RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF A COMPREHENSIVE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM FOR NORTH CAROLINA

WHEREAS, the Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization (RPO) believes the local governments in the State of North Carolina would benefit from a Statewide Geographic Information System (GIS) that provides reliable, complete, and up-to-date data for transportation, land use, economic development, and natural resource conservation planning; and,

WHEREAS, the data currently associated with North Carolina's GIS is out-of-date or is not accessible on a statewide level; and,

WHEREAS, The North Carolina Interagency Leadership Team has proposed a major effort to create or update 171 GIS data layers at an initial cost of $38.2 million and then to maintain the layers on a specified basis at an annual cost of $4.7 million; and,

WHEREAS, the benefits to North Carolina to be realized from implementing this project would include:

1. decreased cost for planning at the local, state, and federal levels;
2. improved decision-making through the availability of current and reliable data;
3. productivity gains through the use of GIS in collaborative and early planning efforts; and,

WHEREAS, the return on investment for the State of North Carolina is estimated to exceed the capital investment; and,

WHEREAS, the up-to-date data layers can facilitate more informed planning decisions, leading to a wiser use of available funds;

NOW THEREFORE, the Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization supports funding for the development of a shared, comprehensive, accessible GIS database for the State of North Carolina.

ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization on February 8, 2007.

Robert B. Spivey

Robert Spivey, Chairman
Peanut Belt Rural Planning Organization

Ann Whitley

Ann Whitley, Secretary