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2008 YORKINFO PARTNERSHIP

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the following:

1. Receipt of the presentation by Nancy Prout, Director, Geomatics; and
2. Adoption of the recommendation contained in the following report dated November 28, 2008, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services.

1. RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. This report be circulated by Geomatics staff to the YorkInfo Partners for information.

2. PURPOSE

This report informs Committee and Regional Council about the activities and achievements of the YorkInfo Partnership for 2008.

3. BACKGROUND

The YorkInfo Partnership works together to create and operate a geospatial information infrastructure among tax-funded, not-for-profit organizations that operate within York Region. Membership includes the nine area municipalities, the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA), the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA), the York Catholic District School Board, and the York Region District School Board.

4. 2008 YORKINFO PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITIES

The YorkInfo Partnership collaboratively develops and delivers an annual work plan that is guided by the *YorkInfo Partnership Charter* (Attachment 1). The work plan results in the development of common standards and policies, the sharing of knowledge and skills, the creation and maintenance of quality geospatial information, the development and acquisition of tools, reduced duplication of efforts and costs, and supports the delivery of efficient programs for all member organizations.

This report outlines the activities and achievements of the Partnership's 2008 work plan, and also describes specific products and services delivered to Partners through Memoranda of Understanding.

4.1 Coordinated through a Governance Framework

The Partnership is coordinated through a framework of member representatives participating on an Executive Board, Coordinating Committee and an Information Management and Technology Team. These committees convened a total of ten meetings and seminars in 2008. In addition, the Partnership's fifth Annual General Meeting was held on June 13 and focused on Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) initiatives. The AGM was well attended by representatives from all Partnership committees and sub-committees.

4.2 Knowledge Transfer and Training

Cost-effective flexible GIS training promotes expanded use of GIS

York Region Geomatics provides Partners with access to its corporate GIS training curriculum. Forty-five participants from the partner agencies, including planning, engineering and GIS professionals, participated in nine introductory to advanced level courses.

The expanded use of geospatial information and technology throughout organizations results in improved business processes and more efficient use of resources. This up-to-date technology training is provided without the high cost associated with vendor-based education. The modularized curriculum allows flexibility of gradual skill development with choice and timing of topic-specific modules.

4.3 Spatial Data Creation and Maintenance

Key geospatial Information supports business activities

Geomatics maintains and distributes regular quarterly updates of over 80 administrative, infrastructure, environmental and societal geospatial databases to the Partners to support their business activities. Key information delivered includes:

- Road Network (RNG)
- Parcel Fabric
- Address Points
- Draft Approved Plans and Pending Plans of Subdivision
- Forestry
- Water and wastewater facilities
- Lakes and Rivers

Critical Infrastructure to support emergency management

In support of emergency management activities, Geomatics coordinates with the Region's Emergency Management Branch, Regional Departments and municipal Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMCs) an annual review and update of infrastructure located within the Region that are critical to the Region's well-being, operations and continuity. The *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* requires maintenance of this vital emergency management tool. Updated critical infrastructure geospatial information is distributed to each area municipality and updated maps are provided to the CEMCs each January.

4.4 Joint Initiatives

AtlasPlus increases access to growth-related information

On October 3, 2008, the Partnership celebrated the official launch of AtlasPlus. Ten agencies contributed data, skills and resources to develop the advanced interactive suite of planning applications that will support planners in participating agencies with in their sustainable growth activities. Advanced training in the use of the applications is underway. Future activities will centre on population and maintenance of the databases. Partners who did not participate in the original GeoConnections funded project are welcome to explore opportunities to become involved in 2009.

2006 census information provides valuable demographic context

Census information provides statistical portraits of the population. Significant work went into transforming the unprocessed 2006 census data into geospatial information comprising over 20 demographic profiles. These transformed data and over 70 maps were distributed to partners creating efficiencies and reducing duplication compared to previous census years when each processed their own.

Orthophotography for 2009 and beyond

Orthophotography and digital elevation models (DEM) have become essential information in support of Regional and local municipal operations, programs and strategies. They provide rich geographic context for infrastructure, community and long range planning activities, emergency response, and communication with the public. Partners participated in identifying product specifications and plan to partake in the review of proposals and cost sharing the acquisition of these important databases in 2009.

3D models effectively communicate current and future scenarios

The Partnership reduces the effort and costs of creating urban structure models through sharing 3D model techniques and approach. These models effectively visualize and communicate current and future scenarios of urban growth in Regional centres and

corridors. Some examples of 3D projects delivered this year are the Vaughan Spadina Subway extension and Yonge Subway extension projects benefiting the City of Vaughan, the Town of Markham and the Town Richmond Hill.

GIS coordination supports FireCAD public safety services

Richmond Hill Fire Department and Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service have entered into a joint venture with York Regional Police to share a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system which will support fire and police emergency response vehicle dispatch services for seven of York Region's nine municipalities. The Region's geospatial information (single line road network, parcels) provides the location and contextual framework for the FireCAD system. The acquisition and integration of additional geospatial information (fire hydrant, storm water pond) from the participating municipalities is coordinated through the Partnership framework.

Zoning and Official Plan maps

Geomatics works with area municipalities to deliver high quality cartographic products in support of zoning by-laws and official plan mapping. In 2008, Geomatics worked with the Town of East Gwillimbury to complete their consolidated official plan review and update through the creation of GIS tools and quality mapping products.

4.5 Memoranda of Understanding

With considerable input from all Partners, renewed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) documents and related licence agreements were developed that ensure that the purpose, goals, roles and responsibilities, protocols, terms and fees are clearly defined and intellectual property rights are protected. MOUs have been finalized with the Towns of Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, Whitchurch-Stouffville, the City of Vaughan, and the York Catholic District School Board and the York Region District School Boards.

5. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

YorkInfo Partnership fees and information and resource sharing agreements contribute toward defraying the expenses related to data creation, information management, distribution, products and services that benefit all Partners. This approach reduces duplication and avoids cost expenditures among the tax-funded organizations of York Region. Reduced duplication and cost sharing benefits the Region, the area municipalities, conservation authorities and the school boards.

6. LOCAL MUNICIPAL IMPACT

All nine local municipalities are members of the YorkInfo Partnership. They and the Region have the responsibility to deliver services that fully employ the best use of technology for the best value to our residents. Through this cooperative approach, the Partnership maximizes benefits realized through the implementation and maintenance of an efficient information infrastructure that is essential to manage the challenges of rapidly growing urban areas alongside agricultural lands and environmentally sensitive sites.

7. CONCLUSION

The YorkInfo Partnership continues to collaborate in the sharing of geospatial information, applications and resources to enhance opportunities, create efficiencies, reduce duplications and maximize return on investment. Significant advancements in these areas were made this year through the enhancement of AtlasPlus, delivery of 2006 census information and a collaborative approach to developing 3D models.

For further information about this report, please contact Debra Kelloway, Manager, Analytics and Applied Mapping, Geomatics Branch at (905) 830-4444, Ext. 1536 or Nancy Prout, Director, Geomatics Branch at Ext. 1529.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

(The attachment referred to in this clause is included with this report.)