

# Measurable Improvement with Employee Engagement Case Study: The City of SeaTac

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GWEN  
VOELPEL



TRACY  
O'ROURKE

1990







# PROUD PARENTS BIRTH NEW CITY.

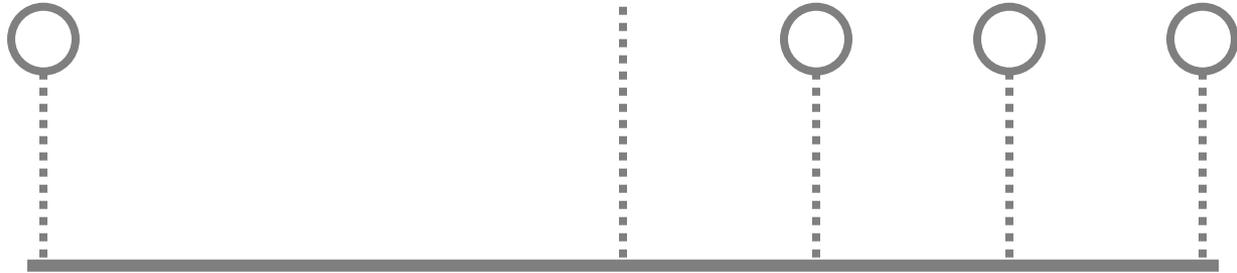
“Git ‘er done” culture

Pride in cityhood

Unclear direction



2012





# ADOLESCENCE IS TOUGH.

“Can do” attitude

Role confusion

Reorganization

Fear of errors

Tense relationships

# SEATAC CITY HALL

4800





# LET'S GET ENGAGED!

- ✓ Feeling committed and connected at work
- ✓ Motivation to contribute to the organization's success
- ✓ Ability to enhance own sense of well-being at the same time
- x Does not equal happiness

# ACE Model: Gaining Employee Perspective



## Alignment

- Are employees going in the same direction as the organization?



## Capabilities

- Do employees have what they need to succeed?



## Engagement

- Are employees advocates?

## **ALIGNMENT**

1. A clear vision and strategy
2. Strategy translated into measures
3. Inspire and communicate the vision
4. Clear linkage between Individual goals and strategy
5. Cultural Alignment
6. Meaningful rewards

## **CAPABILITIES**

1. Defined customer value
2. Talent matches role
3. Ability to meet customer requirements
4. Sufficient resources
5. Good team work
6. Cooperation among functional groups
7. Strong support or coaching

## **ENGAGEMENT**

1. Identify with mission, vision, values
2. Commitment to peers
3. Inspiring leadership
4. Personal growth
5. Recognition
6. Involvement
7. Good relationship with Supervisor
8. Winning experiences

## ALIGNMENT



## CAPABILITIES



## ENGAGEMENT



**65 or Less**

Investigate & Prioritize

**66 to 79**

Opportunity to Improve

**80 or More**

Recognize & Study







Align

Perform

Improve

*Excited and scared at  
the same time...time  
commitment...*

“

*Here we go again...  
will be forgotten about...*

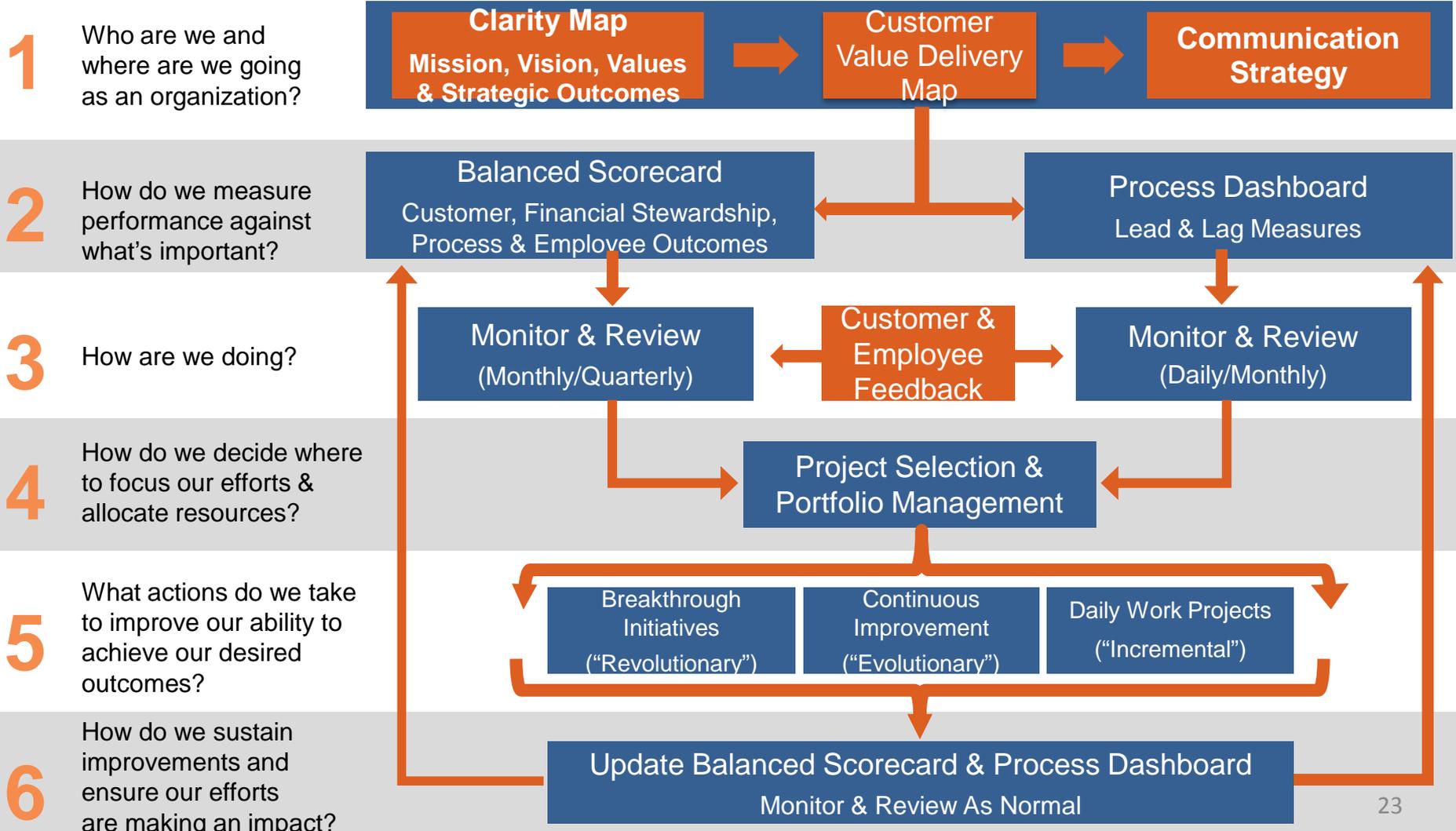
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# TRUE NORTH



