



**Agenda**

**Friday, September 20, 2006**

**Metropolitan Council Building  
Room 2B (2<sup>nd</sup> floor next to elevators)**

390 Robert Street North, St. Paul, MN 55101  
(Map Attached)

**10:00 to 12:00**

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
2. **Approve Summary from Last Meeting** (see separate document) ..... all
3. **Review Scope and Purpose of Workgroup** ..... Kotz
4. **Review Previous Work & Decisions** ..... Kotz
5. **Demo of DataFinder Catalog** ..... Slaats
6. **Demo of Beta Café** ..... Slaats
  - a) **Features in scope**
  - b) **Features out of scope**
  - c) **Next steps**
7. **Feedback and Recommendations for Final Functionality** ..... all
8. **RSS discussion (time permitting)** ..... all
9. **Adjourn**

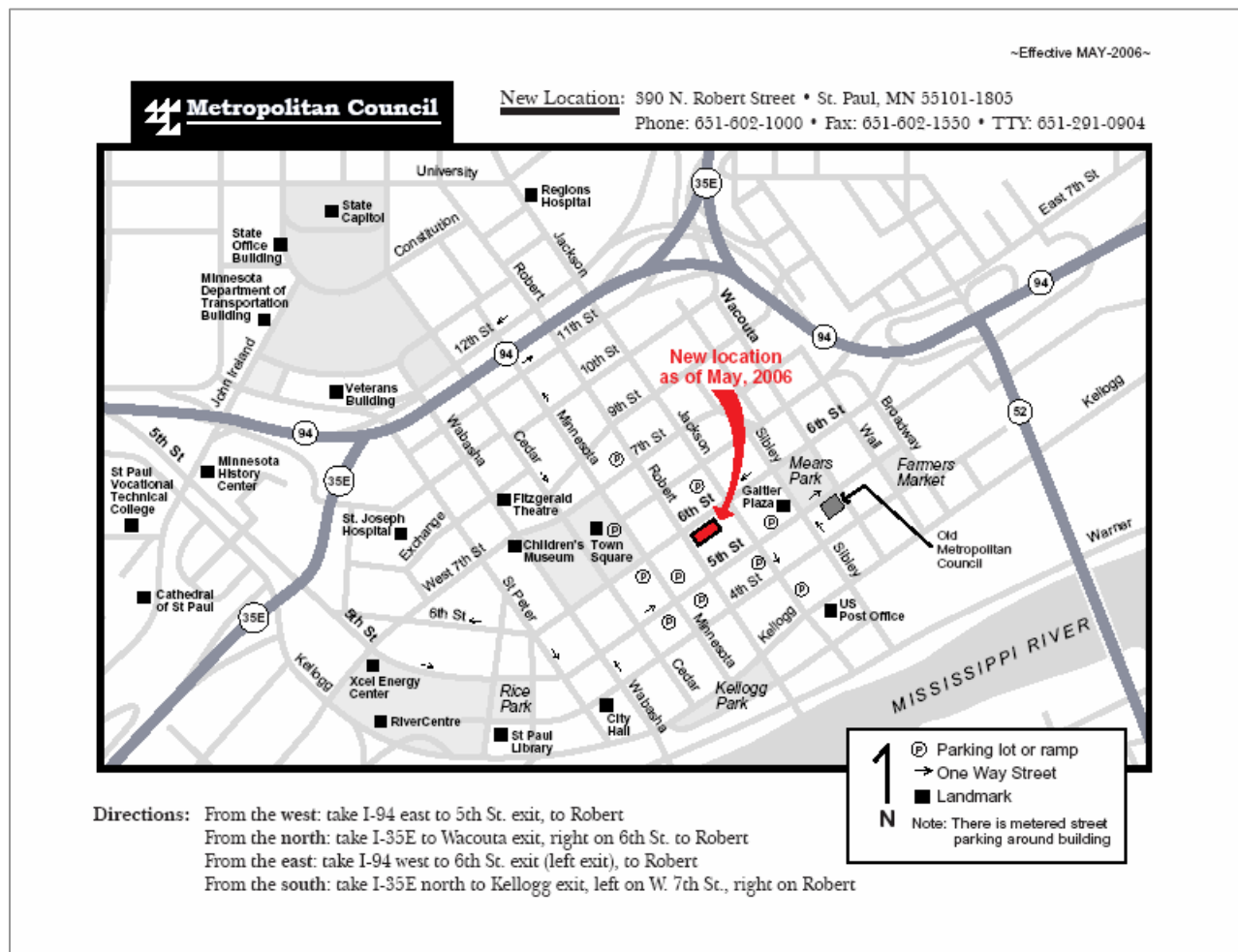
## Directions to Metropolitan Council

Double click the map below for a higher resolution PDF version, or go to <http://www.metrocouncil.org/about/390RobertStMap.pdf>

