Open Austin
Civic Tech Update

to the

Austin City Council
Emerging Technology and Telecommunications
Committee

30 Apr 2013

www.open-austin.org

Chip Rosenthal
Chair
info@open-austin.org

- Citizen volunteer group
- Founded in 2009
- Advocates for open government, open data, and civic technology
- The *Code for America* Brigade in Austin
- Two focus areas:
  - Hack Team - Builds and supports civic applications
  - Gov Team - Advocacy and leadership on policy issues

Hack Team

Herb Watkins
Hack Team co-chair
hack@open-austin.org

Open Gov Hack Nights
- Initiated February 4
- Every other week, varying locations
- 4-8 people, solid core group participation
- Hack, learn, collaborate

Intersection of open gov, city, technology
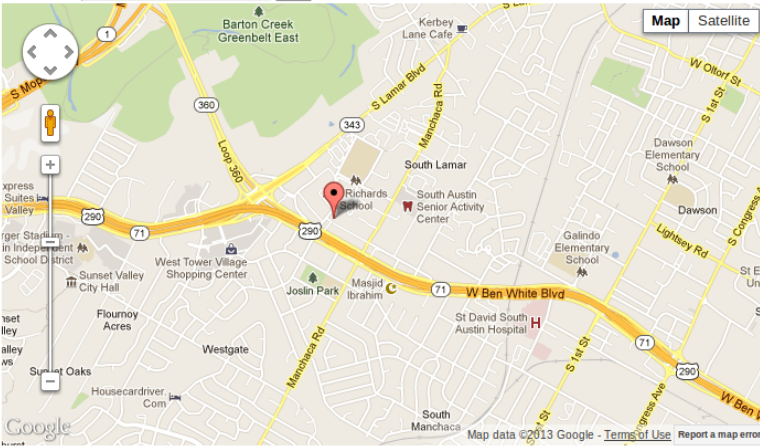
Current Apps (1/3): Recycle App

"Do I put my bins out today?"

Partner: Austin Resource Recovery

Status: web service implemented, building out app

Current Apps (2/3): TEC Filer

Financial filings by candidates, officeholders and PACs

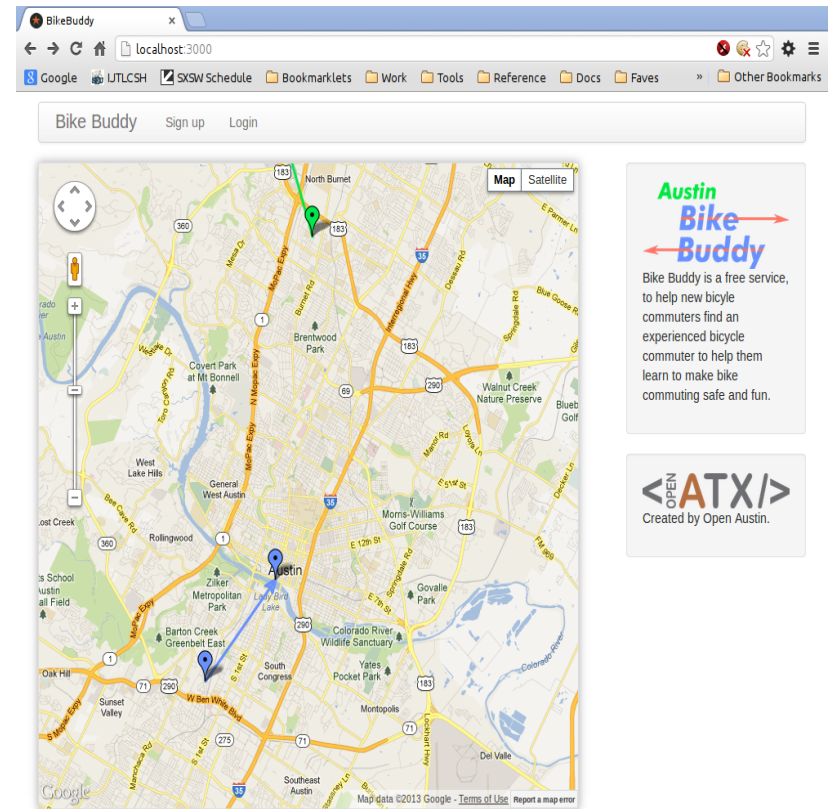Partners: City Clerk, Comm & Tech Mgt

Status: import to database done, web interface in process

Current Apps (3/3): Bike Buddy

Help new bike commuters find an experienced buddy.

Partner: Council Member Chris Riley

Status: Want to deploy for bike month

NATIONAL DAY of CIVIC HACKING

A national event that will take place June 1-2 and will bring together citizens, software developers, and entrepreneurs across the nation.

Local event organized by:

St. Edwards University

Office of Information Technology

http://hackforchange.org/atx-hackathon-change-2013

ATX Civic Tech Expo

- Thursday, May 23, 10am - 5pm, City Hall
- First attempt to engage general public on civic tech issues
- In the atrium – Demonstrations of civic technology and apps
- In the media "fishbowl" – Live civic hackathon
- Contact: info@open-austin.org

Office of Civic Tech Innovation

- Open Austin presented proposal for an Office of Civic Technology Innovation, Aug 30, 2012 budget hearing
- Council approved $250K in FY2013 budget as seed funding to support two FTEs and programs
- Currently awaiting implementation
- Concerns:
  - Depth of community engagement during planning
  - Delays resulting in stagnation and resource issues with civic tech initiatives