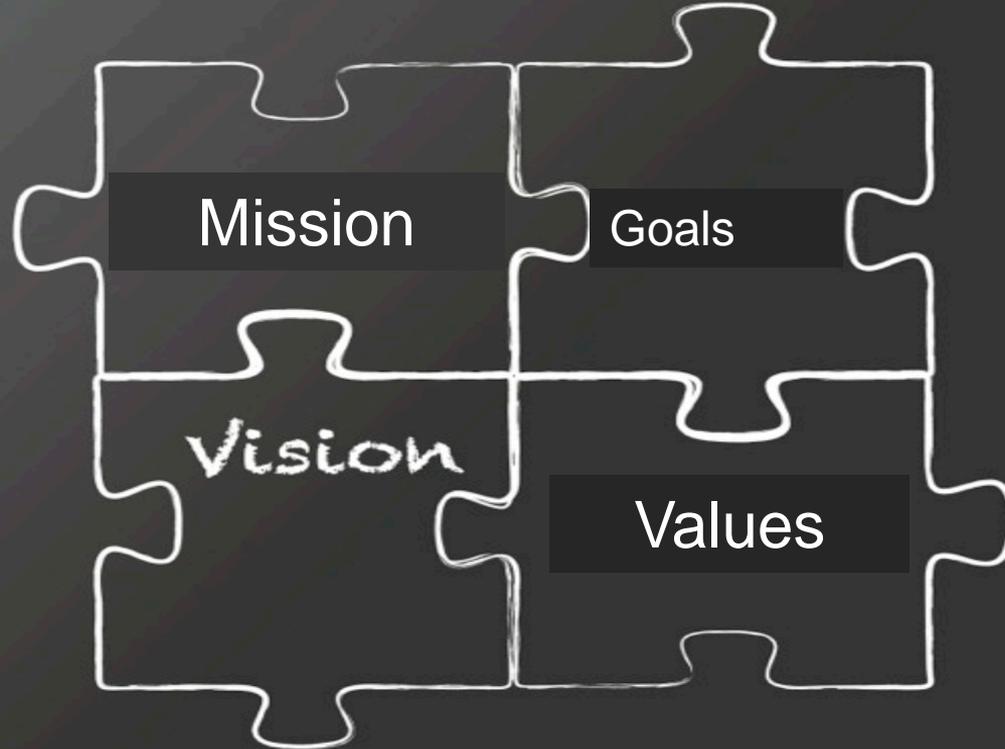


# Creating Clarity in the Organization

## Important Components

Who are we?  
Why do we exist?

Where are we going?  
What do we aspire to be?



What are we trying to achieve?

What values do we live by?

# Road Map

## **Vision**

What we  
aspire to be?

## **Mission**

Why do we  
exist?

## **Values**

What values  
do we live by?

What are the  
“visionary,”  
3-5 year  
outcomes for  
the  
organization?

Top Financial Measures

Top Customer Measures

Top Process Measures

Top Learning & Growth  
Measures



# ROAD MAP



## VISION

The City of SeaTac is a premier global community offering a solid, sustainable economy and a healthy, inclusive, and vibrant quality of life.

## MISSION

The mission of the City of SeaTac is to steward the public's trust and deliver high value services in a financially responsible manner that enhances a safe, healthy and sustainable quality of life in partnership with the community.

## VALUES

### SERVICE

We deliver effective, quality and enduring service to all.

### INTEGRITY

We maintain a foundation of trust by being honest, respectful and true to our word.

### TEAMWORK

We work together to accomplish great results by valuing and respecting each other, being empathetic and communicating openly in the spirit of innovation.

### ACCOUNTABILITY

We embrace transparency, responsibility and ownership in our decisions and actions.

## TOP 3-5 YEAR GOALS

### ACHIEVE CITY COUNCIL GOALS

Embrace and achieve City Council goals and policy direction.

### ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITY

Enhance the livability of SeaTac by working hand in hand with community members and partners to create a safe, active and attractive city.

### FOSTER EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Foster an environment where team members are engaged, informed, empowered and recognized for their value.

### SUSTAIN FINANCIAL

### HEALTH & STABILITY

Continually improve upon the successes of today to ensure a balanced, healthy, and stable financial future for delivery of services.

### BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE;

### PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT

Build and maintain enduring public infrastructure and promote economic development opportunities to enhance connectivity and quality of life.



1

Internal Communications

2

Transparency & Accountability

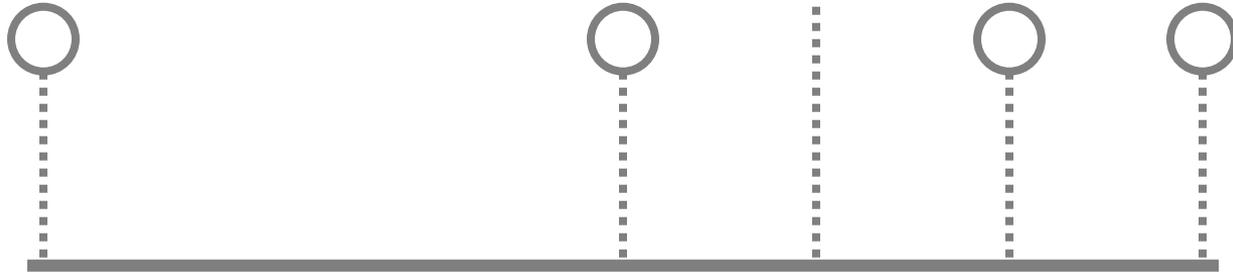
3

Council Communications

4

Process Improvement

2013



1

Employee Survey

2

Revamped Leadership Team Meetings

3

Department Staff Meetings

4

Snapshots

5

Citywide Roadmap

6

Initiatives





# What Are Some Challenges with Measures?

- Creating too many measures
- Creating meaningful measures
- Measuring the right things
- Cascading measures through the organization
- Sometimes measures drive the wrong behavior
- Measures can be difficult to capture