Additional St. Paul parking facility map here <http://www.saintpaulparking.com/Parkingmaps.cfm>

Note: Expired parking meters are checked and ticketed regularly in downtown St. Paul.

Enter the building from the plaza in the middle of the block near Robert St. Sign in at the front desk and tell the guard you are attending a meeting in room 2B. He will give you a pass. Go up the elevator to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Room 2B is right next to the elevators.



### 3. Review Scope and Purpose of Workgroup

*Purpose:*

**To recommend an implementation strategy for data distribution functionality for MetroGIS, including design needs, costs and an action plan.**

*Scope:* Assume Café will be broken once a new server and upgraded ArcIMS software are in place.. The Workgroup should consider a wide set of options including off-the-shelf software and custom applications development. The workgroup will determine the relative priority of various types of data distribution functionality (e.g. clip by polygon, format conversion, password protection) and weigh the priority of the functionality with the cost and complexity of implementation and administration. Map services (IMS, WMS, WFS, WCS) are to specifically be considered as a means of data distribution. The Coordinating Committee has also asked the Workgroup to consider the pros and cons of including Web-based application functionality within the data distribution environment.

*Timeframe:* The Metropolitan Council anticipates it will be getting a new web server in early 2006. The new implementation could begin at that time. The time frame for a recommendation could also be influenced by procurement requirements. To be eligible to capture funds budgeted for use in 2005 (a minimum of \$15,500), a contract must be in place or the funds used by December 31<sup>st</sup>. However, this should not drive the workgroups decisions.

## 4. Review Previous Work & Decisions

### Data Distribution Functionality Priorities

### Workgroup Recommendations for General Functionality beyond FTP

Based on usage statistics, surveys of users and workgroup expertise

Question	Workgroup Recommendation	Comments
Browse (view) the geographic data	High	
Browse (view) the dataset metadata records	High	
Access data via a map service (specifically WMS)	High	This was not rated highly by the user surveys, but the workgroup recognizes it as the future of the technology.
The ability to distribute my organization's data on Café	High	Even though few organizations are distributing data through DataFinder, and none via map services, we need to continue to encourage others to participate. This item does not specifically assume others will distribute data via a map service that they publish, but just that they will contribute data to be distributed.
Download "non-secure" datasets	High	This includes all free, unlicensed datasets. The key point with this item is that it does <b>NOT</b> require a security piece to the Café.
Browse (view) the attribute data using the identify tool	Medium/High	
Download several datasets in a single bundle	Medium	
Zoom to a predefined geographic area such as a county	Medium	
Select certain fields to download	Medium	
Clip to viewable extent or bounding box	Medium/Low	This is the simplest of the clipping functions.
Clip data to predefined polygon (city, county, etc)	Medium/Low	Complexity of programming and CPU intensive for complex poly on poly overlay ... ArcIMS can fail
Clip data to self-defined polygon (user draws)	Medium/Low	This involves complex programming and seems to be of limited use.
Download "secure" datasets (TLG and/or Parcels)	Medium/Low	This has had minimal usage and adds great complexity and administration to the application.
Download format other than shapefile	Low	High cost for almost no use for secure data, minimal use for other datasets

## Solution Options

Assumptions:

- Solution timeframe is roughly 3 years.
- Metropolitan Council continues to be application custodian.

