



TO: Policy Board

FROM: MetroGIS Staff Support Team
Contact: Randall Johnson (651-602-1638)

SUBJECT: Strategic Initiatives Update

DATE: December 20, 2000
(For the Jan 10th meeting)

a) Priority Information Needs

See Attachment A for information about the work in progress.

b) DataFinder (www.datafinder.org) and Request for Data Distribution Capability Demonstrations

DataFinder: The enhanced DataFinder site is will be on-line in January. Registration as a node of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure is in progress.

Demonstrations: Several major software developers have been invited to demonstrate capabilities of their products to distribute geospatial data via the Internet. The counties also agreed to grant access to the regional parcel dataset (Version1) for a "live demonstration" of these capabilities. To date, demonstrations have been presented for the Mn Dept of Natural Resources "Data Deli" and ERSI's ArcIMS. A demonstration by Intergraph Corporation is planned for January 17. Information gathered from the demonstrations and from the results of the Regional Parcel Dataset Peer Review Forum scheduled for April 2001 will be used to recommend whether MetroGIS should continue to support a regional parcel dataset and in particular support of Internet distribution of regional datasets. The plan is to present a recommendation to the Policy Board at the July 2001 Board meeting. If the decision is to proceed with Internet distribution, a Request for Proposals will be published and funding sources investigated.

c) GIS Data and Cost Sharing Agreements

Six of the agreements now have terms to December 31, 2001. Carver County's agreement expires in 2003. Following resolution of issues associated with the proposed regional parcel dataset and hopefully, by Spring next year, negotiations will begin to extend all agreements, via a common agreement, to December 31, 2003.

d) Long Term Financing and Organizational Structure

Work on the *long-term financing component* of this initiative was completed with the Policy Board's acceptance of the MetroGIS Business Plan on April 26th and the Metropolitan Council's acceptance on June 14th of responsibility to fund MetroGIS' coordination functions through 2003. Council members concurred with the sentiment on the MetroGIS Policy Board that the notion of using subscription fees as means of supporting MetroGIS should be reevaluated once the benefits derived from the existence of MetroGIS are more widely understood.

Further work on the *organizational component* of this initiative has been postponed until it can be demonstrated that the current informal organizational structure hampers achieving MetroGIS' objectives. The Policy Advisory Team believes that the process of evaluating the need for a regional parcel dataset

and, if pursued, the process to put into place all required agreements and licensing will provide insight needed to effectively address matters of organizational structure d for MetroGIS.

Attachment A

MetroGIS Business Information Needs Update

Staff Contact: Theresa Foster, MetroGIS Technical Coordinator (651-602-1572)

Census Geography

The consultant is in the final stages of error checking the 1990 Census Block boundaries for each of the seven counties, and staff is in the process of fine-tuning the metadata file. Release of the dataset is expected by mid-January.

Planned Future Land Use

The Metropolitan Council is nearly finished with the first phase of a pilot project, conducted on behalf of MetroGIS, to test the regional future land use coding scheme prototyped by the North Metro I35W Corridor Coalition. The prototype regional coding scheme was created by a MetroGIS work group of community development professionals who represented urban core, suburban, rural, and freestanding communities. The pilot project began last August and involves building a regional dataset comprised of the official future land use plan designations for each of the 190 municipalities in the seven county area and then “mapping” or aggregating these individual designations to the regional coding scheme derived from the I-35W prototype. Where available, digital data produced by the individual communities was used. Council staff are documenting issues with the prototype regional coding scheme as they arise during the pilot project.

From January through March, officials with each of the 190 communities will be asked to comment on the accuracy of the Council’s coding of their individual community future land use plans and on the “mapping” of the their individual codes to the regional scheme. The comment/feedback process will be conducted via a questionnaire that is Internet-based. The responses will be automatically written to a database for analysis by Council and MetroGIS officials. A Peer Review Forum is scheduled for May 2001 to discuss enhancements and changes to the prototype regional coding scheme.

The regional scheme and resulting regional dataset is intended to provide a means to compare the official individual land use designations adopted by each community. It is in no way intended to replace locally adopted designations.

School District Jurisdictional Boundaries

Work was started on a pilot project in Washington County in August of 1999 and preliminary standards and procedures were identified in November 1999. Washington County then conducted a pilot project on behalf of MetroGIS to develop a school district boundary dataset aligned with its parcel data. While building this dataset, apparent discrepancies were documented. County and MetroGIS staff have

researched school district statutes and completed historical research on the reorganization of school district boundaries for Washington County.

The peer review forum was held on November 30, 24 stakeholders from the seven-county metro area attended, those in attendance were from county GIS/Surveying, county tax auditor departments, and school district departments. Washington County will be completing the final draft of the pilot project report by the February 2001. They will post the draft at their website:

<http://www.co.washington.mn.us/mgmtsrvy/landsrvy.htm> MetroGIS will also post a link to their sight under the supported projects section at: <http://www.metrogis.org/supported/workgroups/workgroup.htm> .

Recommendations for data specifications, primary and regional custodians, and roles and responsibilities are planned to be forwarded to the Policy Board for action at the April meeting.

Lakes, Wetlands, etc.

MetroGIS staff and Governor's Council Hydrographic Committee members are in the process of conducting a inventory of existing data resources that can be used to satisfy desired specifications for a regional/state hydrographic dataset(s). These specifications were identified by participants at the October 29, 1999 Information Needs Workshop. (Refer to the Information Final Workshop Documents posted on the MetroGIS webpage (www.metrogis.org) under the "Supported Projects \ Business Information Needs \ Lakes, Wetlands..." for more information). The next steps will comprise of completing the data inventory project, technical advisory team recommendations for dataset(s) that meet regional needs which are anticipated to be completed by December 2000.