



CODE *for*
AMERICA

LEXINGTON



Hello!



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Code for America is a nonprofit that partners with local governments to deliver services, share knowledge, and **serve the public** through technology.

Code for America's Mission

Fellows and government staff work together to build apps, foster new approaches to problem solving throughout City Hall, and tackle issues the community is facing.



Overview

- What were we asked to help accomplish?
- What process have we been using?
- What have we heard from citizens, City staff, Council Members and Aides, other stakeholders?
- What's our solution?
- What are the next steps?



What were we asked to help the city accomplish ?

Increase neighborhood quality of life and community engagement.

Improve access to information and make it more meaningful.

Communicate proactively.

Increase government efficiency.



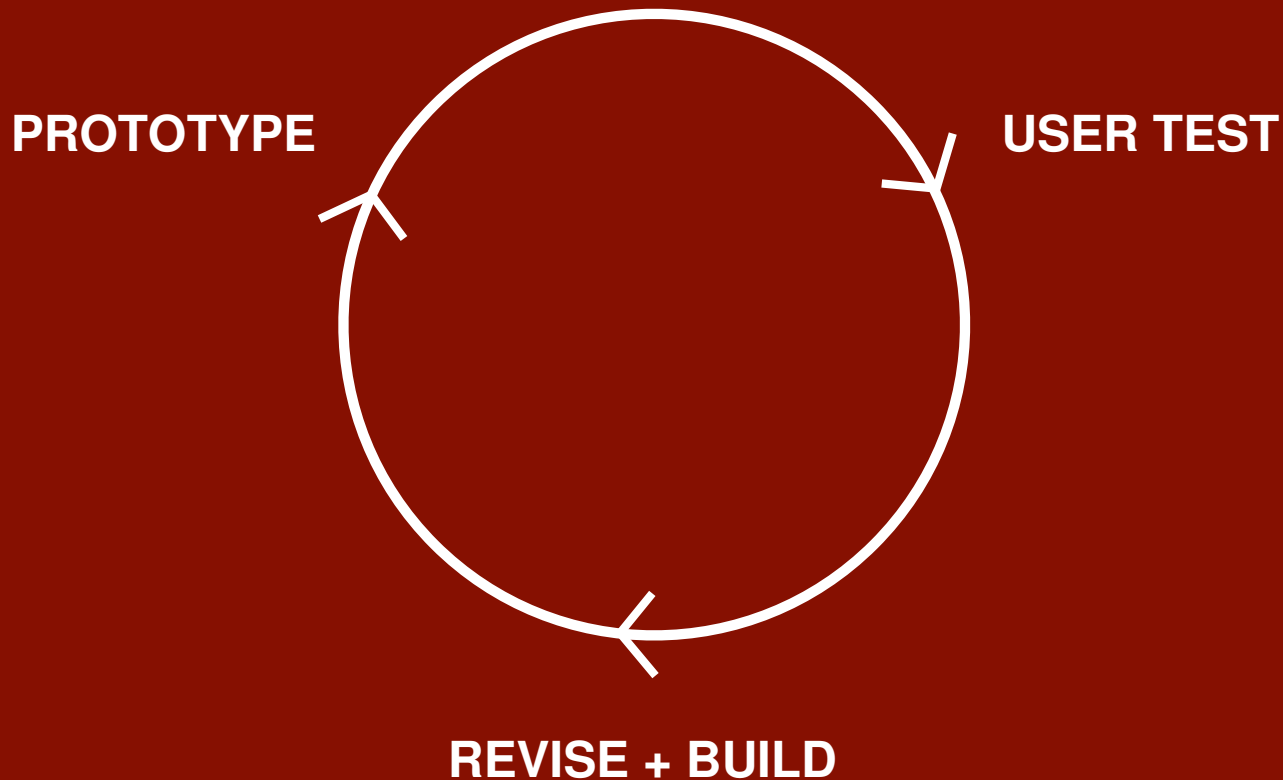
Problem Statement

The city has had trouble ***communicating information*** with Lexingtonians proactively in a manner that is meaningful.

The city also has difficulty ***sharing information*** across divisions and departments, which results in ***inefficiencies and missed opportunities***.



