

THE STATE OF TEXAS §

COUNTY OF FORT BEND §

RESOLUTION

On this the 16th day of November, 1999, the Commissioners Court of Fort Bend County convened at a regular meeting of the Court, a quorum being present, upon motion of Commissioner PATTERSON, and seconded by Commissioner Meyers, duly put and carried, the following was adopted

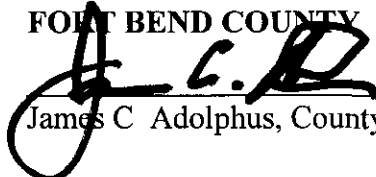
WHEREAS, Fort Bend County supports the efforts and activities of the Fort Bend County Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Consortium to coordinate the GIS efforts within our jurisdiction, and,

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County has been informed and has reviewed the issues including cooperative data sharing, countywide standardization guidelines, designating a representative and allocation of entity resources, and,


WHEREAS, Fort Bend County recognizes the need for a countywide mapping initiative benefiting all entities. This mapping initiative would eliminate duplication of effort, provide unrestricted access to countywide maps and the data associated with them, and provide a common set of map/data standards that will enhance the interchange of information between all entities and the public,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court support the efforts of the Fort Bend County GIS Consortium, will designate a representative, allocate resources and accepts responsibility of sharing map/data information in an effort to coordinate, modernize, and make countywide GIS mapping more efficient

FORT BEND COUNTY


James C Adolphus, County Judge

ATTEST


Dianne Wilson, County Clerk

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Fort Bend County GIS Consortium: Background Information for Resolution

Question What is the Fort Bend County GIS Consortium?

Answer It is an informal group or association made up of governmental or quasi-governmental (non-profit) entities (cities, school districts, Appraisal District, County, etc) within the limits of Fort Bend County that are interested in pursuing or are presently engaging in GIS (Geographic Information Systems) mapping. Currently the Consortium (group or association) is made up of representatives from the City of Missouri City (Public Works Dept), City of Sugar Land (Planning Dept), City of Rosenberg (Public Works Dept), Fort Bend Central Appraisal District (Mapping Dept), Lamar Consolidated Independent School District (Transportation Dept), Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council

Question What is GIS (Geographic Information Systems)?

Answer In Short, GIS is electronic or digital (computerized) mapping. A GIS (Geographic Information System) is the computer hardware, software, and data as well as the properly trained people that maintain and use the digital map data for a multitude of tasks. A GIS can be used to do much more than traditional mapping but in its most basic form it is used to do digital or electronic (computerized) mapping.

Question What is the role or objectives of the Fort Bend County GIS Consortium?

Answer To facilitate the cooperation between member entities with data (electronic map) sharing, data standardization, reduction in duplication of efforts by project coordination, data (electronic map) development and computer hardware/software specifications.

Question What are the benefits to each entity to be involved with the Consortium?

Answer Benefits to entities that participate within the Consortium are data is shared between Consortium members freely, reduced duplication of efforts between each entity, project coordination for areas within different jurisdictions, as well as many other benefits yet to be recognized.

Question When does the Consortium meet?

Answer Meets at least quarterly each year, four times a year. Currently it is meeting once a month to lay the foundation (groundwork) for the Consortium. It is in the process of studying means of better sharing existing datasets and data standardization so that each entity is using a common scheme used by other local entities. These activities require more contact between Consortium members to iron out the details and that is the reason why they have been meeting on a monthly basis.

Question Where does the Consortium meet?

Answer The Consortium meets at the offices of the Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council in Sugar Land at the Fluor Daniel building. They have the most sophisticated AudioVisual and Presentation facilities among the current Consortium members. This meeting place is not necessarily permanent but it is our currently designated meeting place.

Question Are there any dues or fees for being a Consortium member or participant?

Answer No, there are no dues or fees to be a Consortium member or to participate with the Consortium. The Consortium relies completely upon voluntarily efforts. No direct financial support of the Consortium is required by the member entities. The most indirect support for the Consortium by each member entity is through designating a specific individual to represent the member entity in the Consortium. Also indirect support of the Consortium may be through the selected representative's time (manpower or man-hours). Other indirect support of the Consortium may be through providing a meeting place, making copies of data/information either through electronic means or hardcopy, notifying other members of meeting dates and times, preparing information for meetings, collecting information for meetings, and other similar activities requiring the member representative's time and efforts. All activities performed for or by the Consortium members are on a voluntary basis. Basically the only cost to each participating entity is the cost of designating an individual to represent the entity on the Consortium and that individual's time and efforts that are necessary to participate within the Consortium.

Fort Bend County GIS Consortium Summary

The Fort Bend County Geographical Information System (GIS) Consortium is a countywide organization created to coordinate, modernize and make countywide GIS mapping more efficient. The Consortium will include representatives from individual cities, county, school districts and the economic development council. Representation is limited to governmental, quasi-governmental and taxing entities. This is not a private sector initiative and profit driven companies shall not participate. Only those public entities with the pure motivation of using GIS mapping to enhance and streamline their operations are encouraged to participate.

The Consortium has been created to provide a collaborative forum to address such issues as cooperative data sharing, countywide standardization guidelines, digital ortho photography as one base map with shared databases, automate GIS mapping process within the county and other issues as the need arises. This group can set standards that can be adopted countywide that provide a more organized interchange of information for both public and private sectors.

The advantages to the formation of this Consortium are far reaching. This organization would eliminate the gross duplication of effort which would save the county taxpayers money. By providing a common set of map/data standards, the interchange of information between all entities and the public would reach an operational effectiveness. Unrestricted access to countywide maps and the data associated with them would allow a more efficient economic development process. Finally, this organization will allow Fort Bend County to modernize their GIS mapping databases through innovative technologies and an integrated effort thus meeting the map/data information needs of all entities.