



## April 2003 Project Updates and Information Sharing

Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)

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### a) **Collaborative Parcel Data Distribution Strategy - Non-Government Access**

Following direction received from the Policy Board at the January 29, 2003 Board meeting, the County Data Producers Workgroup has agreed on the mechanics of a strategy that would:

- 1) Simulate one-stop-shop access for the data user,
- 2) Greatly simplify access procedures,
- 3) Provide non-government interests access to the same regional dataset provided to government interests, and
- 4) Provide the counties with market interest information they need before further considering automated fee collection.

MetroGIS staff have developed the necessary web pages to implement this strategy and the counties are currently working on a "shrink wrap" license to further simplify the process. Gary Swenson, GIS Coordinator for Anoka County, agreed to take the lead along with the Anoka County attorney, to draft a streamlined license that would be used by all of the counties. The Workgroup is tentatively scheduled to consider a draft of the new license at its next meeting, scheduled for May 8. For more information on the components of the strategy, see

<http://www.metrogis.org/data/datasets/parcels/index.shtml#private2>. Late May/early June is the target for implementing this one-stop-shop, web access strategy for non-government access to parcel data. Dave Drealan, Director of Planning for Carver County and member of the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee, chairs this workgroup.

### b) **Emergency Management Initiative**

This effort was launched following the Policy Board's endorsement of the 2003 MetroGIS workplan at its January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting. The workgroup is co-chaired by Randy Knippel, Dakota

County, and Rick Gelbmann, Metropolitan Council. They are currently engaged in an outreach and scoping process to determine who should be involved and priorities for action.

On February 6<sup>th</sup>, Randy Knippel, along with David Claypool and Carla Coates of Ramsey County, presented GIS connections to emergency preparedness at a training session on February 6<sup>th</sup>. The training was organized by the Minnesota Division of Emergency Management, East Metro Regional Review Committee. The presentation was well received and several contacts were made. Randy Knippel also presented Dakota County's GIS emergency preparedness web application to the Governor's Council on Geographic Information on March 19<sup>th</sup>. A meeting with the state Office of Technology is scheduled to occur before the Policy Board meets on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**c) Regional Mailing Label Application**

In February, following discussion at the January Policy Board meeting, the MetroGIS Staff Coordinator offered a concept (see Attachment A) for consideration by the members of the County Data Producers Workgroup for a regional project to develop a regional mailing label application. The proposal was based upon the application implemented by Carver County and demonstrated to the Policy Board at its January meeting.

Carver County has since agreed to share their application with the community, and each of members of the Workgroup has concurred that pursuing a regional application would be beneficial to the community. Alison Slaats, MetroGIS DataFinder Manager, is currently investigating the modifications to the application that will be required to run it on top of the regional parcel dataset. She will also be looking into a mechanism to restrict access to only those organizations that have access to the regional parcel dataset. The County Data Producers Workgroup will consider Alison's findings at its next meeting, scheduled for May 8.

**d) Priority Business Information Needs** (See <http://www.metrogis.org/data/index.shtml> for complete information about status of a solution for each of MetroGIS's common information needs.)