Process: Experiment, Test, Revise



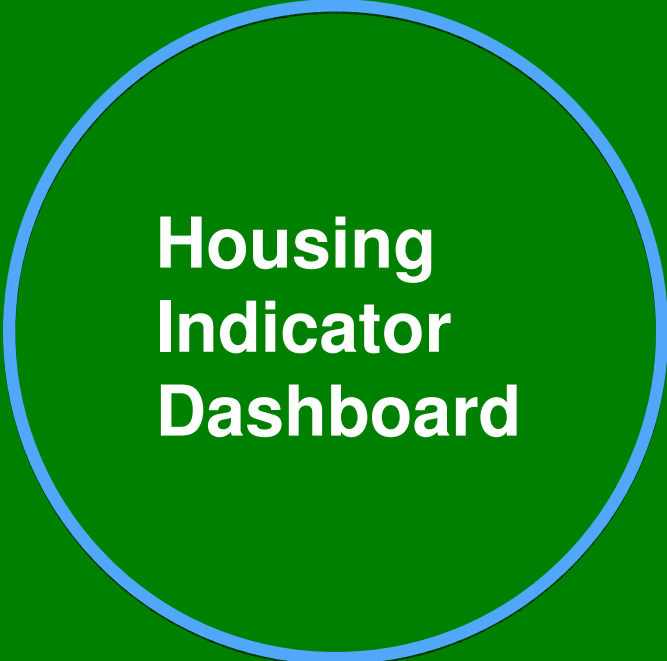
...and repeat

What did we hear?

- Citizens are interested in knowing what's happening in their neighborhoods, but finding that information is not easy.
- City wants to show citizens what it is doing in order to build trust and confidence.
- Information is either not available in a format that is easily understandable or it is dispersed among divisions, making it hard for both city staff and citizens to access and use.
- Everyone (both internal and external) wants the government to communicate proactively.

What can be done?

How can we open up city data and proactively communicate the information that's meaningful to Lexingtonians?



**Housing
Indicator
Dashboard**



Citygram



Why Housing Data to start?

1. High interest in code enforcement, building permits
2. Great data available and great partners
3. Opportunity to expand open data portal



Housing Dashboard

Identify high-level trends

Improve and publish housing data

The Mission

Tell stories over time

Make data meaningful to residents



🏠 Housing Dashboard

durham neighborhood compass Report Data Links Feedback Help Type an address: 505 W Chapel Hill Search

Blockgroups: Neighborhoods: Select a Blockgroup:

The San Francisco Indicator Project home about indicators resources

QOL Dashboard Report Data Find Me About Help Search Go!

Quality of Life Dashboard

Gateway to the Quality of Life Study

The Quality of Life Dashboard is designed to help assess the health of neighborhoods in Charlotte and Mecklenburg County. There's [help](#) if you need it.

Character

- Area (in acres)
- Developed Tax Parcels
- Ethnicity- Hispanic/Latino
- Median Age of Residents
- Population
 - Population in Group Quarters
 - Public Transit Proximity
 - Race - Asian
 - Race - Black or African American
 - Race - Some Other Race
 - Race - White or Caucasian
- Economics
- Education
- Engagement

Population

Total Neighborhood Profile Area (NPA) population.

1986

0 500 1000 1500 County Average

Why is this important?

Total population is a baseline measure that indicates the number of people living in an NPA. It is used to calculate density, and other per capita data. Trends in population show where the community is growing and where it is decreasing, which can help the City, County and Towns as well as other services providers know where infrastructure and other services may be needed. The 2010 Census reported 308.7 million people in the United States, a 9.7 percent increase from the Census 2000 population of 281.4 million.

Additional Resources

- [2010 U.S. Census](#)
- [Charlotte-Mecklenburg's growth strategy](#)

Population

Mecklenburg County GIS

About the Data

Projects in the civic tech landscape

User Testing

“Definitely interested in ability to export data, esp. residential building permits and housing code violations.” – Council Legislative Aide

“...important to see where code enforcement violations are concentrated so we can educate people about how to avoid the citations.” – Council Legislative Aide



CITYGRAM



Increase citizen
engagement

Proactive
communication

The Mission

Show citizens what
city is doing

Build trust via open
information access



CITYGRAM

Subscribe to your city.

Get updates on the topics and areas you care about in Lexington.

[Get started](#)

1. Select a topic.

Choose one to start, and you can add more later.

Code
Violations



Building
Permits



Foreclosures



Opt-in notifications for topics constituents care about



CITYGRAM



Powered by same data in dashboard

Dashboard links to Citygram sign-up

The more datasets we have that are publicly accessible, standardized, and regularly updated, the more effectively we can communicate with constituents about the things they care about.

Next Steps

More User Testing, Improvements

Develop sustainability plan

Work with City to address system-wide improvements for these apps and others.



