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MetroLab Network Announces Executive Director

Washington, DC — October 19, 2016 — Ben Levine has been named Executive Director of MetroLab Network, a national organization that leverages research partnerships between cities and universities to spur urban innovation. The Network currently includes more than 35 partnerships between cities and counties and their local research institutions. Levine has served as Interim Director of MetroLab since its launch last year.

"Ben has done a great job getting MetroLab Network off the ground and we think he's a great choice to carry it forward," said Bill Fulton, Director of the Kinder Institute for Urban Research at Rice University, who was recently selected as Chair of MetroLab Network's Steering Committee.

In his new role, Levine will work closely with the Steering Committee – which includes representatives of major cities and universities across the country – as well as former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley, who serves as Senior Fellow at MetroLab Network and chair of the Network's Advisory Council.

 "It is an honor to continue working with MetroLab Network and each of its city and university members," said Levine. "Cities face tremendous opportunities to leverage technology and analytics to better serve their residents. I am excited about the role that MetroLab Network has played in organizing city-university partnerships focused on these types of solutions and I look forward to continued progress on this path."

Fulton said he was honored to be selected by the Steering Committee to serve as its Chair and looks forward to working with Levine, Governor O'Malley, and his colleagues around the

country on city innovation issues. "I know from personal experience how important research and innovation are to making cities work," said Fulton, who served as both Mayor of Ventura, California, and Director of Planning and Economic Development for the City of San Diego. "MetroLab Network is a great platform to help mayors and cities across the nation move forward with innovation and data-driven decisions."

 "In addition to an understanding of the priorities of cities and universities, Ben brings a passion for pulling the two together to address the complex challenges and opportunities facing urban areas." said Governor O'Malley. "And Bill Fulton brings a truly unique perspective as a former Mayor who is now leading an effort to build knowledge to inform public policy decisions. I am excited about their leadership and look forward to my continued work with them."

Prior to serving as Interim Director of MetroLab Network, Levine served as a Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, where he was responsible for policy development pertaining to state and local government finance, with a particular focus on infrastructure policy. He worked closely with the White House's Office of Science and Technology Policy on the organization and launch of MetroLab Network. Prior to his role at Treasury, Levine worked at Morgan Stanley, where he provided investment banking services to state and local government clients. He is a graduate of the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Since MetroLab Network was announced as part of the White House Smart Cities Initiative in September 2015, it has strengthened existing relationships between cities and universities and has led to new city-university partnerships. It has catalogued more than 120 research, development, and deployment projects happening across its Network. It has also organized *Labs* – venues for in-person workshops and site visits and virtual discussions and exchanges that will foster collaboration and explore opportunities for scalable approaches. The initial *Labs* focus on water and green infrastructure; big data and human services; urban sensing; and transportation.

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For more information on MetroLab Network:
 www.metrolabnetwork.org

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