



ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

<p style="text-align: center;">County Board Agenda Item Meeting of July 8, 2006</p>
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DATE: June 14, 2006

SUBJECT: Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for Sharing Arlington County's Initial Minimum Geospatial Data Set with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG).

C. M. RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Sharing of the Initial Minimum Geospatial Data Set with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) and authorize the County Manager to execute the memorandum on behalf of the County Board.

ISSUES: None

SUMMARY: The County seeks approval to participate in a Memorandum of Agreement with MWCOG in order to share regional data files identified in the Initial Minimum Essential Geospatial Data Set. Geospatial data identifies the geographic location and characteristics of natural and constructed features as well as boundaries on the earth. This digital information can be used in a Geographic Information System (GIS) to prepare maps and conduct analysis.

BACKGROUND: In concurrence with committee members, MWCOG developed an agreement between all member parties regarding the development and distribution of the Initial Minimum Essential Geospatial Data Set for the Metropolitan Washington Region. The data identified includes street centerlines, fire and police stations, hospitals, schools, jurisdiction boundaries, rail lines and stations, Metro rail lines and stations, airports, helipads, hydrography, landmarks/points of interest, and other data sets as mutually agreed upon. It will be collected, maintained, and transmitted to enhance jurisdictional and regional capacity in the areas of public safety and homeland security. Agencies who sign the Memorandum of Agreement will provide the specified data layers for their jurisdiction to MWCOG for inclusion in the Minimum Essential Geospatial Data Set. Arlington County's GIS Mapping Center estimates that it will require three to five hours of staff time quarterly to meet this maintenance requirement.

DISCUSSION: The possibility exists that the regional database produced from a compilation of data sets provided by local jurisdictions could be obtained under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). All participating jurisdictions are aware of this possibility, but feel that the benefits of

<p>County Manager: _____</p>

<p>County Attorney: _____</p>

<p>Staff: Mary Beth Fletcher, DES, Mapping Center Bureau</p>
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acquiring regional data which can be used by public safety agencies for disaster preparedness and response to emergencies outweigh the risks. However, even if Arlington County data is obtained under FOIA, it is copyrighted and would still retain protection against unauthorized publication for resale.

The Memorandum of Agreement should be signed as soon as possible to allow MWCOG to begin assembling the dataset. The departments of Fire and Police as well as the Office of Emergency Management recommend prompt approval of this agreement so that Arlington County's emergency responders will have access to this regional data. At this time the jurisdictions of Prince William County, the City of Alexandria, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, and Frederick County have signed the agreement. Fairfax County and the District of Columbia are in the approval process.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no cost associated with the execution of this agreement.