

MetroGIS

Priority Information Needs

*Endorsed by the MetroGIS Policy Board
May 28, 1997*

Rank	I Need to Know...	Short label
1	the boundaries and characteristics of a specified jurisdiction (e.g., <i>city, school district, county, police and fire districts</i>).	Jurisdictional boundaries
2	the street addresses for specified locations.	Street addresses
3	about land use or development plans that have been officially adopted by public bodies.	Land use plans
4	who has rights to a property, including ownership, leases, easements, right-of-way	Rights to property
5	the boundaries and location of a specified parcel.	Parcel boundaries
6	the locations and characteristics of water features	Lakes, wetlands, etc.
7	how a piece of land is being used, including whether or not it is vacant.	Land use, existing
8	the boundaries and characteristics of census areas	Census boundaries
9	where people live and how to contact them	Where people live
10	the regulations that affect the use of a piece of land, such as zoning	Land Regulations
11	the locations and characteristics of roads/highways	Highway/road networks
12	the socioeconomic characteristics of an area's population (e.g., <i>census tract, county, city</i>).	Socioeconomic characteristics of areas
13	a unique identifying attribute of a land parcel, such as parcel ID	Parcel identifiers

Notes:

1. Over 125 individuals, from September 1996 to February 1997, representing all forms of government that serve the seven county Twin City Metropolitan Area, together with academic, non-profit and for profit interests and also representing six major professional functions – community development, human services and education, natural resources, transportation, public works and public safety-- participated in the process to identify priority common information needs of the MetroGIS community. The process involved six forums, involving several types of small and large group techniques to identify, define, and rank the community's common information needs.
2. A consensus-based repeatable process was then developed to identify appropriate sources of data to answer of the common information needs. The process was prototyped June through October 1997 with the Jurisdictional Boundaries Information Need.
3. The repeatable process involves formation of workgroup comprised of subject matter experts with diverse perspectives for each information need.
4. These initial thirteen priorities were selected from a list of 87 candidates. MetroGIS's efforts will likely move on to several of the other 87 candidates, beginning in 2002. MetroGIS's work plan assumes the desired specifications and custodians will have been determined by that time for the data sets to answer each of the initial thirteen priorities information needs.