# What is a Dashboard?

Dashboard – A visual scorecard with primary measures to be monitored on an ongoing basis



# Organizational Dashboard



## 2014-2016 Dashboard

- On Target (within 5%)
- Close to 2-Year Target (within 6-20%)
- Needs Attention (within 21%+)

### 2. Enhance Our Community

	Prior	Current	Target	Status
Feel Safe (Res. Survey)	NA	28%	50%	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
Able to Get Information Needed (Res. Survey)	NA	52%	56%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Annual City Website Visitors	125,400	168,700	150,000	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Applications for Citizen Committees (Apps per vacancy)	1.76	0.73	2	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
Participation at City Events	12,800	15,800	14,500	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Customer Service (out of 4)	NA	3.65	3.8	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Comfort participating in community engagement event (out of 4)	NA	3.4	3.6	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>

### 4. Sustain Financial Health

	Prior	Current	Target	Status
General Fund Reserve	25%	25%	25%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
General Fund Operations Subsidy	6%	6%	5%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
National S&P Credit Rating	AA+	AA+	AA+/AAA	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
National Financial Management Award	Yes	Yes	Yes	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

### 1. Achieve City Council Goals

	Prior	Current	Target	Status
Good Place to Live (Resident Survey)	NA	63%	71%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Access to Goods and Services (Res. Survey)	NA	52%	57%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Neighborhood Clean, Well Kept (Res. Survey)	NA	54%	64%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Council Feedback on Progress	80%	70%	95%	<span style="color: red;">●</span>

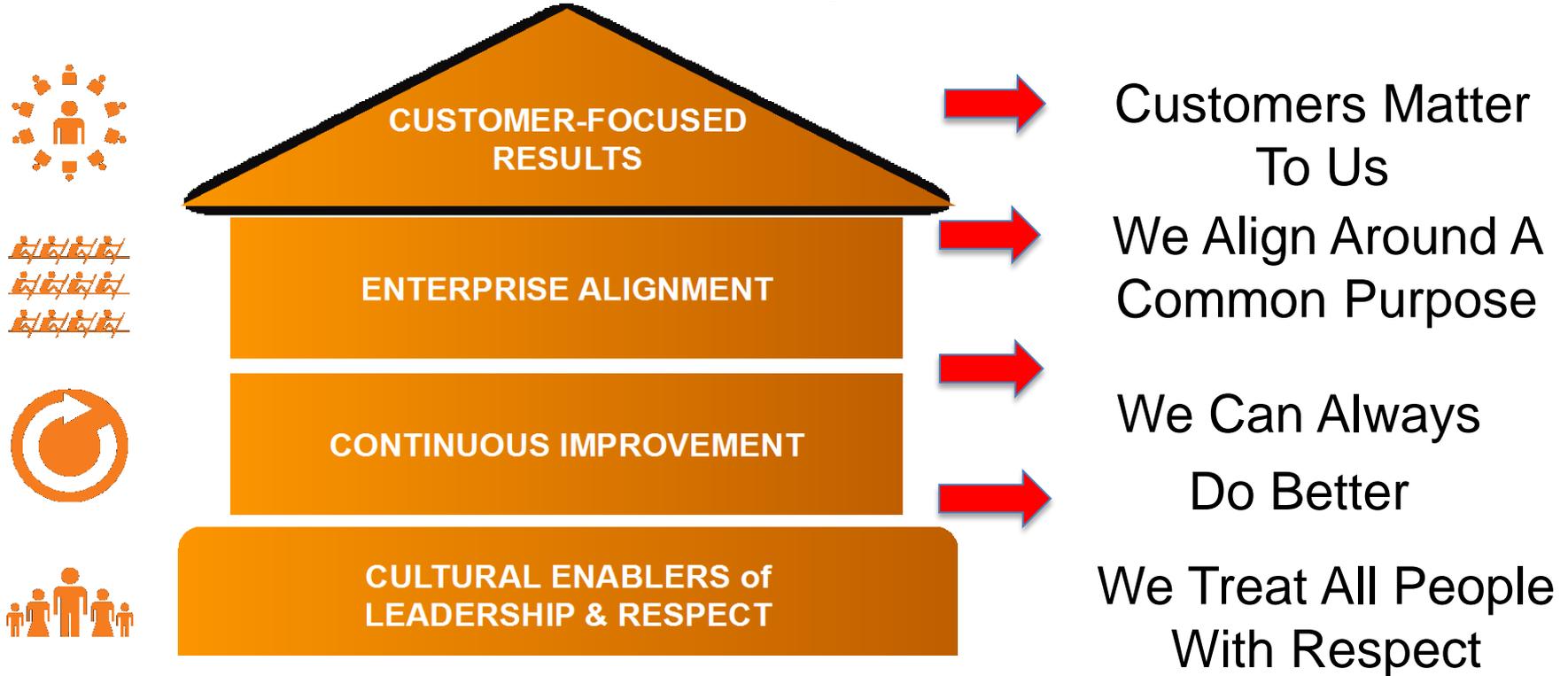
### 3. Foster Employee Engagement

	Prior	Current	Target	Status
Employee Alignment (Employee Survey)	58%	65%	70%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Employees understand overall goals of City (Emp. Survey)	38%	50%	70%	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
Employee Capabilities (Emp. Survey)	68%	74%	75%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Employees have skills to meet expectations (Emp. Survey)	81%	85%	85%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Employee Engagement (Emp. Survey)	60%	67%	70%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Excellent Place to Work Rating (Emp. Survey)	67%	75%	75%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Employees Committed/Connected to Work (Emp. Survey)	N/A	90%	94%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Increase in Employee Attendance at City Events	N/A	7%	9%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>

### 5. Build Infrastructure and Promote Development

	Prior	Current	Target	Status
Businesses planning to remain in SeaTac (Bus. Survey)	71%	100%	77%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Mix of Park Amenities (Res. Survey)	NA	43%	50%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Pavement Condition Index	73	73	75	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Walk Score (walkscore.com)	36	36	40	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Amount of Sidewalk (miles)	43.2	44.8	45.2	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Permit System Timeliness (% Meeting Deadline)	57%	67%	80%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>

