

METROPOLITAN COUNCIL
390 North Robert Street · Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101

RESOLUTION NO. 2006-16

RECONFIRMING THE METROPOLITAN COUNCIL'S COMMITMENT TO PARTICIPATING IN THE METROGIS INITIATIVE AND STATING ITS EXPECTATIONS REGARDING ONGOING PARTICIPATION IN METROGIS ACTIVITIES

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council's Community Development Division in 2005 requested that the Council's Program Evaluation and Audit Department perform a program evaluation of the Council's involvement in MetroGIS; and

WHEREAS, the *MetroGIS Program Evaluation and Audit Report* (the *Report*) was completed and issued on October 17, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Council staff presented the findings and recommendations of the *Report* to the Council's Audit Committee and to its Community Development Committee which accepted the *Report*; and

WHEREAS, the *Report* presented five scenarios regarding the future of MetroGIS: (1) maintain the current structure with no major changes; (2) cost sharing; (3) the withdrawal of Council funding; (4) the Policy Board as advisory to the Council; and (5) create a fee structure; and

WHEREAS, the *Report* presented four recommendations, which were endorsed by Council management: (1) The Council should assess the positive and negative attributes of the options presented and determine the optimal placements of MetroGIS and its relationship and reportability to the Council; (2) Financial accountability measures for MetroGIS should be established and practiced; (3) The Council should continue to evaluate the role, products and cost-effectiveness of MetroGIS on an ongoing basis; and (4) A clear delineation of roles and responsibilities among the Council, the MetroGIS Policy Board, Liaison, and Coordinating Committee should be developed to support communication and coordination and ensure that all parties have a clear idea of their role in the MetroGIS program; and

WHEREAS, in order to address the *Report* recommendations, the Community Development Committee created a workgroup consisting of Council Members Annette Meeks (Chair), Tony Pistilli (Vice Chair), Kris Sanda, and Julius Smith; and Ramsey County Commissioner Victoria Reinhardt, Chair of the MetroGIS Policy Board; and

WHEREAS, the workgroup met five times during the period, February through May, 2006, and identified numerous issues under the topics of Funding, Governance and Accountability; and

WHEREAS, the workgroup concluded that MetroGIS provides clear benefit to the Council, and that the current funding and governance arrangements are fundamentally sound; but that these arrangements would benefit from a formal action by the Council stating the Council's desire to continue participating in the MetroGIS initiative, and that certain accountability measures should be implemented; and

WHEREAS, MetroGIS is a voluntary organization which lacks legal standing, cannot mandate compliance with any of its agreed upon policies or procedures, lacks authority to receive, manage, or spend funds, and cannot own data or property; and

WHEREAS, MetroGIS has provided a cost-effective way to develop and manage GIS data in accordance with standards which have been accepted by all relevant parties and provides a valuable forum for those parties to plan collaboratively to take advantage of future developments in GIS and related technologies.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The Council designate a Council Member as a representative on the MetroGIS Policy Board, and direct the Regional Administrator to assign senior Council management representation on the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee.
2. The Council continue to provide staff and physical resources to help foster MetroGIS collaboration.
3. Council management shall indicate annually to the MetroGIS Policy Board what services the Council can provide to foster such collaboration, and how the Council and MetroGIS should be mutually accountable to ensure that agreed-upon services meet their needs.
4. The Council will examine, at least annually, proposals for Council involvement as a MetroGIS participant, to fund or otherwise provide resources to support specific projects and priorities above and beyond the Council's responsibility to foster collaboration.
5. Senior Council management will coordinate with the Council's member-representative to the MetroGIS Policy Board, to ensure that the Council's position on relevant MetroGIS issues is consistently and accurately represented.
6. The Council expects that the MetroGIS Operating Guidelines, Strategic Plans, Business Plans and related materials will be kept current and will be provided to the Council and other stakeholders.
7. The Council expects that, as a primary funding sponsor and as the source of staff support and technical overhead, all plans, programs, staff, and overhead resources funded by the Council will be reviewed and approved by the Council at least annually through the Council's budget preparation, review and approval process.
8. Assignment and direction of Council personnel for MetroGIS activities which are defined in large part through participation in MetroGIS collaborative business and work planning processes, shall rest exclusively with Council management as authorized by the Regional Administrator.

Adopted this 28th day of June, 2006.

Peter Bell, Chair

Pat Curtiss, Recording Secretary