

Sample 'Free and Open Data' Resolution Statement

The following is a sample resolution statement resource prepared by the MetroGIS collaborative for the use of governments (city councils, county boards, etc.) wishing to adopt a resolution promoting Free and Open Geospatial Data;



WHEREAS, the City of/County of _____ creates, maintains and possesses valuable geographic information systems (GIS) data to support its various business purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City of/County of _____ recognizes that this GIS data is also a public resource and there are significant benefits to making this data freely and openly available; and

WHEREAS, the emergence and continued refinement of new information technology has dramatically changed the way citizens search for and expect to find, consume and utilize information, and such technology can aggregate ever larger quantities of data and allow government to provide information to the public with increasing efficiency; and

WHEREAS, the City of/County of _____ can leverage this technology to meet the public demand for information, enhance public access to government data and make government processes transparent in order to promote public trust; and

WHEREAS, ensuring the quality, consistency and availability of such data is a core function of government and is essential to maintaining the data's value and utility;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the _____ County Board of Commissioners/City Council hereby authorizes [agency/department] _____ to publish its public geospatial data on its website in a commonly recognized and easily produced form, available for download by anyone at no cost, subject to accepting the terms of the data disclaimer GIS data usage agreement; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the _____ County Board of Commissioners/City Council hereby reserves the right for county/city business units to charge fees for GIS data provided in other forms and to accommodate special requests for maps, data, and analysis under the applicable rules and statutes that govern said requests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the _____ County Board of Commissioners/City Council hereby authorizes qualified members of its staff to coordinate with other counties, cities, governments and agencies through the MetroGIS collaborative or through state agencies to share and publish its GIS data in common formats through common websites and public data portals to increase public awareness of its availability and promote its use.