# Each Dimension Connects to Key Principles





# Core Processes for: Public Works

## Process 10: Solid Waste Collection

Determine service needs    Select Hauler    Contract Approval    Implement    Admin

Created by: Trudy Olson & Tom Gut

## Process 11: Fleet Management

Determine Needs    Schedule Replacement or new purchase    Determine costs    Purchase vehicle/ equipment    Install lights & other items

Created by: Sean Clark & Aaron Wiseman

## Process 12: Maintain Vegetation

Identify Need    Assess Job    Determine Equipment & Personnel    Schedule Work    Complete Task

Created by: Sean Clark & Aaron Wiseman

## Process 13: Storm Drain Communication (SDC)

Send Sign up Letter    Receive request for cleaning    Determine inspection need    Inspect properties on lots    Send letter to address cleaning needs

Created by: Sean Clark & Aaron Wiseman

Deliverable	Customer/ Stakeholder	Measures
Garbage Pick-up Recyclables Pick-up Organics Pick-up	Customers: • Residents • Businesses  Stakeholders: • City • Hauler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rates</li> <li>• Service Level</li> <li>• Admin Fee</li> <li>• Revenue</li> <li>• Compliance</li> </ul>
Ready for Use Licensed Numbered Insured Set for fuel	Customer: • City Department • Employees  Stakeholder: • City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working condition</li> <li>• Timely</li> <li>• Appropriate for need</li> <li>• Cost (within budget)</li> <li>• Efficient process</li> </ul>
Performed Work Dispose of Debris	Customer: • Resident • Homeowner  Stakeholder: • Maintenance Division • City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aesthetics</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Timely</li> <li>• Safety</li> <li>• Efficiency</li> <li>• Costs</li> <li>• Customer Satis</li> </ul>
Drainage system is clean Minimize private property debris entering city property	Customer: • Business owners  Stakeholder: • City	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Cleanliness</li> <li>• Convenient</li> <li>• Proactive</li> <li>• Customer Satisfaction</li> </ul>



# Core Process Work

- Approximately 95 Customer Value Delivery Maps completed
- Helped to identify core processes, key customers, stakeholders and potential process measures
- Will be used to help create departmental dashboards and tie process measures to teams and individuals



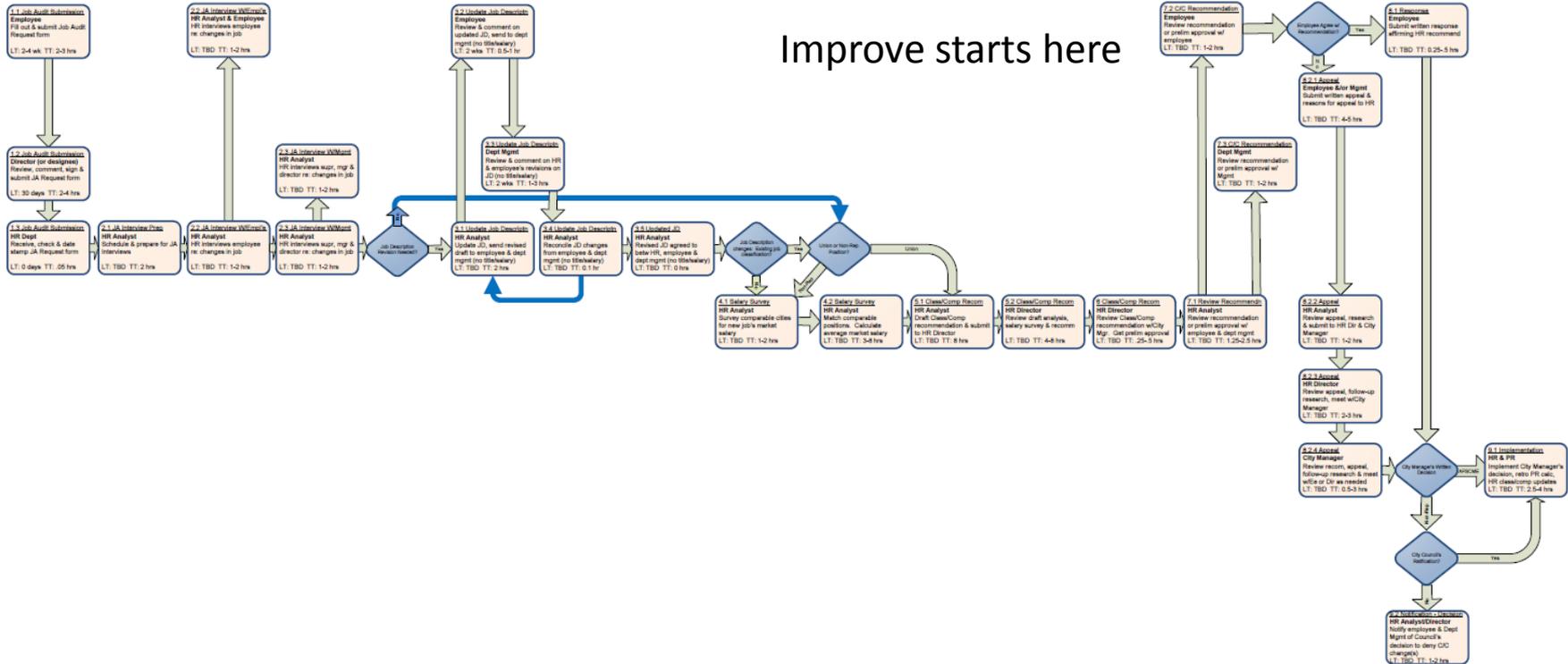


No thanks!