- (1) **Existing Land Use:** On April 17<sup>th</sup> MetroGIS hosted a Peer Review Forum. 21 individuals with the desired content expertise attended to clarify the desired components of a regional solution. A workgroup is being organized to devise a three-part strategy to recommend a regional solution(s) to address the needs clarified on April 17. The workgroup will be preparing recommendations to achieve the desired regional data specifications, desired custodial roles and responsibilities, and identification of willing custodial candidates with the desired capabilities.
- (2) **Highway and Road Networks:** An eight-person workgroup is fine-tuning desired regional data specifications identified at an October 2002 forum. The forum summary is posted at [http://www.metrogis.org/data/info\\_needs/highway\\_roads/peer\\_forum\\_summary.pdf](http://www.metrogis.org/data/info_needs/highway_roads/peer_forum_summary.pdf). In addition to developing data specification recommendations, the workgroup will also prepare recommendations concerning desired custodial roles and responsibilities, and candidate custodians. The workgroup's next meeting is scheduled for April 24. The main topic will be a presentation on the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Roads and Highways standard, as implemented by Mn/DOT. Dan Ross from Mn/DOT will present the "Location Data Server" project, which will provide more insight into the implementation of this national standard at the state level.
- (3) **Jurisdictional Boundaries – School Districts:** Work on a custodian recommendation is tentatively scheduled to begin following the legislative session. Recommended data specifications and roles and responsibilities were agreed upon in March 2001.
- (4) **Jurisdictional Boundaries – Watershed Districts:** On hold awaiting a scoping study to be prepared by Washington County.
- (5) **Lakes, Wetlands, etc.:** Paul Hanson of the MetroGIS Technical Support Team serves as the MetroGIS liaison role on the Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) Hydrology Committee. MetroGIS's work plan assumes the state's solution may serve much of

the need of the MetroGIS community. A workgroup comprised of content experts from local, regional, and state government met on April 9 to begin work on solutions to data specifications for the Metropolitan Area that will not be addressed by the state's solution. They decided to begin their efforts with a regional wetland data solution that incorporates data developed by the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District. DNR staff are supportive of this proposal as it provides more accurate data than currently available via the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI). Desired data specifications that were identified by participants at the October 29, 1999 Information Needs Workshop, hosted by several state agencies and MetroGIS, serve as the starting point for the group's efforts. (Refer to the Final Workshop Document at [http://www.metrogis.org/data/info\\_needs/lakes\\_wetlands/turnaround.pdf](http://www.metrogis.org/data/info_needs/lakes_wetlands/turnaround.pdf)).

- (6) Land Cover: In February, DNR Metro agreed to serve this dataset from DataFinder until such time agreement can be reached by DNR as a whole to serve the data. Development of the required metadata was initiated at that time and a target was set to begin providing access this spring via DataFinder. Unfortunately, as a result of the state's budget crisis, DNR is in the midst of reorganizing its GIS operations and as a result this dataset may no longer have a champion within DNR. **This matter has been delegated to the Technical Advisory Team for a recommendation.** Of note, the coding scheme that is at the core of this regional dataset has been gaining acceptance by a large number of data producers who are contributing to populate the dataset. The number of contributors now exceeds 25. According to Bart Richardson of the DNR, who championed the development of this coding scheme and its endorsement by MetroGIS, many of these data producers had their own coding schemes and elected to use this scheme because it had been endorsed by MetroGIS.

- (7) Parcels:

*Government and Academic Version*: The April 2003 version is nearly complete, with data that meets the regional specifications having been received from 5 of 7 counties. Once complete, the data will be available on DataFinder ([www.datafinder.org](http://www.datafinder.org)) to licensed users. Updates are planned quarterly – January, April, July, and October. This was the third time through the update process. Improvements in procedures are making the process easier for everyone involved. (If you are a government or academic interest that desires access to this data, see [http://www.metrogis.org/data/datasets/parcels/order\\_info\\_public/index.shtml](http://www.metrogis.org/data/datasets/parcels/order_info_public/index.shtml) for the instructions on how to obtain a license.)

*Non-Government Version*: (See Agenda Item “a” above)

- (8) Street Centerline Dataset: (Produced by The Lawrence Group - TLG): This dataset is now available via DataFinder Café. This means that users can now download this data for their specified geographic extents, in addition to the option of downloading the entire dataset via FTP (File Transfer Protocol) that has been in place since 1997. On March 26<sup>th</sup> all licensed users were notified of the DataFinder Cafe option. All members of the Coordinating Committee, Technical Advisory Team, and County GIS User Group contacts were also notified in an effort to ensure that as many stakeholder interests as possible are aware of the availability of this data and how to obtain it.

