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Field Asset Management Inventory Project: Winter FY 13

Methodology of Data Collection

The Public Space Management Department (PSM) completed a six week *Winter Asset Inventory Project* surveying fifteen permanent assets throughout the BID. In August, PSM conducted a similar project examining twelve permanent items using the *Field Asset Management Mobile Application.* Such things like fire hydrants, bus shelters, and benches were added to the project, while trees were left out due to the winter season. During the six week period, thirteen SAMs rotated surveying these assets along with two PSM staff members. SAMs were dispatched on every Tuesday and Thursday during data collection period from 10am to 2pm and surveyed nearly 78 square blocks, while PSM staff surveyed the other 60 of the 138 blocks within the Downtown BID. The daily average of field time for users was roughly 4 hours and 30 minutes and the average completion of a square block witnessed a range of was about the same as the August inventory at about an hour. The total number of surveyed assets totaled to nearly 8,700, which on average is exactly 63 assets around one square block.

Findings & Results

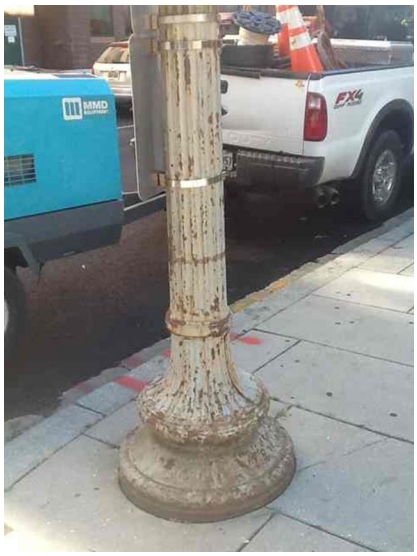
This project once again reiterates a few points that were stated during the inventory conducted in August specifically that many of the permanent assets are in good condition. As shown in *Table 1.0* there is a 53.5% percent decrease illustrating a significant drop in the number of new conditions reported. Also, the project witnessed less GIS related edits in the field with a decrease of 68.2% showing that the many layers managed by PSM are becoming more accurate by utilizing the mobile application.

This damaged trash receptacle in Franklin Square shows one of the many types of conditions reported on the asset during this winter

Additionally, the number street pole related problems dropped by 47.4%, and of that nearly 63% includes street pole painting requests due to rust and paint peeling. Also, tree box issues fell 87% during this project, with 75 % of the conditions reported relating to physical damage such as defective tree box fences and guards. Furthermore, trash receptacle related conditions garnered the highest number of problems documented at roughly 17%, while traffic control boxes (8%) and wayfinding signage issues (6.2%) were next highest during the project.

There was also a 16.7% decrease in the number of non-inventoried item conditions over the six week period as well. Roughly 15% of the total conditions reported included simple maintenance such as cleaning of receptacles or trash/debris collection

Although the high number of decline in each of the categories below seems to exude positive feelings, this may be the result of external factors such as weather, along with the fact that many conditions were already documented in prior months. As result, it may be comforting to know that the BID does have a good grasp on the current level of problems within the public space and can now begin to assess to the various types of resources needed to address, resolve and prevent these conditions.



This rusted street pole on L St illustrates one of the various types of maintenance documented during the project. Painting street poles is one of many things the BID can handle internally

