



ENRIQUE ALFARO ANNOUNCES REPLICATION OF VISOR URBANO IN JALISCO

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- *This project will be implemented in at least 12 municipalities in the state of Jalisco through a digital platform that seeks to streamline and develop construction projects and commercial permits more transparently.*
- *This is the first time that Bloomberg Philanthropies awards a second grant to scale the project up.*
- *Visor Urbano is a fundamental piece of the Red Jalisco initiative, which seeks to reduce the digital gap between municipalities and promote technological tools that improve the relationship between citizens and government.*

The Governor of Jalisco, Enrique Alfaro presented the initial stage of Visor Urbano's expansion at the state level. This stage consists of an online platform that streamlines in a transparent way construction projects and issues business licenses for municipalities while promoting competitiveness and good governance by significantly reducing acts of corruption.

This was explained by the Governor, who recalled that the first time this program was implemented was in 2016 when he served as mayor of Guadalajara and at that time, the city was the winner of the Mayors Challenge of Bloomberg Philanthropies, among other four projects, focused on the simplification of online procedures and the eradication of bribes in the business opening process or real estate development.

“What we are launching today is the result of an effort that began a few years ago in 2016, when I had the honor of serving as mayor. We promoted an initiative that was the winner along with four other projects at the Bloomberg Philanthropies' Mayor Challenge, which acknowledges and rewards innovative and bold ideas that address urgent challenges in cities across the planet. We had to cut corruption chains, we had to use technology to simplify public management” explained Alfaro Ramírez.

He also commented that this technological tool would add benefits to municipalities once “RED Jalisco” is operational, which is the main project to provide broadband internet to the entire region.

“Today we are launching Visor Urbano Jalisco, just like in Guadalajara, with the support of Bloomberg Philanthropies, through a grant of 300k dollars to develop this new initiative. We started unfolding this model to replicate it in other places in our State. The process we are initiating now would not be possible had we not made progress in developing the entire RED Jalisco, which will allow us to have high-speed internet in all corners of the State”, said the president.

Mario Roberto Arauz Abarca, Jalisco's General Coordinator for Government Innovation, highlighted the importance of building a digital community and promoting new forms of management in matters of paperwork, opening or expansion of businesses, and urban development.

“At the Government Innovation Coordination, we are working to have an impact in all corners and to all people through the state's digital agenda with the objective of building digital citizenship based on three strategies: the first being connectivity; (the second) digital transformation and the third universal digital inclusion”, the official pointed out.

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For a better selection process of municipalities that will replicate Visor Urbano, the Secretariat of Economic Development (SEDECO) and the Directorate of Regulatory Improvement created a tool that allowed identifying the places that showed the highest potential to adopt this technology. The evaluation criteria are based on municipal regulations, the number of requirements each municipality had for their procedures and so far there are 30 municipalities in the state interested in replication Visor Urbano.

The mayor of Guadalajara, Ismael del Toro Castro, highlighted the benefits that the city has had by implementing Visor Urbano in processes or requests by citizens. He added that this has generated positive effects in terms of transparency, legality and competitiveness.

The Secretary of Economic Development, Ernesto Sánchez Proal, said that with Visor Urbano, opening a business in Jalisco will be faster and that if applicants have all the required documents, they could carry out several procedures in a single day.

For the replication stage, Bloomberg Philanthropies will provide strategic support to the Visor Urbano team to help municipalities build a cost-effective replication model and plan for long term sustainability. Visor Urbano's team will also, in coordination with the Department of Government Innovation of Jalisco, provide technical assistance and training to help municipalities interested in implementing the program.

“Around the world, cities are facing complex challenges and need to embrace innovation to deliver critical services to residents. Visor Urbano’s success in combating corruption is an example of how big, bold ideas really can change the system. Today, we’re excited to see their approach spread across the State of Jalisco and beyond”, reported James Anderson, Head of the Government Innovation Programs at Bloomberg Philanthropies.

In addition, the platform has been a fundamental tool to face COVID-19, since it helps citizens stay at home while running administrative procedures remotely, which allows issuing business licenses non-stop, thus favoring economic activity.

Boilerplate

- Visor Urbano program has great potential to counteract corruption, it has managed to reduce the processing time of permits in the construction and commercial industries of the city, in addition to making digitized cadastral information, and data available to citizens. development plans and the status of city licenses and payments.
- Through this platform, bribery requests from municipal agents were reduced by at least 74 percent and requests for bribes from third parties by 85 percent.
- In addition to this, the time required to receive permits has also been drastically reduced, from an average of three months to a few days.
- In this new stage, Jalisco will provide the digital infrastructure necessary to expand the successful program to at least 12 more municipalities in the State.
- To date, Visor Urbano model has been replicated in other cities nationwide and conversations have begun to take it to cities in countries such as Colombia and it is expected that it will be within two years, when at least 12 more cities will have implemented the program nationally and internationally.