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**For Release 10 a.m. ET
September 26, 2016**

Los Angeles, Miami, San Francisco join MetroLab Network

The three communities will join the Network, committed to solving urban challenges with new technology and policy approaches

Washington, DC — September 26, 2016 — MetroLab Network is pleased to announce that the City of Los Angeles, City of San Francisco, and Greater Miami and the Beaches – a consortium that includes Miami-Dade County and the Cities of Miami and Miami Beach – have joined the network. The University of Pittsburgh has also joined the existing partnership between the City of Pittsburgh and Carnegie Mellon University. The network now includes 40 partnerships between local governments and their university partners, focused on incorporating data, analytics, and innovation into local government programs. Members of the network research, develop, and deploy technologies and policy approaches to address challenges facing the nation’s urban areas. MetroLab Network was launched by 21 founding city-university pairings in September 2015 at the White House as part of the Obama Administration’s Smart Cities Initiative.

MetroLab Network’s city-university partnerships are relationships in which the university serves as a research and development arm, and the city serves as a test-bed for technologies and policies. Faculty members and students gain access to real-world laboratories to develop and test tools and programs that utilize information technology, data analytics, sensing, and more. Cities benefit from their technical expertise, leading to solutions that reduce the cost of infrastructure and services, make cities more sustainable and resilient, and improve citizens’ quality of life. Current members are working on more than 100 “research, development, and deployment” projects aimed at addressing challenges facing urban areas.

MetroLab Network connects these city-university partnerships via a national, collaborative platform that will facilitate the sharing of information and the scaling of technology and solutions across the country.

“Los Angeles, Miami, and San Francisco each bring unique perspectives to the challenges facing urban areas,” said Ben Levine, Interim Director of MetroLab Network. “their partnership with universities on issues like climate change, transportation, and energy will benefit their communities and help drive solutions for other cities facing similar challenges.

“These are three great cities all experiencing economic and population growth,” said Governor Martin O’Malley, who serves as Senior Fellow at MetroLab Network and is convening and chairing its Advisory Council. “They also face challenges posed by environmental factors and byproducts of growth, like transportation and housing pressures. I am excited that they have partnered with their universities and with MetroLab Network to help drive innovation in their communities.”

Los Angeles will partner with California State University, Los Angeles. Together, they will work on the digitization and certification of minority and women owned business in L.A., an analysis of injuries and workers’ compensation trends for the L.A. Fire Department, and *The Mayor’s Cup*, a competition providing local university entrepreneurs the opportunity to explore innovative solutions to local civic challenges.

“Keeping up with a rapidly-changing world means using and measuring data that matters – so that we can make policy based on information, not impressions,” said Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. “Working with our world-class universities helps ensure that data isn’t just collected, but used to make change that people can see and feel. I am excited that L.A. is joining MetroLab Network, with the support of Cal State LA as our academic partner. The innovation it will make possible can help us find new and better ways to ease congestion on our roads, save energy in our homes, and keep our neighborhoods safe and clean.”

San Francisco’s partnership with University of California, Berkeley will primarily focus on transportation and mobility. It will also include *Superpublic*, a public-private consortium of

companies, academic institutions, nonprofits and governments with a mission to advance policies, technologies, and products that serve the needs of urban communities.

“The University of California, Berkeley is excited to partner with the City of San Francisco and MetroLab Network. We have some of the nation’s top researchers in data science, smart cities, and sustainable transportation, who are eager to apply their expertise to real-world issues in our region and the nation,” said UC Berkeley Chancellor Nicholas Dirks.

Greater Miami and the Beaches will partner with University of Miami, Florida International University, and Miami Dade College. Its projects will focus on adaption to sea level rise and coastal flooding, response to climate-related diseases including Zika, and access to transportation and affordable housing.

“Miami-Dade County, Miami, and Miami Beach already have existing relationships and ongoing projects with our local universities, but through our participation in MetroLab Network, we will benefit from increased coordination between the three members of Greater Miami and the Beaches, the three local universities and the members of MetroLab Network,” said Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos A. Giménez.

University of Pittsburgh manages the Western Pennsylvania Regional Data Center, which serves as Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh’s open data portal, and provides a number of services to data publishers and users. The University of Pittsburgh will also work with the City on a number of projects related to energy and transportation.

New Members:

City of Los Angeles – California State University, Los Angeles
Greater Miami and the Beaches (Miami-Dade County, Cities of Miami and Miami Beach) –
University of Miami, Florida International University, Miami Dade College
City of San Francisco – University of California, Berkeley
University of Pittsburgh (joining existing City of Pittsburgh – Carnegie Mellon Partnership)

Current Members:

Arlington County – Virginia Tech-National Capital Region
City of Atlanta – Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia State University
City of Austin – University of Texas at Austin
City of Baltimore – John Hopkins University, University of Baltimore
City of Boston – Boston Area Research Initiative
City of Boulder, City of Denver – University of Colorado-Boulder

City of Burlington – University of Vermont
City of Charlotte – University of North Carolina at Charlotte
City of Chicago – The University of Chicago
City of Columbus – Ohio State University
Cuyahoga County, OH – Case Western Reserve University
City of Dallas – Texas Research Alliance
City of Detroit – Wayne State University
District of Columbia – Georgetown University, George Washington University, Howard University
City of Houston – Rice University
City of Jacksonville – University of Florida, University of North Florida
City of Kansas City, MO, City of Kansas City, KS – University of Missouri-Kansas City, University of Kansas
City of Madison – University of Wisconsin-Madison
City of Memphis – University of Memphis
City of Minneapolis, City of Saint Paul – University of Minnesota
Montgomery County, MD – University of Maryland, Universities at Shady Grove
City of New York – New York University, Columbia University
City of Newark – New Jersey Institute of Technology
City of Orlando – University of Central Florida
City of Philadelphia – Drexel University, University of Pennsylvania
City of Pittsburgh – Carnegie Mellon University
City of Portland – Portland State University
City of Providence – Brown University, College Unbound, Rhode Island School of Design
City of San Diego – University of California San Diego
City of San Jose – San Jose State University
City of Santa Fe – Santa Fe Institute
City of Schenectady – University at Albany, SUNY
City of Seattle – University of Washington
City of South Bend – University of Notre Dame

Founding members indicated in italics

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For more information on MetroLab Network:

www.metrolabnetwork.org

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