**Wellington, FL: Rethinking Community, Rethinking GIS**



**Intent of Project/Program/Service**

Rethinking Community, Rethinking GIS will demonstrate that GIS is for everyone.....not just techies, not just for some or even all of staff.......it’s a powerful tool for the public too.....and not just for specific purposes but for almost any purpose.

**Innovation Characteristics**

Our organization embraces and in some cases even craves technology. And we are card carrying members of the Open Government revolution----on the quest for transparency and connection with the community, both collaborative and participative. We value innovation.......We like to take others success and make it our own........We move fast.....focus on result rather than process ........we have a small staff and limited funding and yet deliver “I want it now” service.

**Obstacles**

Wellington is like every other city out there: our community is changing, our budgets are shrinking, and our citizen engagement tools need more power. Unlike New York, Boston, or Chicago, we don't have a huge staff, a lot of time and or money and we don't really have the ability to test good ideas before launching. It's essential that our systems work effectively to serve and engage our community.

**Applicable Results and Real World Practicality**

To us, GIS is more than just maps: it is our key to success; our pivot point between the organization and the community, between data and decisions, between requests and service, between people and paper, between social media and deliberate communication. Not only do we use it for planning and projects and programs in multiple and vastly differing areas from neighborhood services to economic development to project applications to community design, we realize the promise for building community and engagement. That is the basis of our GIS “reboot”: focused on external use – citizen engagement in the planning process, interaction with the mobile community and rethinking systems as we rethink community. Great plans, a better model, innovation, citizen engagement and technology along with great people – in tandem with inspired action and “180” shift in organizational philosophy – led to rethinking community, rethinking GIS.

Making this work means we got to have the right people with the right skill sets and the right tools...... And the cultural commitment.....It can become overwhelming especially if as we often do in government: try to be all things to all people! The trick is then to go for low hanging fruit........and to pick a few things and do them well......