- (9) Socioeconomic Characteristics of Areas:

A newly formed workgroup met for the first time on April 7<sup>th</sup>. It will guide the drafting of a recommendation(s) to implement a regional solution(s) for this priority common information need. The group began with the information needs statements identified in 1996 and will guide next steps to refine the needs and devise a regional strategy to address them. Will Craig, member of the Coordinating Committee, has agreed to chair this workgroup. Eleven other individuals, representing diverse professional and organizational perspectives, have agreed to serve on this workgroup. The group's workplan consists of a two-step process whereby the workgroup will investigate how existing published data (e.g., U.S. Census Bureau) can be used to address the various components of this information need and then this group or another will investigate other options, including but not limited to, the iBlock concept developed by Excensus LLC.

**e) Enhancements to MetroGIS DataFinder / Coordination with MN GeoIntegrator**

The MN Land Management Information Center (LMIC) is in contract negotiations with Syncline, developer of MetroGIS DataFinder Café ([www.datafinder.org](http://www.datafinder.org)), to expand the Café's functionality statewide and, in so doing, partner with the MetroGIS community to develop additional desired functionality for DataFinder Café. LMIC was awarded a grant from the MN Office of Technology for this effort. In 2001, MetroGIS also received a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NDSI) Web Mapping Services grant to implement functionality being explored through this joint project. If the project is pursued, MetroGIS's grant funds will be assigned to this collaborative effort.

**f) Supplemental Revenue Proposal -“Corporate Sponsorships”- Investigated**

The new Metropolitan Council administration has challenged its managers to investigate creative ways to generate supplemental revenues in response to the state's budget crisis. MetroGIS, along with others who host Council-maintained websites, have been encouraged to investigate the possibility of offering “corporate sponsorships”, whereby firms would have the opportunity to advertise their logos and web links on the MetroGIS DataFinder and/or the general information website for a fee.

The results of the investigation thus far are that a “corporate sponsorship” concept may not be viable for MetroGIS, on the basis that:

- 1) Interest among the targeted vendors is insufficient,
- 2) A means to document who is actually using DataFinder would need to be implemented to assure vendors that the users have needs consistent with the “sponsors” business models. The problem is that the only means currently known to track information about the users is to use “cookies”, which are not an option as long as DataFinder is a node of the National Spatial Data Clearinghouse, and
- 3) The potential for substantive negative impacts due to perceived or actual conflicts of interest.

These conclusions were drawn from the comments received from targeted prospective corporate sponsors. This concept was shared with seven firms that have participated in MetroGIS activities. Four of them responded:

- Two commented that the idea is intriguing but they do not currently have funds of any significance that they could use in this manner.
- One commented they have mixed reaction, expressing concern about possible negative public policy ramifications. An excerpt from their comments follows:  
*“It is certainly an interesting idea and would be an opportunity for technology and service providers to gain some visibility with prospective customers. At the same time, I would be concerned, from a public policy standpoint, that it would create perceived (or even real) conflicts of interest between public agencies and those same companies and may cloud the fundamental purpose for MetroGIS of facilitating data sharing. In addition, it may result in lowering the quality of the user experience on the site and could “cheapen” or detract from the intended purpose and high standard that the Metropolitan Council and MetroGIS have set for their activities.”*
- One commented that the DataFinder site is receiving sufficient monthly traffic to be a viable advertising outlet but they need to know for sure that the users are within their targeted market.

**g) Performance Measures Report – January-February 2003**

At its January 29<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Policy Board asked for quarterly Performance Measures Reports to be submitted as information items and on an annual basis submitted as a discussion item. The report will be posted online at [http://www.metrogis.org/benefits/perf\\_measure/index.shtml](http://www.metrogis.org/benefits/perf_measure/index.shtml)

**h) MetroGIS Continues to Receive National Attention**

In the past two years MetroGIS has received two prestigious national awards. URISA recognized MetroGIS with its 2002 national Exemplary Systems in Government Award – Enterprise Systems

