

Clause 13 in Report No. 9 of Committee of the Whole was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting held on May 19, 2016

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## 2015 YorkInfo Partnership Annual Report

Committee of the Whole recommends adoption of the following recommendation contained in the report dated May 12, 2016 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services:

1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities, school boards and conservation authorities for information.
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Report dated May 12, 2016 from the Commissioner of Corporate Services now follows:

### 1. Recommendation

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Clerk forward this report to the local municipalities, school boards and conservation authorities for information.

### 2. Purpose

This report informs Committee about the 2015 achievements and 2016 goals of the YorkInfo Partnership which plays a vital support role in Partner organizations' program planning and service delivery.

### 3. Background

The YorkInfo Partnership provides GIS and data collaboration among all partners

The YorkInfo Partnership is composed of nine local municipalities, two school boards, and two conservation authorities. It has been together since 1996 and its key goal is to maximize investments in Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

The partnership has created a culture of collaboration and has built GIS capacity with each partner benefiting from easily accessible, common and trusted data.

The partnership reduces duplication through shared efforts and pooled resources, improves data management and access, increases technical capacity, and enables better insight through analytics.

The Partnership provides trusted sources of data for key program planning and service delivery

Data is collected once by the business responsible for creating and maintaining it and shared with other partners. This approach reduces duplication and generates confidence the data is the best available. Over 130 Regional datasets have been provided to partners, eliminating the need to invest their resources to create and maintain this data.

The Partnership works together to develop and execute a multi-year work plan to guide collaborative efforts and resources

The Partnership's work plan is developed by a cross organizational collaborative group which includes Chief Information Officers (CIOs), directors, managers and staff. It defines projects the Partnership can support or lead over the next three to four years. The work plan is managed collaboratively and is completed by project teams and working groups.

The work plan is revisited and revised each year to review the progress on existing projects, identify and prioritize new projects to meet rising challenges. The work plan is presented to the Local Municipal Chief Administrative Officers' Group on an annual basis.

#### 4. Analysis and Options

The 2015 work plan included eight key projects

In 2015, the Partnership delivered eight projects to support the provision of responsive and efficient public service:

Self-Serve Data Depot site lets Partners customize data downloads according to specific needs

Partners can now download over 130 up-to-date datasets including roads, parcels and addresses from the Self-Serve Data Depot at any time. Enhancements enabled partners to customize parameters of geographic areas and identify datasets of interest making deliveries simpler.

Aerial imagery, private roads, and building outline acquisition enhance understanding of our communities

Aerial imagery provides a rich understanding of the geography of the Region. It documents an area's growth, supports operational decisions and is integrated directly into many applications. Aerial imagery is acquired annually and is used to capture and update environmental and man-made features in the GIS. The 2015 aerial imagery was used to generate private roads, such as those within shopping malls, industrial complexes and condos to support emergency response. It was also used to produce building outlines which provide a sense of place to mapping and 3D visualizations. In 2015, historical 1978 images for the entire region were acquired to supplement the 1970 and 1988 aerial images. Historical aerial imagery lets planners, engineers and building departments know if buildings or trees existed at a specific point in time allowing municipalities to more effectively enforce permitting bylaws.

Local municipalities and the Region developed a four year road map to advance the All Pipes program

All-Pipes is a common GIS database the local municipalities and the Region built, maintain, share and use to provide a common picture and understanding of the water and wastewater infrastructure. In 2015, the core asset data was completed. A mobile application was implemented that allows field workers to access this data on site especially important during events such as water main breaks and to accommodate infrastructure locate requests.

In 2015, a four year road map was initiated and will provide the framework for expanding the data collected, linking engineering drawings, improving data exchange and sets the starting point for accurate asset management collaboration.

Technology workshops and sharing of resources provide a foundation for partners' Open Data initiatives

The goal of Open Data is to make government data transparent, accessible and useful for the public, private sector and application developers. The Partnership held two technical workshops to share knowledge, expertise and resources on the Region's Open Data technology platform's capabilities and its implementation. Partner adoption of common or compatible platforms would make it easier for the public to access data from across organizations.

Common Data Models for parks and trails support emergency response and help support healthy lifestyles

Common parks and trails data models were developed to support multiple needs such as mapping of green space, emergency response, asset management and healthy lifestyles. These datasets are foundational to the development of a York Region trail guide and online mapping that will increase public awareness of trails to encourage physical activity.