Heart of the problem: Data

In the process of working on the dashboard, we identified our biggest opportunities for long-term impact:

Data scattered across departments

Different formatting across datasets

Not publicly accessible



Improve the foundation

1. Standardize the data

Universal addressing service for searching across datasets

2. Create data pipelines

Automatically update apps via the open data portal

3. Make data meaningful to constituents

Connect residents with the information they care about



Other Data Initiatives

Search for (e.g. taco, cheap dinner, Max's) Near (Address, Neighborhood, City, State or Zip) San Francisco, CA Search

Welcome About Me Write a Review Find Reviews Invite Friends Messaging Talk Events Member Search

Los Campadres Taco Truck Health Inspections

Los Campadres Taco Truck

October 22, 2012 – Routine Inspection

Violations

Hands not clean/improperly washed/gloves improperly used
Food Contact surfaces not clean/sanitized
Improper hot/cold holding temperatures

Previous Inspections

Date	Inspection Type	Violations
January 12, 2011	Routine	3
October 5, 2010	Follow Up	Violations Hands not clean/improperly used Food Contact surfaces not clean/sanitized Improper hot/cold holding temperatures
April 29, 2010	Routine	
September 30, 2009	Initial	

Open Data
CONNECTS
Restaurant Inspections
WITH

See all 22 photos

Today 11:00 am - 2:30 pm
