

# Hennepin County Board Action Request

## 14-0036



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### **Item Description:**

Direct development of a process to manage and distribute public geographic information systems (GIS) data

### **Resolution:**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners supports making Hennepin County produced public geographic information systems (GIS) data more freely and openly available without charge or licensure to the public in a commonly recognized and easily produced format; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners hereby directs the County Administrator to establish a distribution process for existing public GIS data sets deemed suitable for free and open public sharing through the county website, including appropriate data practices classification and legal disclaimers necessary to avoid risk associated with releasing these data sets; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board reserves the right for county business units to charge fees for GIS data provided in other formats and to accommodate special requests for maps, data, and analysis under the applicable rules and statutes that govern said requests.

## Hennepin County Board Action Request (continued)



Requesting Department	County Administration
Recommendation from County Administrator	Recommend Approval
Committee Assignment	Libraries, Technology & General Govt Committee

### Background

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Hennepin County has developed and maintains public geographic information systems (GIS) data to support various county business purposes and functions. This data is shared with other entities, both governmental and non-governmental, under a conditional license agreement. The conditional license agreement provides a vehicle under which to collect payment for data from others as well as a limitation of liability for the county.

Current trends, both locally and nationally, promote free and open sharing of public GIS data that is produced by government agencies. Public GIS data creates significant benefits to citizens if it is freely and openly available. The emergence and continued refinement of new information technology has dramatically changed the way citizens search for, consume and utilize information and this same technology allows government to provide information to the public more efficiently.

#### Current Request

This board action request seeks support in making Hennepin County-produced public GIS data free and open to the public without charge or licensure in a commonly recognized and easily produced format. The county would retain the ability to charge and collect fees for GIS data provided in other formats and when certain special requests are received. Minnesota Statutes provides significant legal protection for the county when data is provided in a manner that complies with the statutory immunity provisions. It is also requested the county administrator be directed to establish a data distribution process for existing public GIS data using our website and that appropriate data classification practices and legal disclaimers be developed to support the county.

By promoting the sharing of public GIS data, Hennepin County can ensure the quality, consistency, and availability of this data as a core function of government and make it essential to maintain the data's value and utility. The county can also leverage this technology to further meet the public demand for information, enhance public access to public GIS data and increase transparency.

### Approvals

Department Head		Date	
Deputy/Assistant Administrator		Date	
County Administrator	Rachelle, Tait	Date	1/27/2014