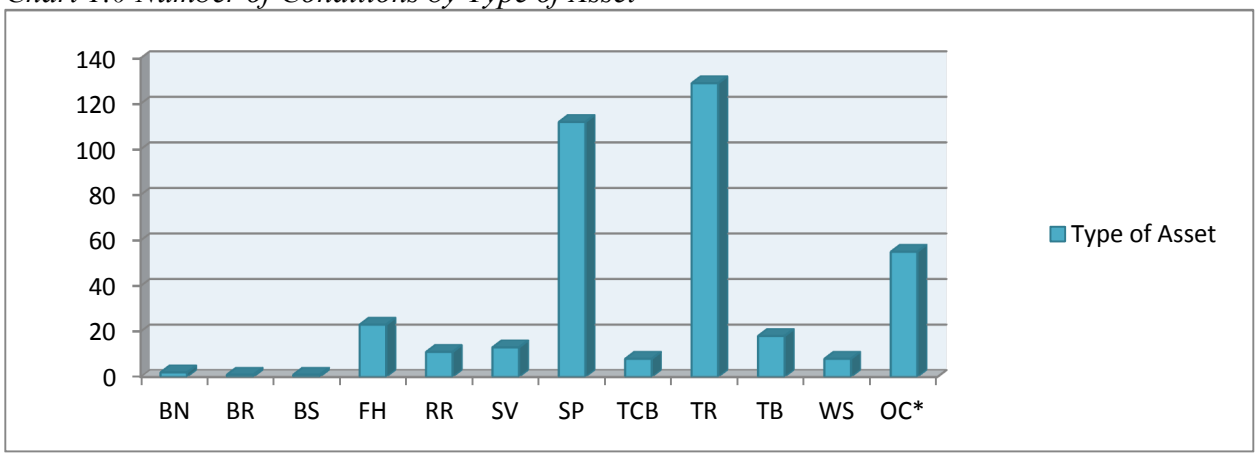
Table 1.0 Permanent Assets Inventoried

Asset Type	Amount	Number Inventoried	Reported Conditions	GIS Edits	Percentage Damaged
Alleyway (AW)	49	49	0 (-8)	0	0%
Bench (BN)	213	213	2 (N/A)	41	0.90%
Bike Rack (BR)	383	382	1 (-8)	4 (-30)	0.30%
Bus Shelter (BS)	83	83	1 (N/A)	0	1.20%
Bus Stop Sign Pole (BSP)	38	25	0 (N/A)	2	0%
Catch Basin (CB)	117	114	0 (-2)	0	0%
Fire Hydrant (FH)	395	395	23 (+6)	2 (+2)	5.80%
Metro Entrances (ME)	15	15	0 (-12)	0	0%
Recycling Receptacle (RR)	360	360	11 (-7)	2 (-5)	3%
Sidewalk Vendor (SV)	89	89	13** (-10)	0 (-21)	14.6%**
Street Pole (SP)	3142	3142	112 (-101)	71 (-13)	3.60%
Traffic Control Box (TCB)	100	100	8 (-12)	1 (-5)	8%
Trash Receptacle (TR)	751	751	129 (+9)	4 (-4)	17.20%
Tree Box (TB)	2817	2817	18 (-122)	2 (-88)	0.60%
Wayfinding Sign (WS)	130	130	8 (+1)	1 (-12)	6.20%
Totals	8666	8665	326 (-375)	130 (-279)	3.80%
*Other Conditions (OC)	55	N/A	55 (-11)	N/A	N/A

*Other Conditions: Abandoned Bike (8), Abandoned Property (3), Abandoned Vehicle (1), Construction (1), Homelessness (1), Other (2), Panhandler (1), Parking Meter (16), Paver Issue (8), Pothole (2), Publisher Box (2), Trash & Debris (5), U-Pole (4), Vandalism (1)

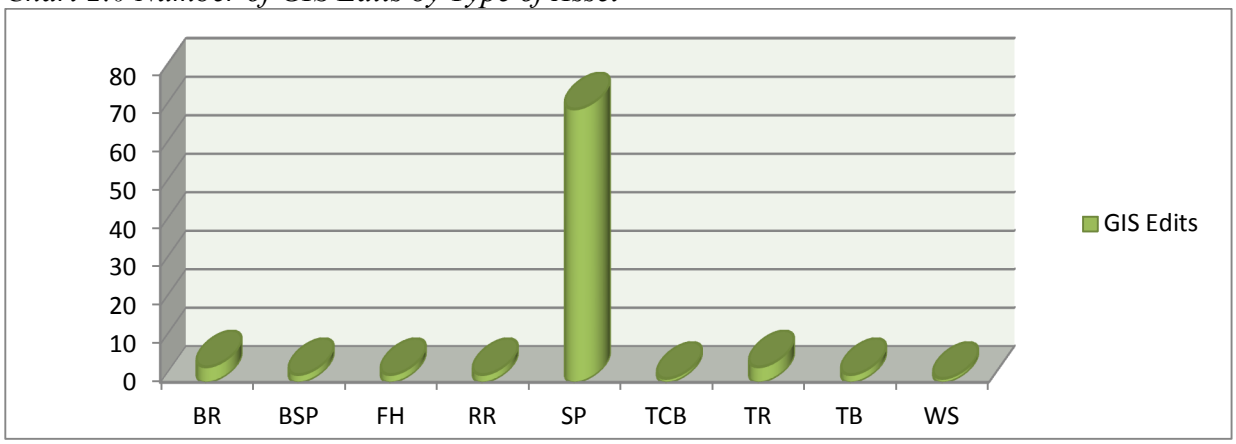
**Vendors not identified on location during date of inventory

Chart 1.0 Number of Conditions by Type of Asset



*Assets with zero conditions documented not shown in chart above

Chart 2.0 Number of GIS Edits by Type of Asset



*Assets with zero edits documented not shown in chart above

Recommendations & Conclusions

As stated previously, progress is being made on a few different fronts by conducting these quarterly inventories. The first of which is that PSM is steadily enhancing and improving the GIS data that the BID maintains and will be able to share this updated information with outside agencies such as the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO). The next positive sign is that while PSM conducts this project, several of the previously reported issues are being noticed as resolved. As a result, staff has requested that a new mode be added to the mobile application allowing field users to confirm a resolved issue in the field and add a photo providing a before and after visual. The third issue reconfirms that the perception of the waning infrastructure and escalating public space concerns are not as high, especially when it pertains to permanent street furniture. Of the items that need to be addressed, such as the painting of street poles and maintenance of receptacles (30%), the BID has domain and the ability to resolve internally.

Lastly, this project might also shed light on the increased communication and growth of relationships with city agencies helping with resolving these public space related problems.

There are some drawbacks to this project that can be addressed which affects the length and duration of time it takes to complete including weather elements. This is especially the case during colder months where cold and wet conditions impede staff from being deployed. This will likely remain an issue and could be mitigated with the use of touch screen gloves and water proof cases. Also, with issues that persist from the BIDôs phone service provider, such things like signal strength can halt reporting in the field and frustrate users. PSM however is seeking to resolve this problem by adding a new offline mode with new enhancements of the app. This will allow the information to be stored locally until a strong signal is discovered while in the field. Nonetheless, the project along with the mobile application is continuing to gain interest from outside entities and the BID as always will attempt to collaborate with its partners to solve problems in the public space.