



**TO:** Policy Board

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

**SUBJECT:** Major Activity Update

**DATE:** June 4, 2010  
(For the Jun 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.)

Since the Committee last met, progress has been made in the following areas, in addition to the projects presented in Section 5 of this agenda packet.

**A) REGIONAL ADDRESS POINTS DATASET / ADDRESS EDITING TOOL DEVELOPMENT**

- Address Editing Tool (Technical Leadership Workgroup, Project Lead) \$13,500  
Applied Geographics (AppGeo), Boston, MA, began work on this project the week of June 7. The project is expected to be complete by September 2010.
- The Policy Board approved an interim liability disclaimer and authorized the work plan and database structured for Phase I development of the Regional Address Points dataset.

**B) REGIONAL POLICY STATEMENT – METROGIS GEOCODER SERVICE**

The expectation is that a proposed regional policy statement for the MetroGIS Geocoder service will be ready for consideration by the Coordinating Committee at the September meeting. The Policy Board accepted the final project report at its January 2010 meeting.

**C) 2009 REGIONAL GIS PROJECTS :**

- Best Image Service - \$15,250: At the time of this writing, this project remained caught up in backlog in the Council's legal department. This is legal's next priority now that the agreement with AppGeo (see above) has been sent to them for review.
- Proximity Finder - \$18,750: Proximity Finder Project - SharedGeo and Houston Engineering worked with the Proximity Finder Workgroup to refine the specifications for programming of the prototype service. They are documented in a [report](#) dated May 20. The first of several rounds of prototype was underway end of May.

**D) RFP FOR NEXT-GENERATION REGIONAL STREET CENTERLINE SOLUTION**

The contract with NCompass to provide access to their Street Centerline Dataset is scheduled to expire December 31, 2010. An RFP to secure access to the data which meet the current regional standards is planned to be published by mid-summer.

**E) STREAMLINING DATA ACCESS FOR EMERGENCY RESPONDERS**

Last fall, this workgroup identified five topic areas for further investigation (see Attachment A for a summary of the meeting and these ideas). At its January 2010 meeting, the Policy Board included this topic area in its list of ideas to bring to MnGeo's/State Emergency Management Committee for attention at a statewide level. This matter was a topic of discussion at the March 31 meeting of the Statewide Geospatial Advisory Council (MGAC). Two candidate 2011 MetroGIS projects are suggested to build upon these efforts (see Agenda Report 5d):

- Expand upon the prototype emergency management structures application explained in Attachment B
- Consider co-hosting a GECCo forum with GITA

**F) PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – PHASE II**

(See Agenda Items 5b for an explanation of the Quantify Public Value (QPV) Study and its relationship to this Performance Measurement project.)

**G) GEOSPATIAL COMMONS – BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE**

To accomplish long-term sustainability, support resources available to supporting MetroGIS's "foster collaboration" function need to be expanded as acknowledged in the MetroGIS 2008-2011 Business Plan. Additionally, MetroGIS's current organizational structure (voluntary collaboration of willing organizations) will also need to evolve to a structure with capacity to receive and spend funding from multiple sources. The current structure was intended to serve as a means from which to clarify collaborative objectives for addressing sharing information needs and devise an organizational structure appropriate for collaboration across sectors, supported by multiple stakeholders.

Addressing these organizational development needs has also been recognized by the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) as essential ingredients to realizing the vision of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). Accordingly, the FGDC (Federal Geographic Data Committee) authorized offering of the Category 5 Return on Investment NSDI Grant category. The NGAC has also engaged in an initiative directly related to MetroGIS's organizational needs.

- 1) 2010 NSDI CAP Grant – Category 5 ROI Studies that focus on Multiple Agency Collaborative Endeavors. MetroGIS was awarded a \$50,000 grant under this category for a study entitled "Measuring Public Value of Geospatial Commons: A MetroGIS Case Study". (*Working title – Quantify Public Value (QPV) Study*) (See Agenda Item 5b).

Although substantial progress has been made through MetroGIS's efforts to establish a geospatial commons (regional solutions to shared information needs and one stop shop to access over 270 geospatial datasets), many believe that significant potential exists to greatly enhance the value of these resources if non-government interests were to have the opportunity to add value to these resources that, in turn, would be value to the community, in particular, public producers. This purpose of this study is develop a replicable methodology that is capable of measuring the public value created from such chaining / reuse of geospatial data.

