The Connected Triangle+ Partners

Vision & Charter

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Establishing a New Ecosystem of Government Innovation Focused on Interoperability and Open Standards Across the Triangle and Beyond

In today's interconnected world, the efficient sharing of data and resources is paramount to delivering high-quality public services and ensuring the well-being of our citizens. The Connected Triangle+ Partners propose the establishment of a groundbreaking Government Innovation Ecosystem that places a strong emphasis on interoperability and open standards, facilitating seamless integration between diverse government agencies. This paper outlines the vision, objectives, benefits, and practical steps necessary to create this transformative ecosystem.

1. Objectives: Our primary objectives for this initiative are as follows:

- **Accelerate Digital Transformation:** Drive the adoption of innovative technologies across government agencies to enhance efficiency, transparency, and the quality of public services.

- **Promote Collaboration:** Foster a collaborative environment that brings together government entities, technology startups, research institutions, and industry partners to collectively address public sector challenges.

- **Advance Interoperability:** Develop and promote open standards and interoperability frameworks to enable seamless data exchange and integration among government systems.

- **Enhanced Service Delivery:** Facilitate the seamless exchange of information and services among government agencies, resulting in improved service delivery to our constituents.

- **Efficiency and Cost Savings:** Reduce duplication of efforts, cut operational costs, and optimize resource allocation by streamlining data-sharing processes.

- **Data Security and Privacy:** Ensure that data sharing is conducted securely and in compliance with privacy regulations to safeguard sensitive information. Nurture and share local and private data usage, data access, data policies while also being diligent around data (cyber) security.

- **Public Engagement:** Lead and participate in means to drive public input through multi-modal communications and cross jurisdictional feedback to foster richer ecosystem health for our communities and the region where we live and do business.

- **Digital Equity & Inclusion:** Foster and share best practices and programs or projects that engage all citizens and fosters the inclusion of all into the digital economy.

- **Expanded and Ongoing Innovation:** Foster a culture of collaboration and innovation across our region, ever expanding opportunities for new ideas and collaboration.

2. Benefits: The establishment of this government innovation ecosystem, with a focus on interoperability and open standards, will yield a multitude of benefits, including:

- **Enhanced Service Delivery:** Improved interoperability will result in more efficient government services, benefiting citizens and businesses alike.

- **Cost Savings:** Streamlining processes and promoting the use of standardized solutions will lead to substantial cost savings for government agencies.

- **Economic Growth:** Nurturing government innovation will stimulate economic growth by supporting startups, creating jobs, and attracting investment.

- **Continued "Smart" workforce.** Partnerships build support and development of expanded and new programs to train our youth and the entire workforce.

- **Stronger Public-Private Partnerships:** Enhanced collaboration between government entities and the private sector will drive innovation and support public sector modernization.

- **Improved Decision-Making:** Access to shared data and resources will empower agencies to make more informed decisions.

- **Streamlined Operations:** Automated data exchange will reduce manual processes, saving time and resources.

- **Enhanced Transparency:** Greater transparency in government operations will strengthen public trust.

- **Sustainability, Resilience and Disaster Preparedness:** Seamless data sharing can enhance our region's resilience and preparedness for emergencies and disasters and foster ongoing environmental sustainability across our region and beyond.

3. Approach: To achieve our objectives and realize these benefits, we propose the following approach:

- **Ecosystem Development:** Establish a formal structure and governance model for the government innovation ecosystem, defining membership criteria, roles, and responsibilities. This includes efforts to continually engage, consult, educate, and inform regional stakeholders who may not specifically be "members" of the partnership.

- **Incubator and Accelerator Programs:** Make use of existing programs, facilities, and locations to encourage and help launch incubator and accelerator programs to nurture government startups, providing them with mentorship, funding, and access to government agencies for pilot/experimentation projects.

- **Open Innovation Challenges:** Organize open innovation challenges to solicit innovative solutions to specific government challenges, with an emphasis on interoperability.

- **Interoperability Frameworks:** Develop and promote standardized interoperability frameworks and open data formats to facilitate data sharing and integration among government systems.

- **Investment Attraction & Sharing:** Develop and foster multi-community private and public funding investments (grants, donations, partnerships) that support our Vision.

- **Resource Sharing:** Facilitate the sharing of data, resources, and best practices among government agencies and technology innovators.

- **Capacity Building (Education and Training):** Offer training programs, workshops, and educational resources to build skills and capabilities, with a focus on open standards and interoperability and emerging technology that foster a culture of data sharing.

- **Policy and Regulation Review/Compliance:** Evaluate and adapt government policies and procedures to accommodate emerging government solutions while ensuring data privacy and security. Identify and address legal and regulatory barriers to data sharing and interoperability.

- **Data Governance:** Establish a robust data governance framework to ensure data quality, security, and compliance.

- **Pilot/Experiments Programs:** Implement pilot/experiments programs to test the technical framework and gather feedback.

- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Continuously monitor and evaluate progress against established KPIs.

- **Transparency and Accountability:** Promote transparency in data sharing agreements and hold agencies accountable for their obligations.

- **Iterate and Improve:** Continually seek opportunities to refine and enhance the integration infrastructure and processes.

4. Funding: We recognize the importance of securing adequate funding to support the development and operation of this government innovation ecosystem. We propose exploring a range of funding sources, including government grants, public-private partnerships, corporate sponsorships, and membership fees from participating organizations.

5. Next Steps: We have seeded this proposed ecosystem as we launched the Connected Triangle+ Summit. The "Partners" in the Summit are now seeking to convene with other key stakeholders from government agencies, technology startups, academia, and industry partners to discuss this proposal in detail. We are and would like additional partners to oversee the development of the ecosystem, create a detailed project plan, establish a timeline, and allocate responsibilities to advance this initiative.

By creating an ecosystem that promotes government innovation while prioritizing interoperability and open standards, we have a unique opportunity to transform government services, drive economic growth, and address societal challenges more effectively. We look forward to your feedback and collaboration in shaping the future of government innovation.