We are  
too busy

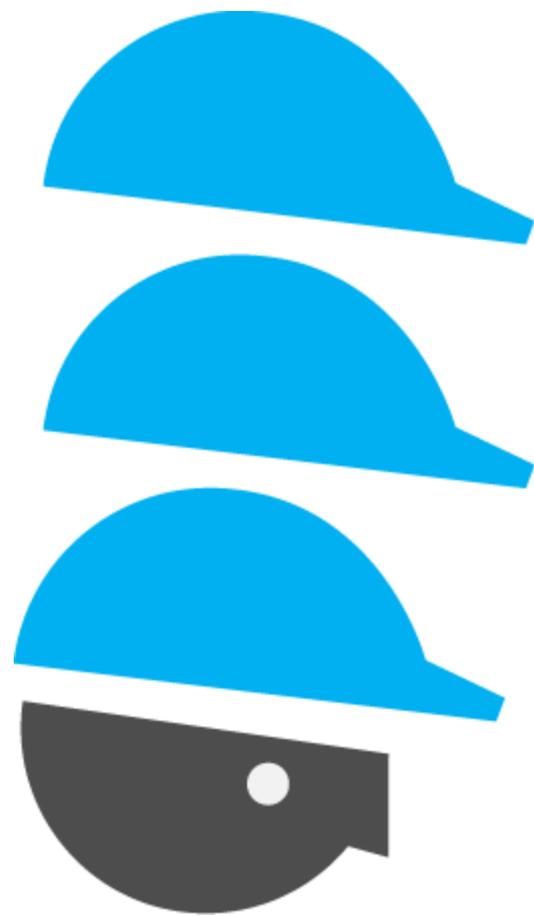
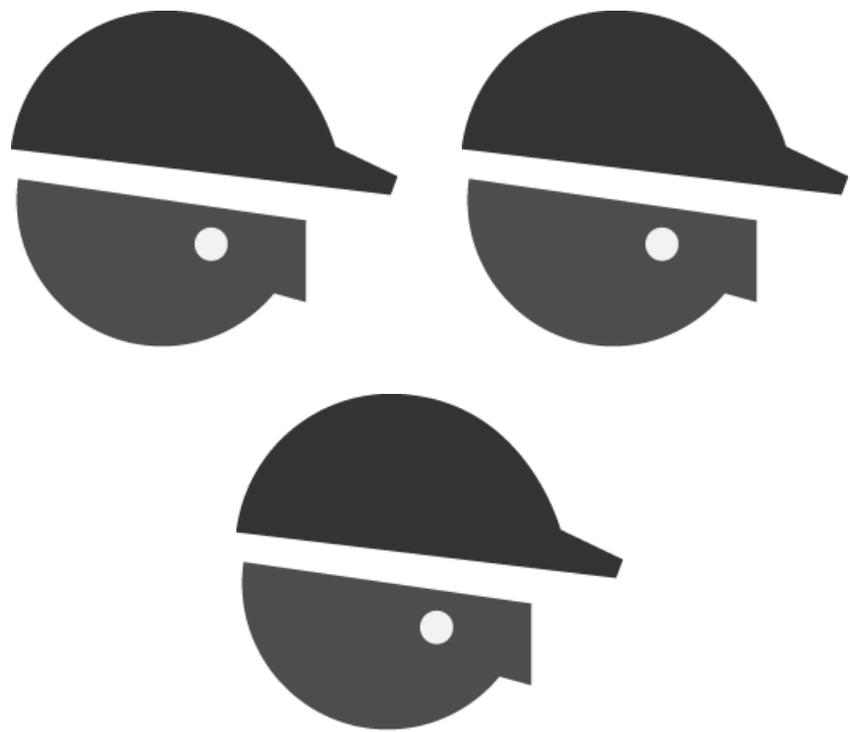
# City of SeaTac Job Audit Process Improvement – Current Status

Improve starts here



<b>Step 1</b> LT: 2-8 wks TT: 4-7 hrs	<b>Step 2</b> LT: ??? TT: 3-10 hrs	<b>Step 3</b> LT: 2-7 wks TT: 3.6-8.1 hrs	<b>Step 4</b> LT: ??? wks TT: 4-10 hrs	<b>Step 5</b> LT: ??? wks TT: 12.25-16.5 hrs	<b>Step 6</b> LT: 1-3 wks TT: 0.25-0.5 hrs	<b>Step 7</b> LT: 1-2 wks TT: 2.25-0.5 hrs	<b>Step 8</b> LT: 1-4 wks TT: 0.5-13 hrs	<b>Step 9</b> LT: ??? wks TT: 1-0 hrs
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Current average Lead Time (LT) 24–36 wks (6-9 mos), average Touch Time (TT) 30.85-75.6 hrs

