Overview of Facilities and Programs

The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) builds, manages, and maintains City government information technology infrastructure – radio, telephone, and computer networks that are used by other City departments to serve constituents. DoIT also manages the City's central data center, which houses most of the computer servers used by City departments, and directs the development of certain computer applications projects on behalf of other departments, primarily the public safety departments – Police and Fire.

The Capital Improvement Program (CIP) supports the Department's mission by providing for technology major upgrades and improvements to the City's existing networks and systems.   It funds, for example, upgrades to the data and communications infrastructure, fiber optic links, major improvements in the public safety radio network, and new computer applications such as computer aided dispatch systems for Police and Fire.

Highlights

The Department's 2006 – 2011 Proposed CIP provides for the following projects:

- Planning, repair, construction, and modification of various improvements to the City's data and communications infrastructure;

- Installation of additional fiber optic cable links and spurs to various locations, including Seattle schools and under-served areas such as south and southeast Seattle;

- Replacement of software, hardware and electronics in the City's telephone and data network to introduce improved service and features that will be useful to City employees and constituents, specifically for 24-hour-a-day access to City services;

- Development and implementation of a replacement records management (RMS) computer system for the Seattle Police Department;

- Development and implementation of a replacement computer-aided dispatch (CAD) computer system for the Seattle Police Department; and

- Planning and acquisition of a message switch for public safety agencies.

Project Selection Process

DoIT selects infrastructure projects based upon the following criteria and priorities:

Project Identification: DoIT staff work with departmental program directors as well as Citywide governing boards including the Information Technology Business Management Council, the Public Safety Board, and the Urban Area Security Grant Technical Assistance Working Group to identify potential projects. The criteria for project selection includes opportunities to enhance public safety agencies' response to emergencies; improve reliability of public safety technology systems; increase the availability of services to constituents with the goal of providing service delivery 24 hours a day, seven days a week; updating the City's major hardware and software systems; and increasing urban area security by implementing federal government technology and public safety security grants.

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

Project Scheduling and Budgeting: After the project list is refined, DoIT works 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 Mayoral and Council priorities.

Anticipated Operating Expenses Associated with Capital Facilities Projects

A significant portion of the Department's operating budget is devoted to operating and maintaining CIP projects. Some CIP projects generate Operations and Maintenance (O&M) savings.