Category. In 2001, MetroGIS DataFinder was the Grand Prizewinner in the ESRI / National Geographic Society's (International) Geography Network Challenge. These awards, together with committee member and staff involvement in several national geospatial data initiatives has resulted in five additional national recognitions:

- Cover story in the March 2003 issue of GeoWorld magazine.
- Invitation from the leadership of The National Map (TNM) to serve as the designated source of geospatial data for the seven county, Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area in conjunction with a partnership with LMIC to serve data for the TNM for the remainder of the state.
- Invitation to chair a special interest group for Multi-Agency Collaborations affiliated with the URISA organization.
- Feature interview in the February issue of DirectionsMag.
- Invitation to participate in a URISA-sponsored summit entitled *National Programs...Local Implementation* to be held on May 21 in Washington D.C.

GeoWorld article: The four-page article, written by Jeanne Landkamer for MetroGIS, provides a good overview of MetroGIS's objectives and accomplishments. A copy of the article can be viewed online at <http://www.geoplance.com/gw/2003/0303/0303mnn.asp>. A number of compliments have been received from across the country as a result of this article.

The National Map partnership: The U.S. Geological Survey has approached MetroGIS and the MN Land Management Information Center (LMIC) with a proposal to collaborate on The National Map program (<http://nationalmap.usgs.gov/>). The offer was made from the Survey's Rolla, Missouri office and invited MetroGIS to become a key component inside a broader State of Minnesota geospatial data distribution architecture. Under the proposed plan, DataFinder would serve data for the Metro Area for The National Map while LMIC, serving data through GeoIntegrator, would provide data access services for the remainder of the state. For more information about this proposed partnership, see Ron Wencil's discussion in Attachment B.

In addition, The National Map leadership is very supportive of the added value of MetroGIS's endorsed regional data solutions (area integrator concept) for the seven county area that nest with larger geographies. This concept has been embedded into the guiding principles for State's Cadastral I-Plan. The Staff Coordinator is promoting this philosophy, via the involvement in the state's I-Planning process, in hopes it will find operational support among the RDCs, Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organizations, etc. throughout the state.

URISA Special Interest Group (SIG): As a result of the 2002 ESIG Award process and the Staff Coordinator's promoting of the need to establish a networking forum for organizations that serve as Area Integrators, the Staff Coordinator has been invited to chair a SIG that would focus on multi-agency collaboration to address common geospatial data needs. Talks are underway to clarify expectations, possibly folding this SIG proposal into Dr. Zorica Budic's new URISA-based National GI 3Cs Task Force.

Interview in DirectionsMag: The feature story in the January 22, 2003 issue was about MetroGIS. The text can be reviewed at [http://nt1.directionsmag.com/weekly\\_email.asp?id=194](http://nt1.directionsmag.com/weekly_email.asp?id=194), the second article.

May 21 URISA Summit: A Summit entitled *National Programs...Local Implementation* will be held on May 21 in Washington, DC. The Summit's purpose is to foster dialogue between local and state units of government and the leadership of five federally-sponsored geospatial data related initiatives and ultimately the partnerships needed to accomplish the objectives of these programs:

- US Geological Survey's *The National Map*
- Office of Management and Budget & FGDC's *Geospatial One-Stop*

- US Census Bureau's *TIGER Enhancement*
- National Imagery and Mapping Agency's *133 Cities*
- Federal Emergency Management Agency's *First Responders*

The Staff Coordinator has been invited to participate as one of the panelists, given the success MetroGIS has had in securing the type of partnerships necessary to achieve the goals of these federal initiatives. As of this writing, a decision had not been made as to whether or not the invitation can be accepted. The Metropolitan Council currently has a ban on out-of-state travel so other funding options are being investigated. Visit <http://www.urisa.org/FedSummit/Summit.htm> for further information.

