

Resolve 8-06/07

Passage: 10/4/06 6-0 (Leeman, Duson, and Geraghty absent)

JAMES I. COHEN (MAYOR)(5)  
WILLIAM R. GORHAM (1)  
KAREN A. GERAGHTY (2)  
DONNA J. CARR (3)  
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

**CITY OF PORTLAND**  
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JAMES F. CLOUTIER (A/L)  
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)  
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)  
EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (A/L)

**Resolution Endorsing Metro Regional Coalition**

**WHEREAS**, Maine citizens and taxpayers expect quality municipal services from their towns and cities; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost of providing basic municipal services continues to increase as the overall cost of living increases; and

**WHEREAS**, the local property taxes are the predominant funding source for these basic municipal services; and

**WHEREAS**, Maine citizens and taxpayers expect their elected representatives and officials to diligently explore the potential benefits, cost savings and efficiencies to be gained through collaborative relationships within and among municipalities and other units of government; and

**WHEREAS**, the communities of the Greater Portland region have a long history of collaborating in the provision of municipal services, including collaboration on solid waste management and recycling, transportation planning and funding, public bus service, municipal water service, cooperative purchasing alliances, as well as other examples shown on Attachment A; and

**WHEREAS**, representatives from the elected leadership and staff of the Cities of Portland, South Portland, and Westbrook together with the Towns of Cape Elizabeth, Falmouth, and Scarborough have been meeting regularly on an informal basis since March 2006 for the purpose of expanding opportunities to collaborate in the provision of municipal services, including the identification of areas of common interest and the evaluation of new collaborative initiatives; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, as follows:

1. That the above-referenced municipalities, working with staff of the Greater Portland Council of Governments and with the participation of the County of Cumberland, will meet on a regular basis as the Metro Regional Coalition for the purpose of finding, exploring, and implementing opportunities for regional cooperation in the provision of municipal services and infrastructure; and

2. That each participating municipality will designate as representatives to the Coalition one elected official and one representative of their city or town managers; and
3. That the representatives designated to the Coalition will select a rotating chair for a one year period who is responsible for calling and running meetings of the Coalition; and
4. That the representatives to the Coalition, from time to time, may designate subcommittees of the Coalition for the purpose of addressing specific issues of regional cooperation.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Metro Regional Coalition shall adopt the following *guiding principles*:

1. Each participating municipality shall individually determine the extent to which it chooses to participate in the deliberations and initiatives of the Coalition; and
2. Participation in any projects, studies or initiatives developed through the Coalition will be voluntary by the municipal and County participants and other non-member municipalities and government organizations; and
3. Regional or collaborative efforts among any members of the Coalition should be pursued only if they either lower costs and/or improve services for the participating members; and
4. Successful regional or collaborative initiatives among members of the Coalition must offer a mutual benefit to all the participants; and
5. Members of the Coalition recognize that there is value in maintaining local community or neighborhood connections or identities; and
6. Members of the Coalition recognize that, by participating through a collaborative or regional process, each member can benefit through the sharing of information to achieve “best practices” developed in one or more of the communities; and
7. Membership in the Metro Regional Coalition is not limited to existing participating members but may be broadened to include other communities upon mutual agreement of member and prospective member municipalities or government organizations.

## ATTACHMENT A

### Examples of Collaboration Among Greater Portland Municipalities

- Regional Disaster Aid Agreement for Cumberland County
- Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreements
- Maine Regional Financial Services Group-procurement of common accounting software
- PACTS Regional Transportation Plan
- GPCOG Cooperative Purchasing Program
- Cumberland County Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Initiative
- Reorganization of Regional Waste Systems as Eco Maine and increased community recycling participation
- Formation of sub-regional corridor coalitions to facilitate municipal collaboration and planning
- South Portland–Westbrook sharing of Assessor staff
- Public Works Directors equipment sharing program
- Falmouth-Portland coordination agreement of “Silver Bullet” recycling containers
- Regional Aerial Mapping and Data Imagery
- Casco Bay Inter-local Stormwater Working Group involving 14 municipalities to facilitate the cost effective planning and management of unfunded, federal stormwater management requirements.
- Scarborough-Saco sharing of staff recycling coordinator
- Regional household hazardous waste collection programs