

[DRAFT NOTE TO METROGIS POLICY BOARD COMMISSIONERS]

Greetings Commissioners,

I am reaching out to you as you were listed as the members of last MetroGIS Policy Board in April 2019.

As you may or may not remember, I stepped down from the role of MetroGIS Coordinator to take apposition with Ramsey County in November 2019, and the Metropolitan Council has not refilled the coordinator role until recently. I am still involved in the collaborative as Ramsey County's representative to the Coordinating Committee.

While the MetroGIS Policy Board has not convened since April 2019, the Coordinating Committee (*comprised of GIS staff from metro counties, cities, regional partners, etc.*) has continued to meet virtually through 2020, 2021, and 2022 to continue its cooperative work chiefly to support and maintain the regional datasets.

As the MetroGIS collaborative has not engaged or convened the Policy Board in several years, Coordinating Committee level participants have discussed our on-going need to retain a policy level body. In the early years of the MetroGIS collaborative (1996-2006)—when GIS technology was relatively new and still becoming part of government work—significant amounts of money and policy decisions were needed to implement it; this necessitated the direct involvement of elected officials and senior leadership such as yourselves.

A testament to our collective success is that GIS technology has woven itself into the fabric of government at all levels over the past two decades and we are working together effectively across our various boundaries in sharing data, producing standardized interjurisdictional datasets and so on to serve our citizens.

MetroGIS has become a very staff-driven and operations-level collaborative focused on maintenance of regional datasets and identifying and addressing shared needs we face, and while we appreciate the ability to connect and report to leadership on our work, we do not wish to create an additional responsibility or set of meetings for you where it may not be needed or warranted.

Some directions we might explore taking include:

- Sunset the Policy Board with a formal action with a clause that it can be revived as needed at the request of the Coordinating Committee.
- Making use of an existing board such as the Metro Emergency Service Board (*for which we prepare, deliver, and maintain significant amounts of data*) which convenes more frequently for periodic reporting on the work, progress, and achievements of the MetroGIS collaborative.
- Continue to maintain a MetroGIS Policy Board, convening once-per-year for an update on our collective work and project progress.

We (MetroGIS Coordinating Committee) would welcome your feedback on how to move forward on the matter. If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to get in touch with either myself or Tanya Mayer, the new MetroGIS Coordinator in the Information Services department at the Metropolitan Council.

Respectfully,

Tanya Mayer
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Metropolitan Council

Geoff Maas
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Ramsey County