



FALL 2004 PROJECT UPDATES AND INFORMATION SHARING

CONTACT: STEVE FESTER (651-602-1363)

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FROM: MetroGIS Staff
Contact: Steve Fester (651-602-1363)

SUBJECT: Major Project Updates

DATE: October 18, 2004

A) THIRD GENERATION DATA SHARING AGREEMENTS

On September 15th, Chairperson Reinhardt sent the proposed agreement to each of the county representatives to the Policy Board and asked them to champion its approval by each of their respective county boards. Major provisions of the agreement include:

- Continues one-stop access for parcel data produced by the counties via MetroGIS DataFinder through 2008.
- Recognizes critical importance of the counties to MetroGIS's success.
- Establishes the Council as Licensor on behalf of the counties.
- Expands qualifying government and academic access from statewide to nationwide.
- Standardizes licensure requirements.

The agreement provides funding to the counties in 2004 for one-time programming needed to expand the Regional Parcel Dataset from 25 to 55 attributes. To receive the funding available in 2004, the counties must execute the agreement and submit it along with an invoice to the Metropolitan Council by year-end. Funding would also be provided annually to the counties to compensate for custodial responsibilities beyond their normal internal business needs. This agreement is also expected to serve as a catalyst for statewide policies relating to sharing of parcel data; a major component of the MN Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) initiative (see agenda Item 7).

B) PRIORITY BUSINESS INFORMATION NEEDS (See <http://www.metrogis.org/data/index.shtml> for complete information about the status of solutions for each of MetroGIS's common information needs.)

1. Regional Parcel Dataset Policy: Historical Version Support

At its meeting on September 29th, the Coordinating Committee unanimously agreed on the following language to clarify policy related to support of access to historical versions of the Regional Parcel Dataset (the Policy Board has authorized the Coordinating Committee to implement clarifications to operational policy when unanimously approved by all affected parties):

Section B, Item 3, Historical Information:

- “When new quarterly updates are posted, the previous version will be removed from MetroGIS DataFinder.
- In accordance with Regional Custodian responsibility D(10), the Council will retain the end of calendar year quarterly update and make it available through MetroGIS DataFinder as historical data for that year.”

2. Address Workgroup

The group's goal is to minimize duplication of effort and maximize consistency of address data needed by metro stakeholders, including emergency responders. The group's specific purpose is to recommend strategies to meet unmet address data-related needs by identifying options and current stakeholders (producers, users, partners). The group will focus primarily on situs (rather than mailing) addresses of all occupiable units and any other officially designated addresses.

To better understand how addresses are created, changed and used at different levels, the workgroup plans to interview a variety of stakeholders in each county that produce and use address

data. The group will then compare existing data processes and structures with the data needs of the MetroGIS community, and recommend ways to fill gaps between existing data and needs. A special effort is being made to connect with those responsible for supporting the address needs of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs). It is being staffed by Mark Kotz, who is a member of the Metropolitan Council GIS staff assigned to support MetroGIS activities.

3. Emergency Preparedness Workgroup

The Emergency Preparedness Workgroup is progressing in three focus areas: data development and deployment, building relationships with the emergency management community, and organizing GIS resources. The group is also working closely with the Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) Emergency Preparedness Committee to develop shared web resources for communicating with both the GIS and emergency management communities.

Initial data sets have been developed and are now being refined through a web-based Emergency Preparedness Resources Application pilot project that will use the counties as a focal point in the process. Priority has been given to datasets that are required to support the current Public Health efforts for planning the regional distribution of the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) of pharmaceuticals.

The workgroup continues to work closely with the Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety's Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM) through Kim Ketterhagen of that office. Kim publishes a monthly newsletter that is received by over one thousand readers and has a standing invitation to the GIS community for articles. We work continuously to recruit writers of GIS articles and have engaged several people. Kim also conducted a workshop titled "GIS For Emergency Planning" that included GIS presentations from several key GIS professionals and had several other MetroGIS professionals in the audience.

The workgroup, in cooperation with the corresponding GCGI committee, participated in a presentation and panel discussion on our activities at the annual Minnesota GIS/LIS Conference in St. Cloud. For the first time, this conference included an entire presentation track focusing on Homeland Security / Emergency Management. The conference also created an opportunity to speak to representatives of the military in Minnesota.

In conjunction with the prototype Emergency Preparedness Resources Application, on July 28th the MetroGIS Policy Board endorsed a regional policy of view-only access to parcel data, via this application, without prior licensure by government emergency preparedness officials, subject to formal approval of the proposal from each county. Randy Knippel, Dakota County, who chairs the Workgroup, will be coordinating the request approval from each county. This approval will not be sought from the counties until they have acted on the Next Generation Data Sharing Agreement that is currently before them to avoid the potential for confusion.