## i) **State Geospatial Data Initiatives Update**

### 1) **Governor's Council on Geographic Information Reauthorized**

At its January 29th meeting, the MetroGIS Policy Board unanimously passed a resolution supporting reauthorization of the Governor's Council on Geographic Information. The Executive Order authorizing the GCGI was scheduled to expire on April 7, 90 days after the new governor took office. Chair Reinhardt signed a letter to the Pawlenty administration relaying this support.

In early April, Governor Pawlenty signed Executive Order 03-04, which extended 21 executive orders from previous administrations – including Executive Order 99-06, which authorizes the GCGI.

### 2) **Statewide DEM/Flood Plain Mapping Legislation**

Senate File 981 heard this bill on March 31 by the Environment and Natural Resources Committee and forwarded it to the Senate Finance Committee. SF 981 is co-authored by Senators Dean Johnson, Langseth, Marty, and Pariseau. It seeks a \$7.5 million appropriation from the General Fund for a pilot project to acquire digital elevation model (DEM) data and finance floodplain mapping for **Anoka**, Benton, **Carver**, Chisago, Clay, Crow Wing, **Dakota**, **Hennepin**, Isanti, Kittson, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Norman, Polk, **Ramsey**, Rice, Sherburne, Stearns, Traverse, Wilkin, and Wright counties. (*Scott and Washington counties have acquired this data on their own*).

The companion House File is co-authored by Reps. Erickson, Kuisle, Walts, Blaine, and Entenza but has not been heard by a committee. Gene Short, President of the Association of Minnesota Counties, is leading this effort.

Although elevation data did not make MetroGIS's initial list of priority common information needs, it would likely be identified in a second-generation list of priorities. Elevation data is one of the seven Framework Themes identified for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and is also one of eight I-Planning themes for the State of Minnesota's Geospatial Data Infrastructure Strategy.

### 3) **GCGI's LRM Committee – Progress with Statewide Parcel Dataset**

The Land Records Modernization (LRM) Committee of the Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) has received approval from the GCGI to submit Version 1 of a statewide parcel I-Plan to the National I-Team Coordinator. The Team is now working on next steps to implement the parcel I-Plan. This effort has its roots in a July 2001 request from the MetroGIS Policy Board that the GCGI provide leadership for a statewide parcel data solution that incorporates the solution endorsed by the Board for the Metro Area. Several individuals on the LRM Committee are also active in MetroGIS's activities: David Arbeit, Will Craig, David Claypool, and Randall Johnson. Johnson participated on the Parcel Data Policy Vision workgroup. This Plan will eventually include vision statements for all seven National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NDSI) Framework data themes; parcels or cadastral data being one of the seven, plus soils.

4) **GCGI Guidebook - Making the Most of Geospatial Data Exchange: A Guide for Data Distribution**

A handbook is in its final phases of development by the Data Committee of the Governor's Council on Geographic Information. The guide is designed to walk organizations that have elected to share their data through the decisions involved, in a step-by-step manner, with examples and explanatory text. Full GCGI endorsement is expected in the near future, after which it will be distributed via the Internet and printed copy. The small workgroup included two individuals active in MetroGIS's affairs: David Arbeit (LMIC's Executive Director) and Randall Johnson (MetroGIS Staff Coordinator). Fred Logman, CIO for Ramsey County, also played a substantive role in the development of this guide.

5) **MetroGIS Pilot with Collar Counties Proposed – Means to Share Parcel Data**

The Staff Coordinator has invited the Goodhue and Wright County surveyors to consider the possibility of setting up an automated means to share data, in particular parcel data, among and between organizations in the metro area and those that serve the adjoining counties. A "scoping" meeting is tentatively planned for mid-June with Wright County officials. This proposal is an outgrowth of the MetroGIS Policy Board's request to the Governor's Council on Geographic Information in July 2001 to foster sharing of parcel data between organizations that serve the metro area and those that serve the adjoining counties. In a related effort, Region 6W (Upper Minnesota Valley RDC) is testing the capabilities of DataFinder Café for their parcel data distribution needs – needs which would be expected to be similar to those of the "collar counties". The results of this pilot proposal would also provide valuable information to help MetroGIS and LMIC establish an integrated and automated mechanism for sharing data with organizations throughout the state.

