

Accounting for Capital Assets – What Doesn't Work and What Works

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- I. Introduction and General Discussion of Accounting for Capital Assets in Municipalities and Local Governments
- II. Summary of Presentation
 - A. Keep it simple
 - B. Taking a least cost approach
 - C. What does not work
 - D. What works
 - E. Additional considerations and conclusion
- III. Keep it Simple
 - A. Staffing the effort of accounting for capital assets
 - B. Information needed
 - C. GASB Statement Number 34 implementation and reporting options
- IV. Taking a Least Cost Approach
 - A. Focus on financial reporting only
 - B. Need for capital asset policy
- V. What Does Not Work
 - A. 1-10 including dated policy, inadequate existing capital asset report, no departmental involvement, no definitions of capital assets, etc.
- VI. What Works
 - A. 1-10 including analysis and planning, writing a new capital asset policy, communication with departments, review of capital asset balances, etc.
- VII. Additional Considerations and Conclusion
 - A. GASB Statement No. 34 guidance, options, and use of estimates
 - B. Capital Asset Policy components
 - C. Potential need for direction and/or assistance