. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/42f5e101ab964b18a100d63a52c7b646
- Anne Cahill applauds the work being done and finds it fascinating. She wishes this technology had been around when she was working as Chief Demographer for the County.

The next presentation is a **Status Update – Development of a Digital Equity/Broadband Policy.** *The main presenter is CTO Greg Scott*

- Chief Technology Officer Greg Scott notes that the team working on this critical issue has been enhanced by the inclusion of Evan Braff, a Countywide Coordinator in the Office of the County Executive.
- Significant work and collaboration continue to access state funding, which is often targeted to areas of the state where infrastructure is limited. It is a constant effort to remind that cost/affordability is also a significant inhibitor to digital equity. A good example of that is Telehealth as many without or with limited access to broadband were left out during COVID.
- The County will be working with a vendor, *Guidehouse*, to help develop a Countywide Digital Equity plan.
- The County is also working with private sector partners to get them to come to the table to help close the existing gaps. This includes increasing use in ACP program and working to get that extended.
- Of note - Digital Equity week – October 2nd

There is a brief discussion on the ITPAC Interim Letter to the County Executive. A full discussion will be added to the agenda for the November 30, 2023, meeting. Brian Heffern will circulate a set of bullet points for consideration/inclusion in the letter and work with Kathy Walsh on developing an initial draft, which will be circulated prior to the November meeting. Timing-wise it makes sense to submit this for inclusion in the County Executive's budget materials by mid-December.

CONCLUSION:

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 A.M.

The next regular ITPAC meeting is scheduled for November 30, 2023, at 8:00 A.M. It will be held in the Fairfax County Government Center, with the specific room TBD (Likely either Room 232 or CR11).