- 2) National Geospatial Platform and NGAC Involvement: The Governance Subcommittee of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) developed a [whitepaper](#) entitled "Proposal to Measure Progress Toward Realizing the Vision of the NSDI. The high-level concepts presented in this paper were [endorsed](#) by the full NGAC on December 2, 2009 and the Subcommittee was authorized to begin work to build upon those high level concepts. Five categories of metrics are proposed, one focusing on organizational aspects of collaboration to achieve the vision of the NSDI. The need for an appropriate national organization structure is the same need faced by MetroGIS at the regional level. This need is also recognized in the emerging Geospatial Platform initiative in the federal space. The NGAC is expected to play a key advisory role in shaping this initiative, governance being among the primary areas of involvement.

# ATTACHMENT A

## Streamlining Access to Licensed Data by First Responders

*(Submitted by Gordon Chinander)*

Summary of Sept 29, 2009 meeting - Streamlining Data Access for Emergency Responders Workgroup

Group Members present:

Joella Givens, Randy Knippel, John Hoshal, William Brown, Gordon Chinander

Discussion started with the topic of the Emergency Responders who would be requesting this information. A list of potential responders was created and discussed. Discussion then moved back to question the original purpose of this workgroup and the directive from the policy board. The directive was initiated by Gordy's comment on problems with data access during the RNC, and how it should be streamlined for Emergency Responders in an incident response situation.

The Policy Board asked that the Coordinating Committee identify impediments that restrict the flow of spatial data in the event of an emergency, and provide recommendations as how to proceed. The Coordinating Committee then formed this workgroup.

The members of the Data Access for Emergency Responders workgroup discussed this issue at great length, and it was decided that this issue was much bigger than originally imagined for the some of the following reasons;

1. Minnesota statute section 466.03 protects municipalities from alleged or actual inaccuracies arising from the Public's use of GIS data but fails to protect private entities that offer GIS data for use in an emergency response.
2. There are potential legal issues with handling 3<sup>rd</sup> party data that is licensed for use by the county or city. (e.g. Imagery).
3. Redistribution of data is a major concern. One example would be the case of one agency providing spatial data to another agency. This would bypass the usage and liability disclaimer that would be displayed in the data portal or website.
4. Many agencies hold spatial data that they have created, but also data they have purchased or acquired via a license agreement to use.
5. There are two major parts to this problem, the legal aspects of sharing data (i.e. licensing and liability), and the physical aspects of sharing the data (i.e. who has what data and how do you get it).

The workgroup has identified **5 potential solution areas** for **further discussion and research**;

1. Sample language needs to be developed that people can add to new contracts (especially contracts with private companies) that would provide for the redistribution of the data in the case of an emergency. This language could also be used when creating MOUs relating to emergency response support. This language may include something like "In the event of a potentially life threatening event, as declared by the local Incident Commander, this spatial data will be distributed to individuals and agencies for use in responding to this event."
2. Rewrite or add to Mn Stat. Sec 466.03, so that any (private or public) GIS data producer that offers its data in the event of an emergency shall be protected from any liability resulting from the

use of this data. This language could also contain provisions for those who re-distribute spatial data.

3. Develop a distribution/ data portal for EM data.
4. Create a “Best Practices” document for GIS professionals who need/use spatial data for emergency response. This could include recommendations for agencies that create, own or hold spatial data, as well as those who seek spatial data from others. It could include contacts for various data sets (i.e. who to call for what), procedures for acquiring spatial data during an emergency, and suggestions for getting license agreements and data in place prior to an emergency.
5. Incorporate GIS response issues into ICS/NIMS and local emergency plans. This includes incorporating GIS positions/technology into ICS/NIMS, educating the Emergency Response community about the use of GIS for emergencies, and encouraging all local emergency response plans to address GIS maps and data.

## ATTACHMENT B

### Statewide Emergency Preparedness Data Project

3/5/10

Randy:

Regarding the status of the FGDC Structures CAP grant, since my report to you in January of this year, on February 26, I submitted the final report to USGS. That report is now available on the FGDC website:

<http://www.fgdc.gov/grants/2008CAP/projects/08HQAG0062>

Project accomplishments included:

- Assessment and standardization of existing structures data (national and state), including attribution, with capacity to add new data and integrate with The National Map.
- Development of a *MnGeo Structures Collaborative* prototype web-based map interface that includes editing and geospatial data entry tools.
- Creation of FGDC and MN State compliant metadata records.
- Creation of a statewide geospatial map library of structures based on a 10K USNG grid.
- Establishment of strategic relationships with state and local data contributors and stewards.

For links to the prototype web-based editing tool and promotional materials including a PowerPoint show with audio, see our *MnGeo Structures Collaborative* web site:

<http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/committee/emprep/structures/index.html>

Although the grant cycle is over, MnGeo and EPC members will continue to test and update the MnGeo Structures Collaborative tool, identify data authorities and custodians, build relationships between federal, state and local government, and promote integration of structures data that will support The National Map.

Best regards,

John Hoshal, MnGeo