

October 5, 2012

Please print a copy of this newsletter for staff that do not have e-mail.



Designed for all staff and departments who use Accela

Project Status Report

Mayor Meets With Accela Team

On Monday morning the weekly Accela project team meeting was held in the Mayor's conference Room. The usual format of the meeting was altered for Mayor Beutler. First and foremost, the Mayor extended his appreciation for the efforts of the team members and his understanding regarding delays in the project schedule. The Mayor also commented, "This project is the most dramatic in making changes for the City Government and you are to be congratulated on the progress you have made so far". The Mayor also continued to participate in the meeting with a roundtable discussion of the project and challenges that each team member has in front of them. He was interested in the sweeping changes in programs and processes that have taken place to date and offered to support any additional changes that may be identified to further improve our implementation. We thank Mayor Beutler and those involved from the Mayor's Office for their support!

New Tough Books Are Here!

We are excited to report that our Tough Book laptop order from TKK Electronics in Milwaukee has arrived. These new semi-tough laptops will replace older versions of the Tough Books which have been in use for the past seven or more years. These new laptops have been configured so that Accela's Mobile Office will achieve high performance. This is the new device that inspectors will use in the field. Due to budget constraints, only 22 of the Tough Books were ordered with the idea that additional devices will be purchased at a later date.



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There has been quite a bit of discussion and planning activities occurring in the background as we are working on the determination of a new "go-live" date. There are benefits for reaching the "go-live" timeframe by the end of the year, however we need to pull together our final plan and crunch some numbers. Due to project delays, some of our Accela resources and other project partners are now beginning to get involved in other projects with other cities. Accela has pushed the Lincoln project time and budget to the maximum. Of course, we have recognized that certain project components were simply underestimated in the original project plan.

There are many software components and component integration issues that remain open. Some of the issues are "red-tape". For example, we have been working for three weeks to get a purchase order/contract to Avolve so that they can begin the work on their end of the Accela Automation integration with ProjectDox. Our friends at

eDocument Resources have been patiently waiting for final lists of Lincoln document groups and types for OnBase. These were supplied to them this week. Meanwhile, some of the testing of OnBase has yielded errors/time-out situations which need to be resolved. Also the Permit Application Tracking System (PATS) has been slowly beginning its integration changes to accommodate both of the new Accela Automation and OnBase environments. And finally, document conversion efforts need to pick up pace dramatically for documents that currently reside in Lincoln's Office Linc document system. We are relying on resources at eDocument Resources in all of the transitions to provide help with specific OnBase product knowledge transfer, API use, and training. Part of the informal training from eDocument Resources is related to OnBase administration training and gaining data views to the OnBase database to access data for usage and document tracking.

Conversion is moving ahead and, for the first time, we feel that we have "turned-the-corner"! This is significant progress to report. This weekend another data conversion pass is scheduled. Next week the subject matter experts will be quite busy sifting through the converted data to assess and determine how close we are to having a process ready for use during our "go-live" processing.

Testing has become the next high priority item on the project critical path. For a number of reasons, technical and otherwise, user acceptance testing (UAT) is simply not progressing. Many of you reading this newsletter are going to become very involved in this process. We are planning structured testing periods for each record type. We must execute each record, exercise the functions and business process to determine and document any errors. We need to be confident the solution will work properly. We seek that all users become comfortable with using the software. We prefer to eliminate any apprehensiveness so when we "go-live", it is a transparent event.

A couple more things as we gear up to push the project towards the finish line. We are rounding up all project details and trying to corral resources. A couple of examples for you -- the team is trying to create one common receipt report. The report will be executed by any participating department; however, the details or results of the report will be dynamic or specific to a department's needs. On the report, for example, details and department logos would dynamically be included for the department submitting the report. Also, the Accela Citizen Access (ACA) module wrapper changes. The wrapper is a place within ACA for Lincoln specific logos and information to be displayed.

On This Day

October 5, 1905, Wilber and Orville Wright return to Kill Devil Hills with a new and improved plane called Flyer No. 3. There they made a record flight of 24 1/5 miles. The airplane was in the air 38 minutes/3 seconds and a new age was born on this day 107 years ago. These brothers had a dream, a vision and a great project. Now, 107 years later, you would have to say "Time Flies"!



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Our Accela project newsletter now reaches 379 people!