j) **Federal/National Geospatial Data Initiatives Update**

- 1) **I-Teams** - The Staff Coordinator and David Arbeit, with LMIC, are serving on a Minnesota Governor's Council Committee responsible for consolidating all of Minnesota's individual, theme-based I-Plans in a document that sets forth a cohesive strategy to guide investments in geospatial technology and data within Minnesota.
- 2) **GeoSpatial One Stop** – The Staff Coordinator has received confirmation from Leslie Wollack, staff for GeoSpatial One Stop, of One-Stop's interest in highlighting regional and local efforts, such as MetroGIS, as part of One-Stop functions to share knowledge (lessons learned) and collaborate on common interests. Ms. Wollack has requested ideas on how this might be accomplished.
- 3) **The National Map** - See Item "h", above

k) **Outreach Activities** (*since the last Board meeting*)

1) **Conferences Presented At**

None

2) **Other Than Conferences**

Metro Area:

- A presentation was made to the Metropolitan Council's Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) on February 12. Policy Board Chair Reinhardt, also a member of the TAB, participated.
- A presentation was made on April 3 to a Masters in GIS class at the University of Minnesota.
- An article, written by Policy Board Chair Reinhardt, was published in the February issue of the St. Paul Area Association of Realtors newsletter. The article can be viewed online on page 9 of the document at <http://spaar.quantumsite.com/files/feb03nwsltr.pdf>.
- An article was submitted to GIS/LIS for inclusion in their spring newsletter.
- Authorization was received in mid-February to retain Jeanne Landkamer to produce MetroGIS's 2002 Annual Report. Substantial progress has been made. Early May is the target for distribution.

- John Carpenter, with Excensus LLC, has developed a license for Excensus's iBlock data that closely follows the language agreed upon by the counties for government interest access to the regional parcel dataset. He plans to implement this new license document immediately and stay in touch with MetroGIS staff as to any issues that might arise with his clients, who are generally also MetroGIS stakeholders. He concurs that MetroGIS's objective to move toward one licensing document that is "pre-approved" by the legal staffs of the user community organizations would greatly expedite access to commonly needed data.

Beyond the Metro Area:

- See the listings under Item h, above.
- See Item i5, above - pilot project proposal with collar counties.

**l) April 9<sup>th</sup> Coordinating Committee Meeting Summary**

See [http://www.metrogis.org/teams/cc/index.shtml#agendas\\_minutes](http://www.metrogis.org/teams/cc/index.shtml#agendas_minutes)



Date: February 7, 2003

To: County Data Producer Workgroup

From: Randall Johnson  
MetroGIS Staff Coordinator

Subject: Collaboratively Developed Mailing Label Application Proposal

At the Policy Board meeting on January 29th, some Policy Board members expressed interest in a regional solution to automating the preparation of mailing labels. The purpose of this letter is to propose a collaborative project if you, as producers of the source data, have an interest in participating. The Metropolitan Council has a business need to develop such a capability for two of its operating divisions and we also believe MnDOT may also has a business need in addition to the interest that has been expressed by local government. This project is proposed in keeping with MetroGIS's newly endorsed core function to foster collaborative solutions to commonly needed geodata.

The Council's GIS Unit is willing to coordinate a regional project if the counties are comfortable with it being made available to licensed users of parcel data and willing to allow your staff to be involved in the design. The Council proposes to begin by documenting what each or your respective organizations and others have implemented for your own business needs, including lessons learned (what worked and what did not). Any proposed regional solution would have specifications consistent with your needs, as current producers of mailing labels from parcel data, and with those of the user community. The actual application could be something that already exists, modified as needed for a region-wide application, or built from scratch. In any case, the desired specifications would dictate the design options.