		<b>Functionality included</b>	<b>Staff Time Needed</b>	<b>Estimated Additional \$ Cost</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>1a</b>	<b>Recreate Café</b>	Full Café functionality	Medium for creation, high for maintenance	\$50,000 to \$100,000	Paying to create the same Café over again make little sense to the workgroup. Lack of use of low priority functionality does not justify the cost. Met. Council does not have Java programmer on staff.
<b>1b</b>	<b>Recreate Café Viewing Client</b>	High priority only	Low for creation, high for maintenance	\$15,000 plus training and consulting \$	Met. Council does not have Java programmer. Requires Java Web Start download to use.
<b>2a</b>	<b>ArcIMS Client</b>	High priority only	Low to high for creation, medium for maintenance	\$0 Met. Council already owns ArcIMS	Environment well known to staff.
<b>2b</b>	<b>ArcIMS .NET Client</b>	High priority only	Medium to high for creation, medium for maintenance	\$0 or low cost.	Requires staff learning curve
<b>2c</b>	<b>WMS Client</b>	High priority only	Medium to high for creation, medium for maintenance	\$0 or low cost (depending on client)	Requires staff learning curve
<b>2d</b>	<b>Geocortex Client</b>	High priority and some medium priority	Low to high for creation, medium for maintenance	\$15,500 plus annual maintenance	Provides additional functionality out of the box.

1. Workgroup recommends pursuing option 2. Specifically, this means that some or all medium and low priority functionality would be excluded.
2. Workgroup further recommends that the application custodian (Met. Council) be allowed to choose between a, b, c and d, depending on internal resources and funding.
3. Workgroup's long-term philosophy is to be compatible with the state GIS enterprise architecture model that has been endorsed by the Governor's Council on Geographic Information.

### From September 2005 Coordinating Committee Meeting:

**Motion:** Arbeit moved and Wencl seconded to:

- a) Accept the functional priorities as recommended by the Workgroup (see Attachment A)
- b) Accept the Workgroup's recommendation that the Metropolitan Council, serving in its capacity as custodian of the DataFinder application, be permitted to choose between design options 2a-2d with the following understandings: a) the final solution achieves as many of the identified functional priorities as possible, b) all available resources (internal and external) are leveraged and c) the required hardware and software are compatible with the Council's internal needs.

## 5. Demo of DataFinder Catalog

The DataFinder catalog has been modified to make it easier to see if the data are available via Café and in map services. Clicking on the “map it” link will open the Café with that layer in it.

The screenshot shows a web browser window titled "MetroGIS DataFinder Catalog - Microsoft Internet Explorer". The address bar shows "http://gwebtest2/catalogfinder.asp". The page content is titled "Administrative and Political Boundaries" and includes a "back to top" link. Below the title is a table with the following columns: "Dataset name (links to metadata record & data download, if available)", "New or Updated" (with a red triangle icon), "MetroGIS Endorsed" (with a yellow circle icon), "Show in Café" (with a blue circle icon and a "map it" link), and "Map Service" (with checkboxes for ArcIMS and WMS). The table lists various datasets such as "Cities and Townships", "Comprehensive Plan Composite", "MUSA - 2010", and "School Districts (Derived from Parcel Boundaries)".

Dataset name (links to metadata record & data download, if available)	New or Updated	MetroGIS Endorsed	Show in Café	Map Service
Cities and Townships	▲ 07/29/2006	●	map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Cities and Townships Lookup Table - 2000				
City and Township Boundaries - 2000		●	map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Comprehensive Plan Composite	▲ 07/19/2006		map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Counties	▲ 07/26/2006	●	map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Counties and MCDs 1990			map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Counties, Cities and Townships Combined	▲ 07/29/2006	●	map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
County Boundaries - 2000		●	map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
County, City and Township Boundaries Combined - 2000		●	map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
County, City and Township Lookup Table	▲ 08/10/2006			
E-911 Emergency Service Number Boundaries			map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
E-911 Public Safety Answering Point Boundaries			map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Legislative Districts - State House and Senate			map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Metropolitan Council Districts	▲ 07/26/2005		map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Metropolitan Council Planning Sector Representatives	▲ 07/26/2006		map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
MUSA - 2010	▲ 07/19/2006		map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
MUSA - 2020	▲ 07/19/2006		map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
MUSA - Undesignated	▲ 07/19/2006		map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
MUSAs - Historical (1995 - 1998)			map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Ramsay County Municipal Boundaries				
School Districts (Derived from Parcel Boundaries)			map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS
Transit Taxing District			map it	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ArcIMS <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WMS

### Question to Workgroup:

We wonder whether a new column should be added to directly access the FTP bundle that is currently only accessible via the download section of the metadata. Many data clearinghouse sites have a link in their catalog tables to the FTP bundle. The negative of doing this, is that the user is not forced to go through the metadata – which was done to \*encourage\* them to read it.