4. Existing Land Use Workgroup

Following meetings with several constituencies to receive comments on a proposed regional solution, the Workgroup members are currently drafting a recommendation for consideration by the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee at their December 2004 meeting.

Current workgroup members represent city, county, school district, watershed district, metropolitan, and state interests. This workgroup is being staffed by Paul Hanson, who is a member of the Metropolitan Council GIS staff assigned to support MetroGIS activities.

5. Highway and Road Networks

The Highways and Road Networks Technical Workgroup met in September to begin addressing some common definitions and data synchronization issues involved in sharing data between agencies, using Mn/DOT's Location Data Manager (LDM) as a base. More data producers have been introduced to the group to represent their unique needs and perspectives.

Information about previous aspects of the project, including agreed upon goals, expectations, and participant roles can be viewed at

http://www.metrogis.org/data/info_needs/highway_roads/index.shtml. This workgroup is being

staffed by Mike Dolbow, who is a member of the Metropolitan Council GIS staff assigned to support MetroGIS activities.

6. Lakes, Wetlands, etc.

In September, representatives from the Metropolitan Council, the Metropolitan Mosquito Control District (MMCD), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Ramsey Co. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and the Minnesota Land Management Information Center agreed on roles and responsibilities and a strategy to collaboratively update of the National Wetland Inventory (NWI) for the Twin Cities metropolitan area. A pilot study will be conducted later this fall to work out any bugs in the strategy. A recommendation to the Coordinating Committee pertaining to a regional solution is expected to be presented to the Coordinating Committee at its March 2005 meeting.

This effort is part of the MetroGIS hydrologic solution and the ad-hoc workgroup is being staffed by Paul Hanson with Metropolitan Council GIS staff assigned to support MetroGIS activities.

7. Regional Parcel Dataset Enhancements

Implementation of the enhancements to the Regional Parcel Dataset endorsed by the Policy Board on July 28th are awaiting execution of the proposed Third Generation Data Sharing Agreements. (See Item A, above.)

8. Socioeconomic Characteristics of Areas

See Agenda Item 5a. In addition, the preliminary 2005 workplan anticipates the Phase II workgroup (solutions to Socioeconomic information needs that cannot be achieved with existing published data) to launch in Spring or Summer 2005. The Phase II effort will build on work of the Address Workgroup, which is expected to be substantially complete by Spring 2005. (Refer to Item B2, above.)

C) COUNTY DATA PRODUCER WORKGROUP ACTIVITIES

1. Regional Mailing Label Application

This application is ready to go live, but cannot be launched until the Next-Generation Data Sharing Agreement is in place (Item A, above). Only those entities, which have licensed access to the regional parcel dataset, are proposed to be able to use the application.

2. Regional Parcel Dataset Policy: Access by Non-Profit Interests

This topic is among several 2004 MetroGIS workplan items that were assigned to the Workgroup. Will Craig submitted a proposal to the Workgroup in July. He has a long-time working relationship with neighborhood and community groups active in community development-related initiatives in the Twin Cities. The Workgroup agreed that that concept proposed by Craig, which relied upon a nonprofit being a member of an umbrella organization with validated/endorsed community development objectives and a board of directors comprised of local residents, was generally acceptable. The group also acknowledged that Third Party License Agreements might be an option in some cases, but will not work in other cases.

However, after much discussion, it was agreed that since the largest need for data access is among community groups located in Hennepin County, a pilot should be pursued there to refine policies that might serve as a basis for a future regional policies. (Ramsey County neighbor/community groups already have good access to county data through their participation in the St. Paul Community GIS Consortium, an associate member of the Ramsey County GIS Users Group.) Will Craig and William Brown agreed to begin talks immediately (as of this writing they had developed a proposal that is being vetted through Hennepin County management). The workgroup asked for regular updates to determine if any further action via MetroGIS is appropriate. The workgroup also acknowledged that the cost of administering the licensing likely will never be recouped through cost recovery policies that apply to non-profits, and as such, cautioned that finding a balance is important.

D) STRATEGIC PLANNING RETREAT

The 2004 MetroGIS workplan calls for the Coordinating Committee to host a retreat this fall. The primary objectives would be to contemplate technology and organizational changes that have occurred since MetroGIS was established in 1996, discuss how these changes are impacting MetroGIS's current objectives and philosophies, and identify candidate next steps for further discussion in preparation for the Business Plan Update proposed for 2005.