At the data producers' discretion, the application could be made available to anyone who wished access or limited to those organizations licensed to access the underlining data, with the understanding that if access to the application is restricted that the method of distribution would not be labor intensive assuming MetroGIS would play a role in the distribution. For instance, the first implementation might be something like the application is downloadable via a FTP site (password protected or not), the data is accessed through DataFinder, and the user prepares the labels on their local system using the downloaded application and data. In the future, the solution might be to access the application through DataFinder, which could integrate the application with DataFinder's security engine if the application were available only to licensed users.

The question of whether or not to permit non-government organizations access to the proposed application is a policy question that would need to be resolved to everyone's satisfaction. I suggest that if you want to proceed that the current reliance on the production of mailing labels as a revenue stream, by at least few of you, should be addressed before any design aspects are discussed. You also may want to think about the pros and cons of using the proposed application as a means to foster and promote additional use of the source parcel data.

If this proposal has merit, I suggest that the County Data Producers Workgroup take it up and provide initial policy direction under its charge to provide direction regarding commonly needed geodata applications.

## ATTACHMENT B

### **The National Map Partnership in Minnesota**

By Ron Wencl, USGS Liaison to MetroGIS

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is committed to meeting the Nation's needs for current base geographic data and maps. By working with partners, the USGS will provide the Nation with access to current, accurate, and nationally consistent digital data and topographic maps derived from those data. This synthesis of information, products, and capabilities, *The National Map*, will be a seamless, continuously maintained set of geographic base information that will serve as a foundation for integrating, sharing, and using other data easily and consistently. Information about *The National Map* is available at <http://nationalmap.usgs.gov/>.

Many technical and institutional issues must be resolved as *The National Map* is implemented. A pilot project in Minnesota has been proposed to partner with existing agencies and organizations that serve geospatial data and information. The Minnesota Geographic Metadata Guidelines provide the standards necessary to implement a network of NSDI/FGDC-compliant Clearinghouse nodes within the state including the Minnesota GeoGateway at <http://geogateway.state.mn.us/documents/index.html> and the MetroGIS's DataFinder at <http://www.datafinder.org/>, which is hosted by the Metropolitan Council.

MetroGIS (<http://www.metrogis.org/>), is leading implementation of web mapping services for the seven-county, Minneapolis-St. Paul Metropolitan Area. The Minneapolis and St. Paul Metropolitan Area is one of the 133 Urban Areas identified in the Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP) efforts. MetroGIS DataFinder Café (<http://www.datafinder.org/cafe.asp>), a desktop Java application, can be used to view and download local GIS datasets from the MetroGIS DataFinder. The Café allows users to browse the GIS datasets and make custom downloads based on user-defined geographic extent or attributes and also provides downloads in various user-defined data formats. MetroGIS currently coordinates geospatial data stewardship roles in the metro area for data commonly needed by its stakeholders and has also been recognized as a regional I-Team.

Minnesota Planning's Land Management Information Center (LMIC) has been instrumental in developing the GeoGateway (noted above) and maintains a variety of datasets and metadata documented in a clearinghouse catalog (<http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/chouse/metalong.html>). LMIC is currently a leader in development of web mapping services through the GeoIntegrator project that will provide web browser access to data sources from multiple State agencies including the DNR and DOT.

The USGS is interested in partnering with MetroGIS and State agencies to explore data integration issues and develop standardized applications and mapping capabilities that support *The National Map* in Minnesota. Initial implementation of *The National Map* would focus on existing resources and services for the Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area accessible through MetroGIS DataFinder, in collaboration with MN GeoIntegrator, to expand capabilities and services using multiple data sources for statewide implementation. Current efforts involve discussions among USGS, MetroGIS and LMIC to address issues related to data content, technical characteristics, and partnership agreements necessary to coordinate mutually beneficial web mapping services. It is anticipated that Minnesota data and web mapping services will be available through The National Map viewer (<http://nmviewer.cr.usgs.gov>) in May 2003.

Prepared: March 6, 2003