## 6. Demo of Beta Café

Based on the criteria above, Geocortex software was selected by the Metropolitan Council to replace the Café. The sever was purchased early in 2006, Geocortex software in May 2006 and custom work was in progress by Latitude Geographics during the summer or 2006.

### a) Features in scope

The new Café using Geocortex software and extraction extension provide the following out of the box functionality (shown in “Done” column).

Question	Workgroup Recommendation	Done?	Comments
Browse (view) the geographic data	High	✓	
Browse (view) the dataset metadata records	High	✓	
Access data via a map service (specifically WMS)	High	✓	This was not rated highly by the user surveys, but the workgroup recognizes it as the future of the technology.
The ability to distribute my organization’s data on Café	High	✓	Even though few organizations are distributing data through DataFinder, and none via map services, we need to continue to encourage others to participate. This item does not specifically assume others will distribute data via a map service that they publish, but just that they will contribute data to be distributed.
Download “non-secure” datasets	High	✓	This includes all free, unlicensed datasets. The key point with this item is that it does <b>NOT</b> require a security piece to the Café.
Browse (view) the attribute data using the identify tool	Medium/High	✓	
Download several datasets in a single bundle	Medium	✓	
Zoom to a predefined geographic area such as a county	Medium	✓	
Select certain fields to download	Medium		
Clip to viewable extent or bounding box	Medium/Low	✓	This is the simplest of the clipping functions.
Clip data to predefined polygon (city, county, etc)	Medium/Low	✓	Complexity of programming and CPU intensive for complex poly on poly overlay ... ArcIMS can fail
Clip data to self-defined polygon (user draws)	Medium/Low	✓	This involves complex programming and seems to be of limited use.
Download “secure” datasets (TLG and/or Parcels)	Medium/Low		This has had minimal usage and adds great complexity and administration to the application.
Download format other than shapefile	Low		High cost for almost no use for secure data, minimal use for other datasets

## **b) Features out of scope**

Many more out-of-the-box features are also available, but do not seem to directly align with the DataFinder data delivery scope. We would like to show some of these functions and ask the workgroup if these should be included in the Café. Note that our workgroup has been asked by the Coordinating Committee to *consider the pros and cons of including Web-based application functionality within the data distribution environment*. Thus, do we try to make Café a simple data delivery tool, or try to incorporate useful functions into it as a one-stop application that meets broader needs of the GIS community?

Additional out-of-the-box features include:

- Map tips
- User-defined Symbology (simple and by attribute)
- “Simple” extract (note the lack of metadata inclusion)
- Query tool
- Graphical mark up tools
- Uploading shapefiles
- Mailing labels (while this would not be available in current version, when security is sorted out, it could be added)

## **c) Next steps**

- Go live with new server & new Café in next couple of weeks
- ArcIMS & WMS/WFS map services will also be available once new server is live
- Funding assigned in 2007 to look into incorporating secure data into Café. (TLG & parcels)

## 7. Feedback and Recommendations for Final Functionality

### Summary of input requested from Workgroup

Description	Workgroup recommendation
Catalog: Include FTP link column in catalog	Yes/No
Café: Include markup tools	Yes/No
Café: Include Symbology tools	Yes/No
Café: User-defined Symbology (simple and by attribute)	Yes/No
Café: "Simple" extract (note the lack of metadata inclusion)	Yes/No
Café: Query tool	Yes/No
Café: Graphical mark up tools	Yes/No
Café: Uploading shapefiles	Yes/No
Café: Mailing labels	Yes/No

## 8. RSS discussion (time permitting)

Dakota County sent a request to MetroGIS to suggest that MetroGIS set up an RSS on DataFinder.

[from Wikipedia]

RSS is a simple XML-based system that allows users to subscribe to their favorite websites. Using RSS, a webmaster can put their content into a standardized format, which can be viewed and organized through a RSS-aware software.

So the intention would be that people could subscribe to the DataFinder RSS and then MetroGIS could provide updates to subscribers when datasets are updated, or have significant changes. For example, **Columbus Township has become the City of Columbus**. This could be broadcast on the RSS along with information that the new dataset is available for FTP and in map services.