Common web mapping platform supports mobile devices and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA)

At the August 18, 2014 meeting Council approved the *Direct Purchase of Enhancements to YorkMaps* report. This report authorized the Region to enter into a direct purchase contract with Latitude Geographics to enable web mapping on mobile devices and to comply with AODA legislation. Six Partners who use the same web mapping platform benefited by having these enhancements integrated into their own web mapping. The Town of East Gwillimbury leveraged the Region's web mapping infrastructure and integrated its own data allowing their staff and the public access to property and community information without having to invest in acquiring the technology.

Enterprise Licence Agreements (ELAs) allowed partners to acquire key common data and technologies at the Region's pricing

Many partner organizations are interested in using the same vendors for data and technology acquisitions. ELAs were established for aerial imagery, Teranet property information, Voyager Search and SafeSoftware FME solutions and allowed partner organizations to benefit from cost sharing or reduced costs.

GIS training strengthens use as a key business tool

York Region's GIS training program is available to all staff from partner organizations at no cost. Seventy external non-GIS participated this year demonstrating GIS has become a key business tool for decision-making and effective communications. The training helps build GIS capacity within organizations at no charge, avoiding approximately \$35,000 in external GIS training costs.

2016 work plan priorities will enhance access to data, and build GIS knowledge and capacity

The Partnership's governance committees meet annually to identify and prioritize the projects to be undertaken with the support of the Partnership over the next

three to four years. In 2016, the Partnership's work plan will build on the work completed in 2015 with a focus on enabling electronic uploads of data from the development community, making data more readily accessible, and sharing knowledge and best practices.

Digital Plan Upload portal will pilot a process for developers to submit development plans online

The Township of King, the City of Vaughan and York Region are piloting a solution to enable developers to upload Computer Aided Design (CAD) plans through a portal. The solution will check the submission and transform the data into a standardized form. The goal of the pilot is to create efficiencies in the development review process, enable better integration into GIS, improve data quality and reduce costs. Once the pilot is completed, the solution will be extended to other interested municipalities.

Collaborative efforts to enable integration of Open Data sites making it easy for the public to find data

Partners with Open Data programs will be exploring opportunities to integrate their Open Data sites with each other. This will assist staff, partners and the public to find data from various agencies through a one window approach.

Enhancements to the Self-Serve Data Depot will enable two way sharing of data among partners

The Self-Serve Data Depot currently allows one way download of data from the Region to partners. Enhancements will enable data access across partner sites. This will also allow consultants working on behalf of a partner to download the data layers for the specific project from all sites, minimizing staff time and effort, and ensure access to the most current data available.

Development tracking data initiatives help support integrated development information across the Region

Local municipalities, school boards and the Region will work together to improve the sharing of development-related information (status, units, construction timing, building permits, and occupancies) through a standardized delivery of site plans and building permits to the Region.

Link to key Council-approved plans

The YorkInfo Partnership supports the 2015 to 2019 Strategic Plan in the Strategic Priority Area of "Provide Responsive and Efficient Public Service". Data is a key strategic resource. The Partnership enables access to a common source

of trusted data to Local Municipal, Conservation Authority, School Board and Regional staff and staff in other organizations in support of efficient program planning and service delivery.

## 5. Financial Implications

Partner organizations share the cost of acquiring costly data sets. Two examples are the annual acquisition of aerial imagery and the agreement negotiated with Teranet Enterprise Inc. Enterprise Licence Agreements let partners take advantage of reduced pricing on common technology platforms. In addition, the GIS training program builds GIS capacity within organizations at no charge.

## 6. Local Municipal Impact

All nine local municipalities are members of the YorkInfo Partnership. They and the Region look to deliver services that fully employ the best use of data and technology to provide value to our residents.

## 7. Conclusion

The YorkInfo Partnership works together to achieve results that could not be accomplished individually resulting in significant cost savings.

In 2015, the YorkInfo Partnership collaboratively acquired and made accessible trusted data, developed technology solutions, and strengthened GIS and data capacity to support the provision of responsive and efficient public service.

In 2016, the Partnership's work plan will build on the work completed in 2015 with a focus on enabling electronic uploads of data from the development community, making data more readily accessible, and sharing knowledge and best practices.

For more information on this report, please contact John Houweling, Director, Geographic Information Services at ext. 71529.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

May 12, 2016

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Accessible formats or communication supports are available upon request