

SEATTLE STARTUP TO HELP CIVIC LEADERS HARNESS THE POWER OF OPEN DATA TO SHAPE THEIR CITIES

FORMER SEATTLE MAYOR MIKE MCGINN TO LEAD INITIATIVE

November 20, 2014 – Government and foundations have a critical role to play unleashing the true economic potential of open data in shaping our cities. Mike McGinn, the most recent former mayor of Seattle, has joined Seattle-based tech startup DriveDecisions as Public Sector Advocate to carry out this important message.

McGinn will help DriveDecisions reach governments and foundations who can fund the integration of regional data for their urban environment or purchase open access for all residents. He will also continue speaking, advocating, and consulting on issues relating to urban vitality, global warming and social change, now powered with DriveDecisions, a “made in Seattle” tool.

“DriveDecisions can help cities realize the promise of open data,” said McGinn. “Government works better when decision-makers and citizens have access to clear and timely information and a shared vision for development. Coordinated efforts across departments, discussions with the private sector, and outreach to communities can all be enhanced with this tool.”

DriveDecisions’s platform dynamically processes live data from community, city, county, state, and regional agencies—currently stored on over twenty websites in different formats—to instantly show inside a virtual environment how each location is impacted by multiple urban systems, such as water, education, mobility, land use and development. “Our average active user saves 500 hours per year by using DriveDecisions, while significantly increasing quality in their analysis and clarity in their presentations.” DriveDecisions founder Luis Borrero explains.

Until now, DriveDecisions has been successfully serving private clients in the investment, development and commercial real estate fields in Greater Seattle, who use its tool to find, evaluate, and present specific opportunities. “With McGinn’s support, we also aim to make some tools publicly available to improve communications across public, private and community leaders in our region, in support of our mission to accelerate sustainable urban development.” Borrero explains.

Under McGinn’s administration, the City of Seattle -- a recognized leader in environmental sustainability and social equity -- won awards for its [open data portal](#) and its [website](#). McGinn’s aim is for metropolitan area leaders, such as Seattle’s, to invest in tools that will help citizens of all levels of technical expertise make use of open data, including DriveDecisions.

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