



# Awards for Excellence

IN GOVERNMENT FINANCE

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Government Finance Officers Association's (GFOA) Awards for Excellence in Government Finance recognize innovative programs and contributions to the practice of government finance that exemplify outstanding financial management. The awards stress practical, documented work that offers leadership to the profession and promotes improved public finance.

## 2019 Winner for Exceptionally Well Implemented GFOA Best Practice:



**CITY OF WINNIPEG, MANITOBA**  
Capital Projects Dashboard

The City of Winnipeg recently released two online tools, the [Open Capital Dashboard](#) and [Open Budget Portal](#), to help citizens access information about the city's capital projects in an open, accountable, and user-friendly way.

The dashboard is a visually engaging, interactive tool that uses open data and other non-financial information to report on the performance of capital projects with budgets of \$5 million or more. Assessing the status of a capital project in terms of schedule and cost is a complex process, but the dashboard makes it easier by collecting data from many sources, analyzing it, and providing performance feedback. The dashboard's custom-developed schedule and cost variance matrix rates project performance and then displays the information in an appealing and collaborative way that is easily understood.

The dashboard complements the Open Budget Portal, reporting fundamental financial information from the adopted budget, amended budget, and actual costs. Information for the city's entire portfolio of capital projects is sorted by department, category, and subcategory, which creates openness and transparency. By displaying the information in a visually engaging and interactive way, the city is helping users easily gain insight into the financial budgets and actual costs of capital projects.



**GFOA BEST PRACTICE:**  
[Communicating Capital Improvement Strategies](#)

GFOA recommends that organizations develop a communications plan for public participation that focuses on explaining capital needs, options, and strategies, and facilitating feedback before a major capital program gets underway. Capital programs gain from the support of the community, which ensures that these projects will deliver the expected and desired outcomes, and also guarantees there is adequate public support for the investment.