



Corporate Report

2004

NO: C010

COUNCIL DATE: November 15,

COUNCIL-IN-COMMITTEE

TO: Mayor & Council DATE: November 12,
2004

FROM: General Manager,
Engineering FILE: 5210-01

SUBJECT: New Web Mapping System and Naming
Contest

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. This report be received as information regarding the new web mapping system.
2. That Council select a name for the new Web Mapping System from the 5 short listed names below:
 - COSMOS (City of Surrey Mapping Online System)
 - iCOSMOS (Interactive City of Surrey Mapping Online System)
 - Surrey CityMap
 - SurreyView
 - Surrey Explorer

City staff and business clients are already familiar with the name COSMOS.

BACKGROUND

A Geographic Information System (GIS) is designed to store, retrieve, manipulate, and display data geographically. One of the main benefits of GIS is improved management of City assets and resources. The old adage "better information leads to better decisions" is true for GIS. A GIS is not an automated decision making system but a tool to query, analyze, and map data in support of the decision making process. GIS provides a multitude of benefits in time and cost savings such as:

- in an emergency, GIS can quickly identify which valves need to be closed to prevent further spread of contaminants into the water system,
- Planning and Engineering can utilize the power of GIS to produce growth models that forecast future requirements for infrastructure,
- By-law can view air photos from year to year for different properties to assess compliance with City by-laws.

DISCUSSION

Our current internal mapping software COSMOS (City of Surrey Mapping Online System) will be replaced with a new internet based web mapping system for internal and external users. This new system will firmly place Surrey in the forefront of GIS by providing greater access in one convenient place of our extensive spatial information including Land Development, Utilities, Parks and Land Use information which currently comes from each department. Already we are planning to further enhance the web mapping system in 2005 with self-serve downloads of data, strengthening our commitment to being 'Open for Business'. For example, this will provide up-to-date information to businesses considering relocating in Surrey.

Some of the benefits of the new web mapping system include:

- greater flexibility and scalability to respond to changing business needs,
- one access point for real time spatial information for both the public and staff
- greater self-serve data and information for external clients,
- cost savings as a result of reduced computer software and hardware needs.

The '*Web Mapping Name Contest*' produced over 60 suggestions, from which 5 best represent our vision for web mapping. Selecting a familiar name such as iCOSMOS may ease the transition for internal users from the soon to be retired COSMOS application by reinforcing that it is a replacement, not a new separate application. COSMOS is currently recognized internally and by external clients, such as developers and engineering clients that come to the Engineering Front Counter; keeping the same name would provide continuity.

CONCLUSION

Our new web mapping system will be the cornerstone of the City's GIS delivery by providing a 'one-stop-shop' for e-business, spatial information, and maps that is quick, convenient and cost effective.

Paul Ham, P.Eng.
General Manager, Engineering

VL/PH/SS/brb

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