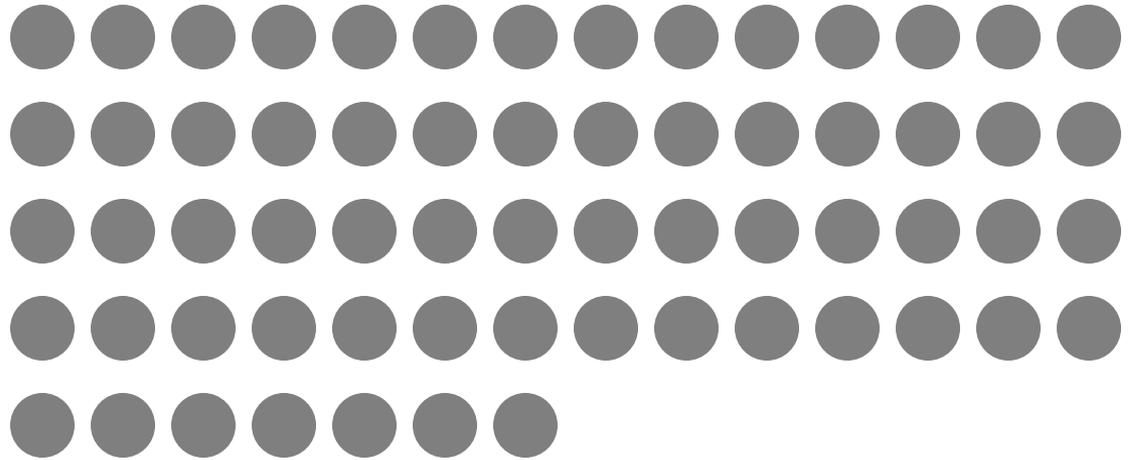


# BUSINESS LICENSE TEAM



# BUSINESS LICENSES

7 weeks



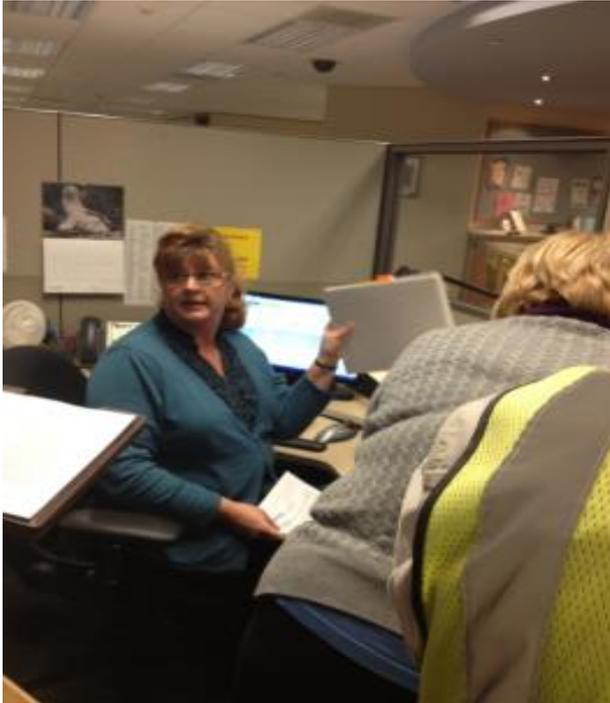
12 days



# RIGHT OF WAY PERMIT TEAM

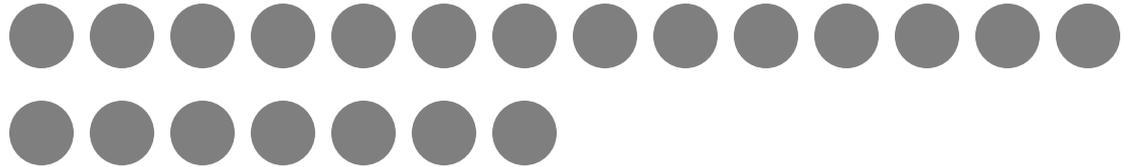


# RIGHT OF WAY PROCESS WALK



# RIGHT OF WAY PERMITS

21 days



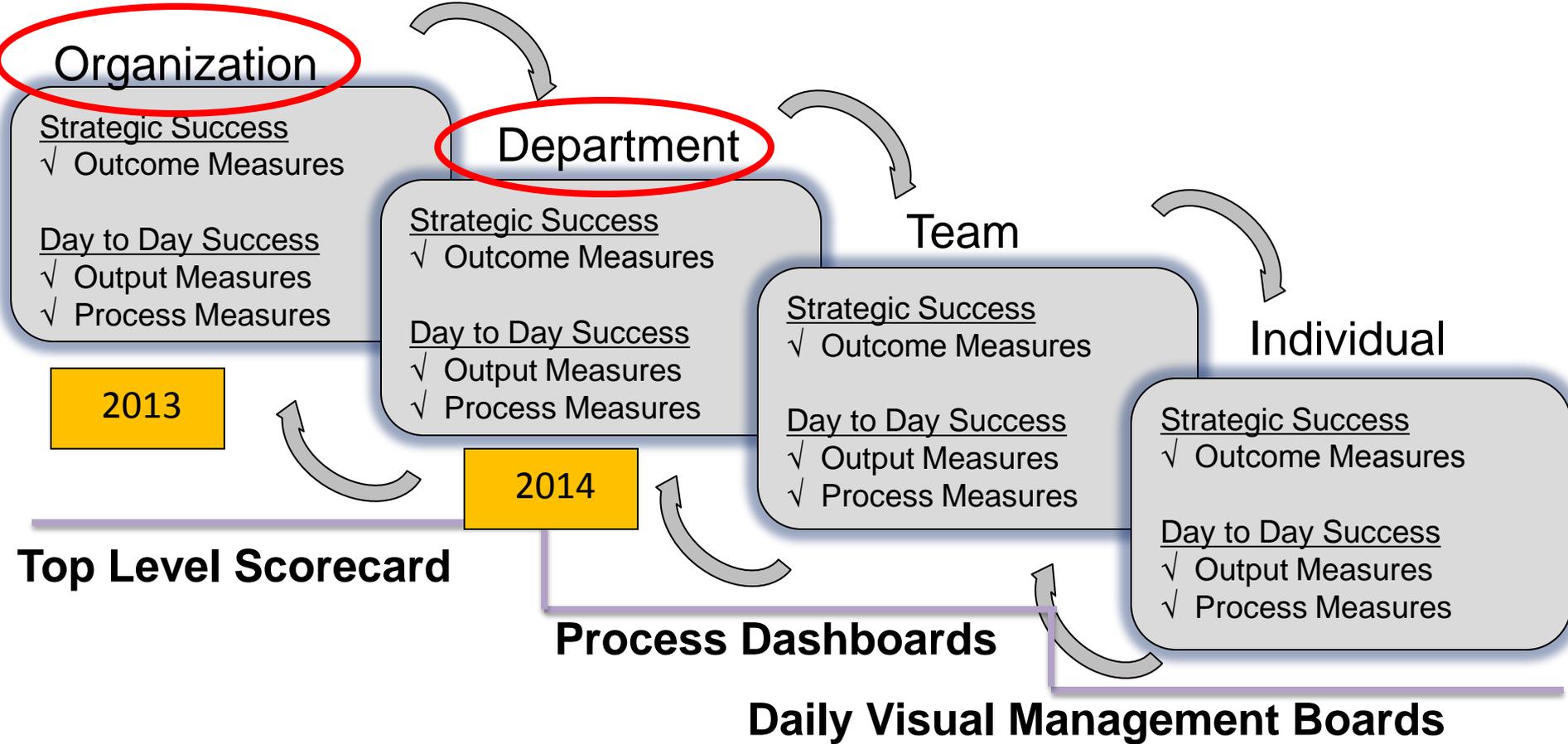
5 days







# Metrics Connect the Organization



# Creating Cascading Linkage

## Organization – Wide Road Map

ROAD MAP		
<p><b>VISION</b></p> <p>The City of Seattle is a vibrant, diverse, and inclusive community that provides a high quality of life for all.</p>	<p><b>VALUES</b></p> <p><b>Integrity</b> We are honest and open in our communications and actions.</p> <p><b>Empowerment</b> We support our employees and partners to do their best work.</p> <p><b>Teamwork</b> We work together to create a better city for all.</p> <p><b>Accountability</b> We are responsible for the actions we take and the results we achieve.</p>	<p><b>TOP-5-8 YEAR GOALS</b></p> <p><b>IMPROVE CITY OPERATIONS</b></p> <p><b>ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITY</b></p> <p><b>POWER EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT</b></p> <p><b>REDUCE EMISSIONS</b></p> <p><b>IMPROVE TRANSPORTATION</b></p> <p><b>IMPROVE AFFORDABILITY</b></p>
<p><b>MISSION</b></p> <p>The City of Seattle is committed to providing a high quality of life for all, while protecting the environment and promoting economic growth.</p>		