5:00 pm - 9:30 pm **Open now**

Full menu

Price range \$11-30

94.5 Health score 94.5 out of 100

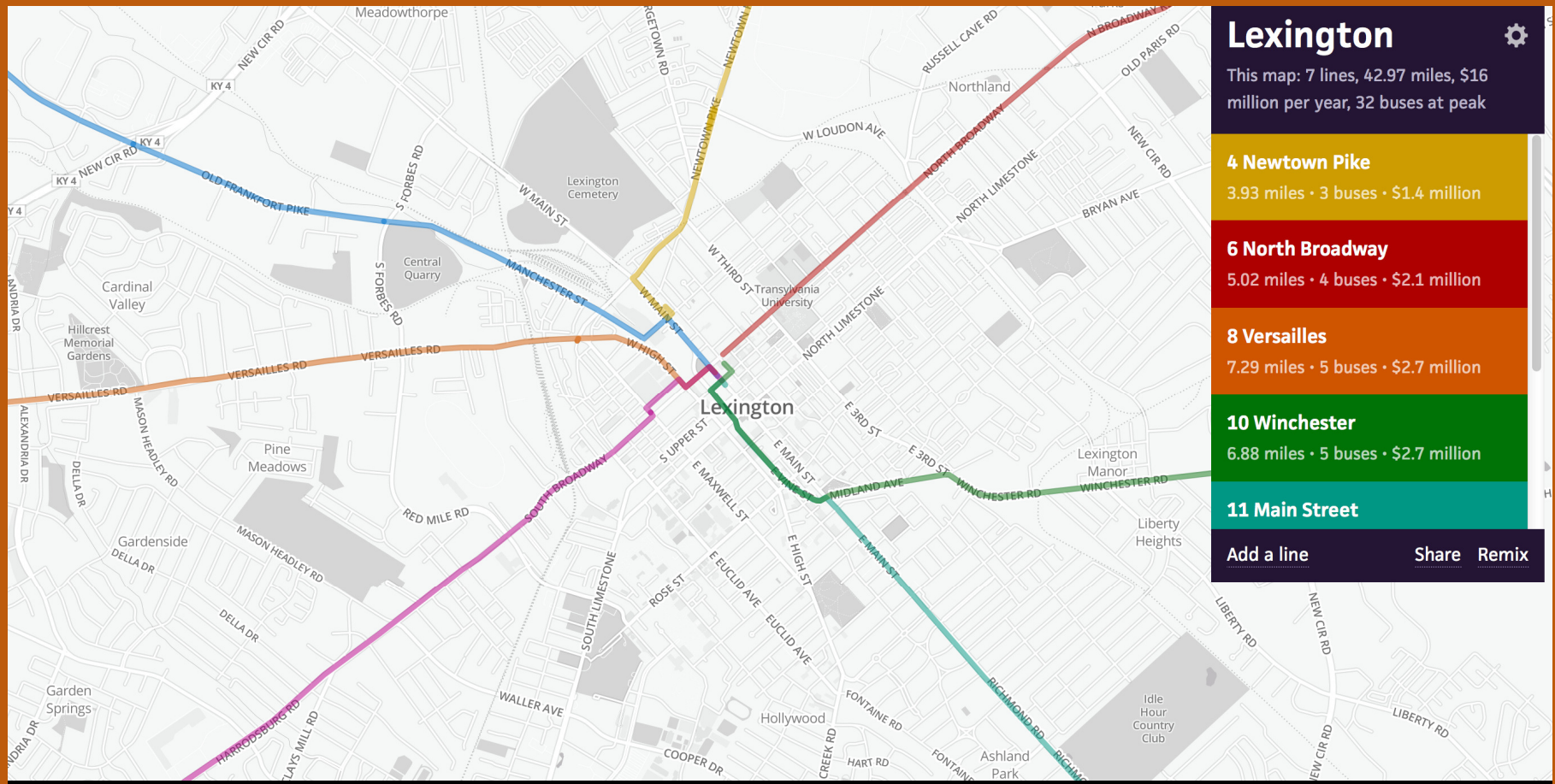
Hours

Mon 11:00 am - 2:30 pm **Open now**
5:00 pm - 9:30 pm

Health Scores on Yelp



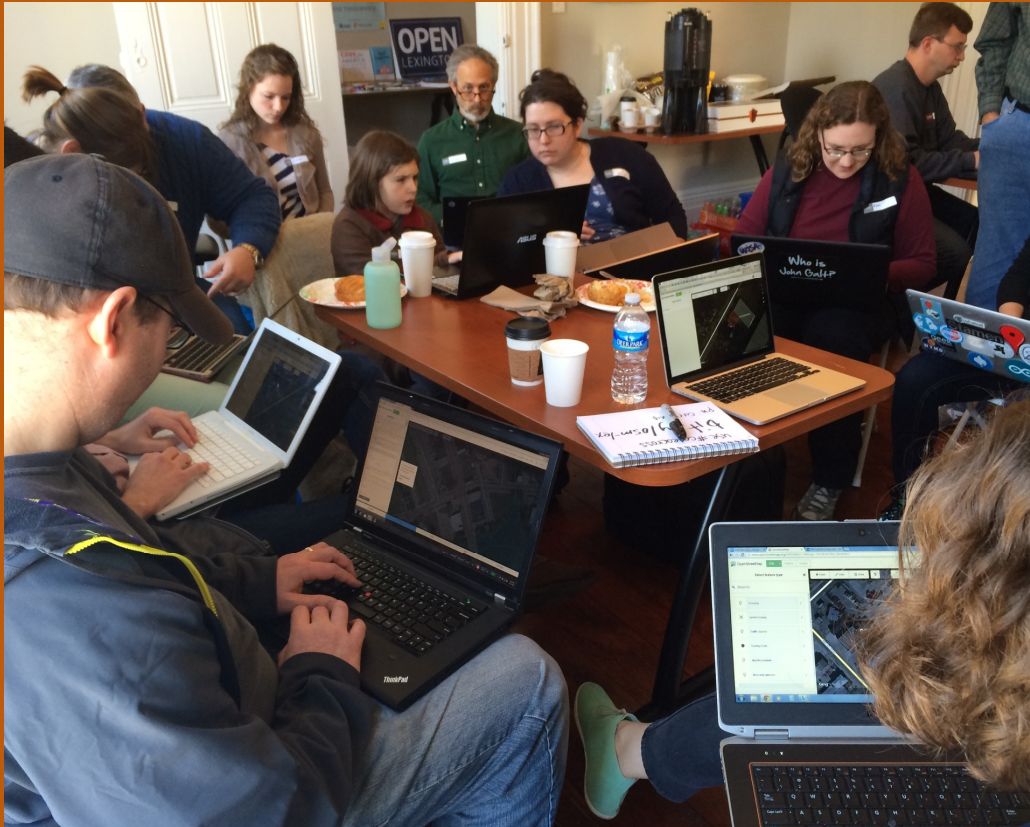
Other Data Initiatives



Transitmix + Lextran Data



Community Involvement



OpenLexington hack events
Girl Scouts learn map making





Thank you, sponsors!



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AMERICA
LEXINGTON

Ben Askren
Blue Grass Community Foundation
Churchill McGee, LLC
Columbia Gas
David Coomer
DMD Data Systems
Jim Gray
John and Donna Hall
Phil Holoubek
Lexington Convention & Visitors Bureau
Miller Wells, PLLC
Warren Rosenthal
Toyota
Chris Young

Xerox
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John Cirigliano
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Kip Cornett
Florida Tile
Gray Construction
Debra Hensley's Social Stimulus
Kentucky Utilities
Patrick Madden
QX.net
Ben and Becca Self
University of Kentucky

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government



Additional thanks!



David O'Neill, PVA



OpenLexington Brigade



Council Legislative Aides

Our city partners

Shaye Rabold, Jamie Emmons, Derek Paulsen,
Jonathan Hollinger, Chris Corcoran, Wes Holbrook,
Aldona Valicenti, Chad Cottle, Brittany West



thank you!

questions?