Letter from University Presidents and Mayors to President Obama on the Creation of a Metro Lab Network

September 2015

We, the undersigned university presidents and mayors (and their designees), commit to collaborating within and across our communities to research, develop and deploy technology-enabled solutions that can help address our communities' most pressing challenges.

Our cities and metropolitan areas face complex challenges involving interconnected and interacting infrastructure systems such as transportation, water and sewer, communication, buildings, and public services. Under conventional approaches, addressing these looming challenges will require significant investment.

Our research universities have the physical and human resources to help their cities meet these challenges through undertaking research, development – and deployment – of innovative projects at lower cost. The identification and undertaking of these innovative and deployable projects can best be identified and prioritized through a working partnership between the city and the university that outlines the purpose and process. Many of us are already engaged in these beneficial partnerships.

Any such city/university partnership will exponentially benefit by collaborating with other city/university partnerships similarly organized. Given the complexity of many of the infrastructure city challenges, a comprehensive research, development and deployment approach embracing multiple cities and multiple universities working together collaboratively can offer important advantages.

The formation of an unincorporated network of city/university partnerships, hereinafter referenced as the MetroLab Network, would enable such explicit sharing and collaboration in research development and deployment of solutions to those cities.

Therefore, the undersigned agree to:

> Form a City/University collaboration within their respective community memorialized in a Memorandum of Understanding;
>
> Appoint a representative from each partner responsible for maintaining the collaboration; Through the collaboration, identify and undertake at least three research, development and deployment projects within the coming year (by September 2016);
>
> Participate as a founding member of the MetroLab Network through workshops and other knowledge sharing activities.

Sincerely,

Atlanta, GA

Kasim Reed
Mayor
City of Atlanta

G.P. Peterson
President
Georgia Institute of Technology

Mark Becker
President
Georgia State University

Boston, MA

Nigel Jacob
Co-Chair
Mayor's Office of New Urban Mechanics
City of Boston

Robert J. Sampson
Director, Boston Area Research Initiative
Harvard University

Christopher Winship
Co-Director, Boston Area Research Initiative
Harvard University

Chicago, IL

Rahm Emanuel
Mayor
City of Chicago

Robert J. Zimmer
President
The University of Chicago

Cuyahoga
County, OH

Armond Budish
County Executive
Cuyahoga County

Barbara R. Snyder
President
Case Western Reserve University

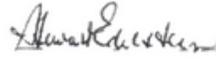|		
Dallas, TX	Michael S. Rawlings Mayor City of Dallas	Geoffrey Orsak Executive Director Texas Research Alliance
Detroit, MI	Michael E. Duggan Mayor City of Detroit	M. Roy Wilson President Wayne State University
Houston, TX	Annise Parker Mayor City of Houston	David W. Leebron President Rice University
Madison, WI	Paul Soglin Mayor City of Madison	Marsha Mailick Vice Chancellor for Research and Graduate Education University of Wisconsin-Madison
Memphis, TN	AC Wharton Jr. Mayor City of Memphis	David Rudd President University of Memphis

			Stewart Edelstein Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, USM Executive Director, Universities at Shady Grove
Montgomery County, MD	David Hoffman Chief Innovation Officer Montgomery County, Maryland		Dean Chang Associate Vice President for Innovation & Entrepreneurship University of Maryland

New York City, NY	Amen Ra Mashariki Chief Analytics Officer City of New York		John Sexton President New York University

			Dawn Bonnell Vice Provost for Research University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA	Michael Nutter Mayor City of Philadelphia		John Fry President Drexel University

Pittsburgh, PA	William Peduto Mayor City of Pittsburgh		Farnam Jahanian Provost Carnegie Mellon University

Portland, OR	Charlie Hales Mayor City of Portland, OR		Wim Wiewel President Portland State University

		Richard M. Locke Provost Brown University
Providence, RI	Jorge O. Elorza Mayor City of Providence	Dennis Littky President College Unbound
		Rosanne Somerson President Rhode Island School of Design
San Diego, CA	Kevin L. Faulconer Mayor City of San Diego	Predeep K. Khosta Chancellor University of California San Diego
San Jose, CA	Samuel T. Liccardo Mayor City of San Jose	Mohammad Qayoumi President San Jose State University
Seattle, WA	Ed Murray Mayor City of Seattle	Ana Mari Cauce Interim President University of Washington
South Bend, IN	Pete Buttigieg Mayor City of South Bend	Rev. John I. Jenkins President University of Notre Dame

Twin Cities, MN

Betsy Hodges
Mayor
City of Minneapolis

Brian Herman
Vice President for Research
University of Minnesota

Chris Coleman
Mayor
City of Saint Paul

Washington, DC

Muriel Bowser
Mayor
District of Columbia

John J. DeGioia
President
Georgetown University

Wayne A. I. Frederick
President
Howard University

Leo M. Chalupa
Vice President for Research
The George Washington University

Note: several of the city-university partners that signed this letter made adjustments to the text to meet certain needs. It should not be assumed that the co-signers have agreed to the exact language included in this version of the letter.