## Department Level Road Maps



CITY CLERK'S OFFICE ROAD MAP	
<p><b>VISION</b></p> <p>Support local government with an emphasis on transparency, accountability, and equity services.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTING CITYWIDE GOALS</b></p> <p>Improve city operations, enhance our community, and support our employees.</p>
<p><b>MISSION</b></p> <p>The City Clerk's Office, in partnership with the community, provides the highest quality of service to the City of Seattle, while supporting the City's mission to deliver a high quality of life for all.</p>	<p><b>DEPARTMENT GOALS</b></p> <p>Improve city operations, enhance our community, and support our employees.</p>

FINANCE & SYSTEMS ROAD MAP	
<p><b>VISION</b></p> <p>To optimize the financial position and ensure the long-term sustainability of the City of Seattle.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTING CITYWIDE GOALS</b></p> <p>Improve city operations, enhance our community, and support our employees.</p>
<p><b>IT MISSION</b></p> <p>Provide efficient, transparent, and secure information technology services to support the City's mission.</p>	<p><b>DEPARTMENT GOALS</b></p> <p>Improve city operations, enhance our community, and support our employees.</p>

CED ROAD MAP		
<p><b>VISION</b></p> <p>To support economic, vibrant and sustainable growth for the City of Seattle, while protecting the environment and promoting equity and community well-being.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTING CITYWIDE GOALS</b></p> <p>Improve city operations, enhance our community, and support our employees.</p>	<p><b>DEPARTMENT GOALS</b></p> <p>Improve city operations, enhance our community, and support our employees.</p>
<p><b>MISSION</b></p> <p>The mission of CED is to work with our partners to create a vibrant and sustainable community that provides a high quality of life for all.</p>		

LEGAL DEPARTMENT ROAD MAP	
<p><b>VISION</b></p> <p>To ensure the legal department provides the highest quality of service to the City of Seattle, while supporting the City's mission to deliver a high quality of life for all.</p>	<p><b>SUPPORTING CITYWIDE GOALS</b></p> <p>Improve city operations, enhance our community, and support our employees.</p>
<p><b>MISSION</b></p> <p>Provide sound legal advice to the City Council, City Manager, and staff, in a timely and efficient manner, and promote effective and ethical service to the City of Seattle.</p>	<p><b>DEPARTMENT GOALS</b></p> <p>Improve city operations, enhance our community, and support our employees.</p>



# CED ROAD MAP

## VISION

Support a strong, vibrant and prosperous community by being customer focused, business oriented, and by promoting the City's competitive advantage and community attributes.

## MISSION

Enable and promote a sustainable community that is neighborhood and business focused, livable, safe and thriving economically through effective leadership, teamwork, innovation and collaboration.



## SUPPORTING CITYWIDE GOALS

### ACHIEVE CITY COUNCIL GOALS

Successfully implement programs to achieve adopted Council goals and policy directions.

### ENHANCE OUR COMMUNITY

Develop and implement a community engagement strategy for CED as part of the city-wide community engagement effort.

### FOSTER EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

Establish a training and professional development implementation plan incorporating standards for all positions and guidelines for individual employee development plans in performance evaluations. Continue to develop and foster a cohesive team environment.

### SUSTAIN FINANCIAL HEALTH & STABILITY

Work with the City Manager and City Council to examine and set appropriate fees for CED applications and permits, including a schedule for attaining future CED fee targets. Develop and implement a plan to utilize specific land acquisitions in order to foster and stimulate private development.

### BUILD INFRASTRUCTURE; PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT

Continue to improve timely permit review. Streamline application requirements and review processes.

## DEPARTMENT GOALS

### ENSURE, ENFORCE AND ENABLE

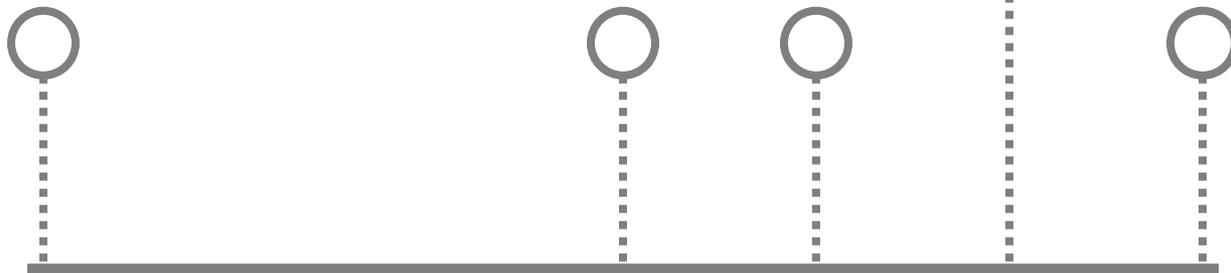
Review applications and plans to ensure compliance with State, local and City codes to ensure and enable the community to be safely built and maintained, and that property values are protected.

### ENVISION AND ENGAGE

Actively involve the community in current activities and issues, and in the development of future plans and programs through consistent and reliable public outreach-focused communications.



2014



1

Citywide Dashboard

2

Process Improvement Projects

3

Process Improvement Facilitators

4

Department Road Maps





# City of SeaTac Dashboard

- On Target (within 5%)
- Close to 2-Year Target (within 6-20%)
- Needs Attention (within 21%+)

## 1. Support all Prioritized City-wide Goals

	Current	Target	Status
List of Prioritized Technology System needs	0%	100%	<span style="color: red;">●</span>
List of Prioritized Capital Project funding needs	0%	100%	<span style="color: red;">●</span>

## 2. Sustain Financial Health & Stability (Citywide Goal #4)

	Current	Target	Status
General Fund Reserve	25%	25%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
General Fund Operations Subsidy	6%	5%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
National S&P Credit Rating	AA+	AA+/AAA	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
National Financial Management Award	Yes	Yes	<span style="color: green;">●</span>

## 3. F&S Department support of other City Department Goals

	Current	Target	Status
Timely Help Desk Ticket Resolution	90%	90%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Timely System Health Reporting	50%	100%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>
Map Request Cycle Time	90%	90%	<span style="color: green;">●</span>
Timely Financial Reporting	90%	90%	<span style="color: orange;">●</span>