Unfortunately, due to the unanticipated complexity and length of time involved in the negotiations concerning the next-generation data sharing agreement (Item A, above), funds available for the proposed retreat were exhausted in July. The firm of Richardson, Richter & Associates, Inc. (RRA) is assisting with both efforts. The current thinking is that the Coordinating Committee members would participate in a SWOT (Strengthens, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) exercise prior to the proposed retreat. This exercise would be held in early 2005. It would be followed by: 1) a distillation of the results into a form suitable for more structured policy deliberation, 2) interviews with key leadership and a survey of the broader stakeholder community for feedback and refinement of issues and options, and 3) the proposed retreat of the Committee and other key leadership to identify (maybe reach agreement on) key strategies and objectives for the next 3-5+ years.



FROM: MetroGIS Staff
Contact: Steve Fester (651-602-1363)

SUBJECT: Information Sharing

DATE: October 11, 2004

a) **MetroGIS Applies for Award from Harvard Innovations in Government Program**

An application has been made for the Innovations in American Government Awards Program sponsored by Harvard University. Every year, since 1986, the Innovations Program has recognized five government initiatives, and awarded each of them with a \$100,000 grant. Their philosophy is that by offering the recognition and grants, the Innovations Program will serve as a catalyst for transforming creative and effective ideas into best practices throughout the nation and around the world.

The application process involves five cycles. The MetroGIS application submitted on September 10, 2004 was for the first cycle. First-round applications deemed worthy are invited to submit a substantially more detailed accounting of their programs. The top 50 then go through another round of reviews to narrow the field to 15. The top 5 are selected after onsite 2-day interviews are conducted. The final decision will be made in July 2005. The top 50 receive extensive press coverage and the top five are eligible for \$100,000 grants. The three essays (30, 500, and 250 words, respectively) that were submitted by for first round consideration can be viewed at <http://www.innovationsaward.harvard.edu/index.cfm>. The user name is RLJohnson and the password is MetroGIS1. Information about the grant program is also available via links from the login page.

b) **MetroGIS Recognized as Regional Example in New OGC Publication**

A new report from the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC), Inc., identifies the server architecture of MetroGIS DataFinder as a local/regional government model of data sharing and distribution for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The authors expect the document to be widely referenced.

The report analyzes the current, disparate server architecture associated with the NSDI and the Geospatial One Stop (GOS) Portal. It addresses the issues associated with varying architectures as communities develop and enhance their systems architecture to support local needs and broader NSDI objectives. Three large scale models – centralized, distributed, combination – are explained. In addition, they categorized MetroGIS's data discovery/distribution architecture as "centralized local-regional".

The GOS Portal is a common facility for publishing, discovering and potentially accessing information across federal, state and local governments in the United States that have a requirement for geospatial data and services. The vision of the GOS Portal is to enable users to discover, view and obtain desired data for a particular part of the country, without needing to know the details of how the data are stored and maintained by independent organizations. The portal is able to access information and services from a variety of providers distributed across the network, such as MetroGIS.

“MetroGIS has already resolved many of the problems that most communities are yet to realize even need to be addressed,” said Sam Bacharach, Executive Director for Outreach and Community Adoption at OGC. “These include questions such as ‘What data do we share? How do we include partners who do not have the assets to fully participate? How do we convince anyone to participate?’ “These issues may sound trivial, but the reality is that the people-based, management issues are now more difficult to handle than the purely technical issues of data-sharing,” Bacharach said. “MetroGIS has done a remarkable job.”

c) **MetroGIS’s Experience Recognized in Australian/New Zealand Data Sharing Handbook**

The experience of MetroGIS is being shared widely “down under” as part of the Australia and New Zealand Land Information Council’s and Australian Local Government Association’s newly published Local Government Spatial Information Management Toolkit.

The aim of the “toolkit” is to enhance the capacity of Australian local governments in the use of spatial information. The “toolkit” includes a major section on data sharing and collaboration that discusses the core services and benefits of MetroGIS. This section (10) also features the MetroGIS DataFinder homepage and covers the principles that guide the collaborative. Much of the material was excerpted from the 2001 publication “Lessons from Practice: A Guidebook to Organizing and Sustaining Geodata Collaboratives”, which was compiled by the MetroGIS Staff Coordinator.

