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2007 YORKINFO PARTNERSHIP

The Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends the following:

- 1. The presentation by Nancy Prout, Director, Geomatics Branch and Debra Kelloway, Manager, Analytics and Applied Mapping, be received; and**
- 2. The recommendation contained in the following report dated November 28, 2007, from the Commissioner of Planning and Development Services, be adopted:**

- 1. RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that 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 2007.

- 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 all nine area municipalities; the Lake Simcoe Conservation Authority (LSRCA) and the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA); and, the York Catholic District School Board and York Region District School Board.

- 4. 2007 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, creation and maintenance of quality geospatial information, development and acquisition of tools, reduced duplication of efforts and costs, and the delivery of efficient programs.

This report outlines the activities and achievements of the Partnership's 2007 work plan, and also describes specific products and services delivered to Partners through a 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 2007. In addition, the Partnership's fourth Annual General Meeting was held on June 1 and was well attended by representatives from all Partnership committees and sub-committees.

4.2 Knowledge Transfer and Training

Cost-effective Flexible GIS Training Curriculum Promotes Expanded Use of GIS

York Region Geomatics provides Partners with access to its corporate GIS training curriculum. 59 participants from the partner agencies, including planning, engineering and GIS professionals, participated in 8 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.

Web Portal Seminar Shares Knowledge and Explores Opportunities

York Region Geomatics coordinated a web portal seminar "Portal 101" on behalf of the Partnership. Excellent presentations from the Town of Richmond Hill, City of Vaughan, Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the City of Mississauga and York Region Geomatics explained portal technology and how it differs from website technology. The seminar also explored the relationship of geographic information to portal technology.

4.3 Spatial Data Creation and Maintenance

Key Geospatial Information Supports Business Activities

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

- Road Network (RNG)
- Parcel Fabric
- Draft Approved Plans and Pending Plans of Subdivision
- Forestry
- Water and Wastewater Facilities

- Emergency Services Locations and Boundaries
- School Locations
- Lakes and Rivers

2007 Orthophotography Provides Valuable Geographic Context

Orthophotography provides valuable geographic context to support Regional and area municipal operations, programs and strategies. In 2005, several partners participated in a multi-year initiative to share the costs of acquiring 2005 and 2007 orthophotography through a leasing model. An orthophotography task force comprising representatives from the Town of Markham, Town of Richmond Hill and the Region performed quality assurance on behalf of the Partnership. Partners received delivery of the 2007 orthophotography and associated products in the last quarter of the year.

Address Points for Location Precision

The address point geodatabase provides the most accurate method of locating addresses related to specific property parcels. Address points can be used to identify the precise location of destinations for spatial analysis, computer aided dispatch, display purposes and many other applications.

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 at risk of being affected by emergencies. 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 Project to Increase Access to Growth Related Information

Geomatics leads a federal GeoConnections funded project in collaboration with seven area municipalities and both conservation authorities to increase the Partnership's capacity to share geospatial information over the internet through Web Map Services (WMS). The project will provide planners in the participating agencies with growth management, intensification and sustainable development views and applications based on geospatial and textual information combined from regional, local municipal and conservation authority sources. The project will also establish an infrastructure for sharing current geospatial data for other purposes in the future.

3D Models for Effective Communication

The Partnership reduces the effort of creating urban structure models through sharing 3D model techniques and approach with the Towns of Newmarket, Markham, Richmond Hill

and the City of Vaughan. These models will visualize and effectively communicate current and future scenarios of urban growth in Regional centres and corridors.

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 2007, the Township of King requested Geomatics support in consolidating its zoning information and mapping from the Oak Ridges Moraine Conservation Plan conformity exercise. Geomatics is also supporting the Town of East Gwillimbury's current 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 have undergone extensive review and revisions by legal counsels to ensure that the purpose, goals, roles and responsibilities, protocols, terms and fees are clearly defined and intellectual property rights were protected. MOUs have been distributed to Partner organizations for last review prior to finalization.

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 successful award of GeoConnections funding for the AtlasPlus project, the delivery of the address point database, 2007 orthophotography 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 extension 1536 or Debra.Kelloway@york.ca.

The Senior Management Group has reviewed this report.

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