## 4. Foster Finc. & Sysys. Employee Engagement

	Current	Target	Status
Ratio of committees & task forces per Dept. FTE	2.0	1.0	<span style="color: red;">●</span>



# TELL US HOW WE DID!

## City of SeaTac Customer Service Survey

Date of Survey:

1. What was the purpose of your visit to City Hall today?

2. Did you receive the assistance you needed?  Yes  No *(If you answered no, please explain why.)*

3. What was your overall impression of City of SeaTac staff's:

Courtesy  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Knowledge  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

Responsiveness  Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor

4. What could we do to improve your experience? (especially for anything that received a poor rating)

5. Would you like us to contact you regarding your experience? If so, please provide your contact information:

Name:

Phone:

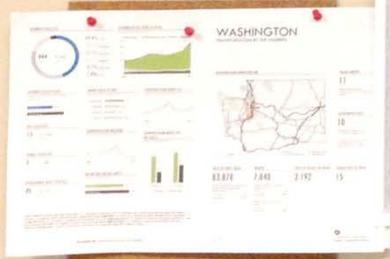
Email:

Courtesy 3.7  
Knowledge 3.6  
Responsiveness 3.6



**City Council Goals**

Improve government efficiency and reduce costs. Find better ways to do things. Increase transparency and accountability. Increase public participation in decision-making. Increase the quality of life for all citizens. Increase the quality of the city's public services. Increase the quality of the city's infrastructure. Increase the quality of the city's workforce. Increase the quality of the city's environment. Increase the quality of the city's housing. Increase the quality of the city's parks and recreation. Increase the quality of the city's public safety. Increase the quality of the city's cultural and arts programs. Increase the quality of the city's economic development. Increase the quality of the city's social services. Increase the quality of the city's health care. Increase the quality of the city's education. Increase the quality of the city's transportation. Increase the quality of the city's public works. Increase the quality of the city's public utilities. Increase the quality of the city's public safety. Increase the quality of the city's cultural and arts programs. Increase the quality of the city's economic development. Increase the quality of the city's social services. Increase the quality of the city's health care. Increase the quality of the city's education. Increase the quality of the city's transportation. Increase the quality of the city's public works. Increase the quality of the city's public utilities.



**The State of Washington**

Public Works Dept.

*[Signature]*

**MAINTENANCE DIVISION MEASURABLES**

**P.W.**

**5 STAR ENVIRONMENTAL RATING SINCE 2012**

**ROAD MAP**

**PUBLIC WORKS ROAD MAP**

**Job Description Audit Timeline**  
November 2014

**STAFFING**  
Design: Florin, Top Construction, Inc., Ltd.  
Inspection: Dave, Mark, Scott, Cory  
In-house: Project/Quality, Toll Management, O&M, Sign, Asset Management, In-Residence Construction, Study

**COMMITTED**  
In-house: Design  
Employee Participation: Aaron  
Safety: Karen, Steve, L  
Personnel Policy: Brian  
Technology: Aaron  
Business Mgmt.: Karen, Steve, P

**Military Rd S**  
*Road crew!* Work Remaining Prop. Restoration

**24th Ave Overlay**  
Design 2: COLLECTIVE DESIGN AVE S  
STREET: 100% design review  
• ROW RECONSTRUCTION (final 2014 PROJECT)  
• CONSTRUCTION O&M (ANNEXED)  
• UTILITIES ASBESTOS  
• LIGHT FIXTURES FOUND

**37th Ave Sidewalk** 70% design review  
Construction late summer

**Waste Stream 2013 & 2014 June-Dec**

**STRUCTURE CHALLENGE**

**Waste Stream**

2013  
2014

Recycling  
Compost  
Landfill



# Overall Comparison 2013 vs. 2015

## 2013 ACE



## 2015 ACE



■ Favorable

■ Neutral

■ Unfavorable

# City of SeaTac: ACE Scorecard

## 2013 Results

Seatac Total		
Alignment	Capabilities	Engagement
58	68	60

## 2015 Results

SeaTac Total		
Alignment	Capabilities	Engagement
65	74	67

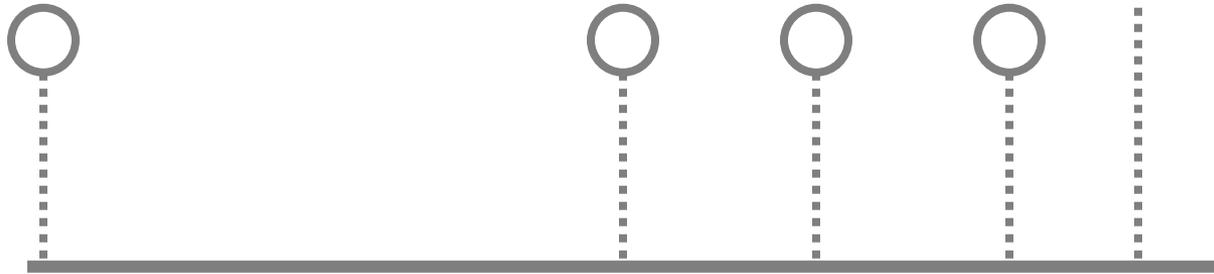
Green: Greater than or equal to 80; Yellow: Between 65 and 80; Red: Less than or equal to 65.

65 or less	66 to 79	80 or more
Investigate & Prioritize	Opportunity to Improve	Recognize & Study

**Improvement in all categories**



2015



1

Department Dashboards

2

Performance Boards

3

A3s

4

Huddle Meetings

5

Expanded Leadership Team

6

Employee Survey

“

*How do we learn to say  
no to some things?*

”

“

*Communication from  
leaders is improving but we  
lack channels for upward  
communication.*

”

“

*It can feel like a one-off  
initiative ...*

”

“

*Cross-departmental  
alignment has a way to go.*

”

ENTHUSIASTIC  
OVERLOAD!

**THE LOOK I GIVE**



**WHEN I'M COMPLETELY  
OVERWHELMED**

# KEY TAKE-AWAYS

- Customer feedback: exciting and frightening!
  - Turning outward
- 



- Public service challenges with prioritization
  - Dashboards and measures are hard work
- 



- Backsliding can be a danger
  - Learn as you go even in your efforts
- 



- Internal communications framework
- Culture is not cookie cutter





# SEATAC CITY HALL

4800

