

Background Information

914-2023 - Background information

Each year, City of Winnipeg departments submit upwards of 250 investment plans for consideration for capital funding for the following year. Investment plan submission consists of four prescribed templated documents: Investment plan/Business Case (MS Word); Basis of Estimate (MS Excel); Class of Estimate (MS Excel) and Net Present Value and Benefit (MS Excel). The investment plans are then manually consolidated into a fifth document, the Asset Management Prioritization (AMP) Tool, in Excel, to score, evaluate, and prioritize.

The current Word/Excel-based solution no longer adequately handles the volume and complexity of the City's investment plan submission process. There is no wizard-like capability to walk users through the steps required for different types of investment plans. Version control of the templates and any attached documents is a problem as the submissions go through multiple levels of revision and approval.

The current Word/Excel-based solution is also very time-consuming for the Corporate Asset Management Office (CAMO) to manage. The Excel templates are very complex, making it difficult to update them from one year to the next. The Excel-based solution also severely limits the ability of the CAMO to consolidate and prioritize capital investment plan submissions from across the organization. Extracting the data from the Excel submissions to enable comparison, discussion and prioritization is a highly manual process. When the prioritized investment needs are presented at Council, there is no ability to model different scenarios on the fly. Portfolio balancing based on multiple or ad hoc considerations is not possible.

Extracting and consolidating the data for other purposes is also very manual and labor-intensive. There is no ability to report on historical capital investment plans as they are stored in separate files and not in a consolidated database. Currently, it is also not possible to integrate with other systems, for example by exporting approved capital investment plan budgets to PeopleSoft Finance.

This project provides the City of Winnipeg an opportunity to streamline the current Investment Planning process through a modernized decision support solution.