

iDEAS FOR GOVERNANCE

IDEAS FOR GOVERNANCE TRUST BELIEF

- Administrators and Practitioners in government bodies would welcome ideas that improve the quality of life for all citizens
- It is possible to empower government bodies by making freely available ideas that could work in their local environment
- If appropriate ideas are generically available, local government body CEOs and their team would adapt them suitably and take it forward under their leadership
- Ideas which take shape through this process in local bodies have a greater chance of success over those 'pushed' by external bodies
- The trust does not expect any acknowledgement for use of any of the ideas set out in its forum. It hopes that some of its ideas find form across government bodies.

IDEAS FOR GOVERNANCE TRUST OBJECTIVES

- To compile ideas for use by government bodies for improving quality of life for all citizens
- To make available these ideas as 'freeware' for use by anyone
- To disseminate these ideas by using suitable channels of communication
- To encourage others to contribute ideas for use as 'freeware'

ABOUT IDEAS FOR GOVERNANCE TRUST

Ideas for Governance Trust is a not for profit trust set up to assist government bodies in improving the quality of life for its citizens. This has been set up by V. Ravichandar, Chairman & CEO, [Feedback Business Consulting Services Pvt. Limited](#), India as part of the Corporate Social Responsibility of the firm.

Since 2000, Ravichandar has been serving as a Member of the Bangalore Agenda Task Force (BATF) working with civic agencies in Bangalore on a pro bono basis. The idea of a Ideas for Governance Trust is based on the experience of working with urban local bodies in Bangalore, being part of Janaagraha, a citizen movement for participatory democracy, and carrying the message of public governance to many cities across India.

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Utilities

Billing all utility connections appropriately , April 5, 2004

The Idea

Using private agencies for detecting un-metered connections (water, power). Share property use database with other utilities / city corporation to ensure user billed under the same category (residential, commercial, etc.)

The Rationale

Water and Power corporations tend to lose a lot of unbilled revenue due to unauthorised connections. There is merit in getting private agencies to identify un-metered connections for a fee. By ensuring that customer classification is uniform across all agencies, utilities can plug loss in revenue due to mis-classification.

An Approach

- Utilities could tender for private agencies which have the resources to identify unauthorized connections
- In this case, the agency which offers the most competitive rate per connection detected could be selected
- The revenue from the additional connections would more than compensate any fee income / case payable to the private agency
- A protocol for sharing property owner / usage information across the City Corporation and other utilities needs to be evolved. The challenge will be to adopt a unique 'numbering' system since Corporations tend to keep records by Municipal number, while utilities prefer to track by meter number.

Potential Partnership

Inter government agencies for sharing property information

The Benefits

- Increase in revenues for utilities
- Reduced losses due to 'leakages'
- Surpluses to maintain networks

Single pole power transformers , April 7, 2004

The Idea

Replacing large footprint transformers with smaller footprint transformers. Using short term advertisement revenue to make the transition

The Rationale

In most cities the power transformers tend to occupy a large space on footpaths. A sleeker modified single pole transformer could allow pedestrian access to footpaths while improving the urban landscape

An Approach

- Of late power distribution companies have come up with improved single transformer designs in place of the earlier multi pole transformers
- There is scope to improve the designs further - use criteria of atleast 8 feet clearance of transformer base from ground to allow for pedestrian movement
- Any operation of transformer by power company is normally from vehicle with ladder - so ensuring this height clearance feasible
- Power distribution firms claim that it is not possible to recover the cost of the transition to single pole transformers (about Rs. 100,000 per single pole)
- City Corporations could give power firms license to advertise on the single pole for say a 2 year period. Space for ads to be clearly spelt out
- Power firms can tender the space to outdoor ad agencies
- The ad revenue can offset the costs involved in shifting to a single pole transformer set up

Potential Partnership

Outdoor advertising firms. Corporates could come forward for 'adopting' single pole transformers in their areas.

The Benefits

- Pedestrian friendly pavements due to single pole transformers
- Less need for pedestrians to step on to city roads
- Ad revenue for a limited period allows the city to shift to a better set of transformers

District metering for water , April 7, 2004

The Idea

Reducing 'leakages' through a mix of district metering and regular transfer of meter readers

The Rationale

Water Boards claim Unaccounted for Water of 30% and more leading to huge loss of revenue. Part of the losses is due to non metering of all the supplied water. A system to track the supplied and billed water by region could reduce part of the losses

An Approach

- On a pilot basis 1-2 areas of the city could be chosen for the district metering scheme
- A single district meter measures the total water supply to the designated area
- At the end of the month the total billed units in the area needs to be equal to the supply through the district meter - any losses could be on account of physical infrastructure leaks, non metering or poor metering
- The area in charge at the Utility needs to be given the bottom line responsibility of ensuring that 'near' full billing happens
- Sometimes local officials (meter readers) could have arrangements with local residents to avoid paying the full bill - this can be partly checked by transferring meter readers across areas in the city
- The distribution and water billing activity could also be considered for administration by private agencies

Potential Partnership

The Benefits

- Reducing incidence of unaccounted for water
- A systemic measure to plug losses
- Increased revenue