To view the “toolkit” go to <http://www.lgconnect.gov.au/index.php?nIdNode=586>. Section 10 contains the MetroGIS experience. For information about the “toolkit” document, contact Robert Kay, Partner, Kay Consulting, PO BOX 191, Mosman Park, Australia, www.kayconsulting.com.au.

d) **Presentations / Outreach / Studies** (*not mentioned elsewhere*)

Articles Published in Fall 2004 Issue of GIS/LIS Newsletter

Two articles summarizing major MetroGIS activities since the last newsletter were submitted for the Fall 2004 issue. They can be viewed at <http://www.mngislis.org/newsletter/issue38/issue38toc.htm>.

e) **Related Metro and State Geospatial Initiatives Update**

1. **Twin Cities Consortium of Non-Profits Awarded \$600,000 Commerce Department Technology Program (TOP) Grant**

The consortium partners include neighborhood and community organizations, city and suburban municipalities, and county, regional and state government entities. An excerpt from the Application’s Executive Summary follows: “Building on the existing GIS infrastructure, Minnesota 3-D is an Internet-accessible and integrated system of employment, housing and development information and analysis tools for neighborhoods, community development corporations, employment trainers, businesses, central cities, suburbs, counties of the Twin Cities metropolitan region, and the State of Minnesota.....By combining new statewide data on employment and demographics through an agreement with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, the Social Security Administration, and the Census Bureau with the existing region-wide parcel-level housing data, Minnesota 3-D will be a “first-of-its-kind” system.....Minnesota 3-D is a scalable, standards-based system that can accommodate expanded data layers and geographic coverage.”

“The centerpiece of this approach is the creation of an online mapping application. With emerging Internet-based mapping technologies, this is the most cost-effective way to maximize access, analytical capacity, and user-to-user information sharing.”

2. **MN Spatial Data infrastructure (MSDI) Strategic Plan**

On October 5th, a Strategic Plan for Minnesota’s Spatial Data Infrastructure was debuted at the Minnesota State GIS/LIS Conference. In June this Plan was approved by the Minnesota Governor’s Council on Geographic Information. It draws upon the experiences and philosophies

of MetroGIS. It also recognizes the importance of Minnesota's geospatial efforts aligning with fundamental policies that comprise the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. Finally, it also includes a strategy for next steps by Minnesota interests necessary to achieve the vision.

The MetroGIS Staff Coordinator and David Arbeit, with LMIC and a member of the Coordinating Committee, serve on the Council's Committee responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of this Plan. The Plan is comprised of eight theme-based Plans and a major emphasis on establishing an effective organizational structure to guide investments in geospatial technology and data within Minnesota. Plans for the 8 data themes are currently in various stages of completion. There is substantial overlap between these 8 themes and the MetroGIS's community's priority common information needs.

3. MN Governor's Council on Geographic Information (GCGI) Annual Report

Executive Order 99-6, which Authorized the Council, requires an annual report to the Governor. The report describes accomplishments for the past year and outlines work plans for the coming year. A brochure version, complete with graphics and suitable for distribution, is also available online at <http://www.gis.state.mn.us/04AnnualReport.htm>.

f) Federal/National Geospatial Initiatives Update

I-Teams:

The Strategic Plan for Minnesota's Spatial Data Infrastructure described above [Item e(2)] is a component of the federal Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) initiative referred to as I-Planning or Implementation Planning. The Plan described above will be submitted shortly to the federal OMB. An objective of the I-Planning initiative is to coordinate federal program expenditures with geospatial needs identified in state I-Plans.

U.S. Census:

2004 First Edition TIGER/Line Files to be Released in December

The U.S. Census Bureau is beginning twice a year releases of the TIGER/Line files. The 2004 First Edition TIGER/Line files are the first of two versions of the TIGER/Line files that will contain 2004 geographic boundaries.

The 2004 First Edition TIGER/Line files are the first version of the TIGER/Line files to include a significant number of counties or statistically equivalent entities containing realigned street feature coordinates that have progressed through the MAF/TIGER Accuracy Improvement Project (<http://www.census.gov/geo/mod/maftiger.html>). Except for those counties with improved street feature coordinates, the 2004 First Edition TIGER/Line files contain very few updates to street features or address ranges from the Census 2000 versions of the TIGER/Line files.

The Census Bureau has added a new record type to the 2004 First Edition TIGER/Line files. Record Type M provides spatial metadata for each feature in a TIGER/Line file, identifying the source for the spatial coordinates. A description (<http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/tiger2004fe/rtdmdesc.html>) and explanation of the fields in Record Type M is available. Two new fields (UACU and URCU) have been added to Record Type A containing the corrections to the Census 2000 Urbanized Areas and Urban Clusters announced by the Census Bureau in August 2002. See 2004 First Edition TIGER/Line File Record Layout (http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/tiger2004fe/ch6_2004fe.pdf)

g) September 29th Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

The summary for the September 29th Coordinating Committee meeting can be viewed at http://www.metrogis.org/teams/cc/meetings/m_09_29_04.pdf.