

Overview of Facilities and Programs

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) builds, manages and maintains City government information technology infrastructure – radio, data, communications, and computer networks – used by other City departments to serve constituents. DoIT also manages the Seattle Channel and the City’s central data center, which houses most of the computer servers and the computing architecture that operates software applications on behalf of other departments. DoIT also directs the development of certain computer applications projects on behalf of the City or of other departments.

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) supports DoIT’s mission by providing for major technology upgrades and improvements to the City’s existing networks, computing architecture, and systems. This includes: enhancements and upgrades to the data and communications infrastructure, build out of fiber optic links, upgrades and improvements to the public safety radio network, the enterprise computing system, and the television channel infrastructure.

Highlights

The Department’s 2010-2015 Proposed CIP provides for the following projects:

- Planning, repair, replacement and modification of software, hardware, and electronics in the City’s data and communications infrastructure to introduce improved service and features for City employees and constituents;
- Replacement of current radio technology with a new digital switch for voice and data traffic and new digital consoles for dispatching and managing the network;
- Replacement of hand-held and vehicle radios and infrastructure upgrades in the 800 MHz radio network program;
- Replacement of enterprise computing platform assets in the data center to meet storage capacity for critical Citywide applications;
- Replacement and upgrades of software and hardware in the City’s computing services architecture environment;
- Replacement and upgrades of equipment for the Seattle Channel, including a transition to digital equipment; and
- Installation of additional fiber optic cable links and spurs to various locations.

Project Selection Process

DoIT selects infrastructure projects based upon the following process:

Project Identification: DoIT staff work with departmental program directors as well as Citywide governing boards such as the Technology Board and the Urban Area Security Initiative Grant Steering Committee to identify potential projects. The criteria for project selection include opportunities to: enhance public safety departments’ response to emergencies, improve the reliability of technology systems, increase the availability of services to constituents, update the City’s major hardware and software systems, and implement technology projects using grants awarded by the federal government.

Project Selection: DoIT’s program directors work with guidance from citywide and regional governance boards to review the list of potential projects and determine which projects best fit the CIP project criteria.

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Project Scheduling and Budgeting: After the project list is refined, DoIT staff work with the Department of Finance to enter the selected projects into the capital budget system. The budget system tracks each project and allows staff to cross-check projects against Mayor and Council priorities.

Anticipated Operating Expenses Associated with Capital Facilities Projects

A significant portion of DoIT's operating budget is devoted to operating and maintaining CIP projects.