



TO: Policy Board

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

SUBJECT: Major Activity Update

DATE: January 15, 2010
(For the Jan 27th mtg.)

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

PROJECT SPECIFICS

A) GIS WEB APPLICATIONS CONTEST

A high-level design for support of the proposed contest was developed via a forum of interested persons sponsored by the Contest Workgroup last December. This design was shared with the Coordinating Committee on December 17th. The Committee concurred with the workgroup that unless a lead technical manager is secured the contest can not be successfully hosted. The Workgroup was asked to secure a technical leader by the time of the March Committee meeting. Three members of the Committee (Bitner, Loesch, and Givens) volunteered to help with this effort.

B) GLOSSARY OF TERMS

chairperson Schneider asked for a glossary of terms to share with Policy Board members. A draft was shared with the Coordinating Committee at the December meeting. Members Fiebiger and Givens agreed to offer refinements for consideration at the March Committee meeting.

C) REGIONAL ADDRESS POINTS DATASET – ACCESS/DISTRIBUTION POLICY

At its September meeting, the Coordinating Committee tabled consideration of a proposed Regional Policy Statement to govern the proposed Regional Address Points Dataset. The proposal was tabled to investigate whether the Mn League of Cities could lend a hand with the standard liability disclaimer language. Mn League of Cities officials have expressed interest in leading development of the disclaimer language, though a timeline is not yet known. Policy Board Chair Schneider, who is also the Mayor of Minnetonka, and Ben Verbick, GIS Manager for LOGIS and member of the Committee, have agreed to act as MetroGIS's liaisons with the League. Metropolitan Council management has also authorized the Council's GUIS Unit to serve as the regional custodian.

D) REGIONAL GIS PROJECTS

Approved in 2008:

- Address Editing Tool (Technical Leadership Workgroup, Project Lead) \$13,500
Applied Geographics (Boston) was selected 14 months ago to develop the proposed Address Editing Tool but a contract to hire them is not yet written. With regard to the contract, agreement was reached over six months ago with respect to the interests with whom the prototype can be shared. These interests include each of the seven metro area counties, the Council, MnGeo and any of the collar counties if they choose to do so. Inclusion of the collar counties as a potential host of the prototype application provision was sought to act on the goal to improve interoperability with jurisdictions that adjoin the metro area.

Approved in 2009:

- Best Image Service - \$15,250: At the time of this writing, options were under investigation to expedite the funding agreement to govern the project. Due to the backlog in legal for such agreements, the objective is to utilize procurement processes that do not require legal review.
- Proximity Finder - \$18,750: SharedGeo received authorization in early to begin work. They are

planning a project kickoff meeting with Houston Engineering, their project partner, the week of January 18. Work on the project is expected to begin shortly thereafter.

E) NEXT-GENERATION REGIONAL STREET CENTERLINE SOLUTION

A 1-year contract extension was executed between the Metropolitan Council and with NCompass (formerly The Lawrence Group - TLG) securing continued access to the NCompass Regional Street Centerline Dataset at no cost for government and academic interests. This was the fifth in a series of agreements since 1997 with TLG to secure access to their database by MetroGIS stakeholders. The cost to the Council for the 1-year extension is \$61,566, plus \$3,950 for a one-time "Road Character" field enhancement. The terms of the agreement otherwise preserve the status quo. A RFP is planned to be published winter-spring in 2010 to secure street centerline data consistent with the specifics for a regional dataset.

F) DEVELOPMENT OF PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT – PHASE II

A Request for Proposals was published on October 23. No proposals were received. The Coordinating Committee concurred with the Staff Coordinator's suggestion to postpone republishing the RFP until we learn whether an [application](#) for a 2010 NSDI CAP grant, involving MetroGIS, is awarded. This decision is expected in March 2010. If the grant is awarded, the work on the proposed quantitative model is expected to have implications for development of the subject performance metrics.

G) 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). The Coordinating Committee included this topic in its list of ideas that it believes should be brought to MnGeo's/State Emergency Management Committee's attention at a statewide level (see Agenda Item 5f).

See Attachment B for an update on the related work of the State's Emergency Management Workgroup.

H) GEOSPATIAL COMMONS – BENEFITS OF PARTICIPATION AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

The preference to expand support sources available to supporting MetroGIS's "foster collaboration" function, beyond those provided by the Metropolitan Council, is recognized in the MetroGIS 2008-2011 Business Plan as a requirement for long-term sustainability. Further, MetroGIS's current organizational structure (voluntary collaboration of willing organizations) was intended to serve as a platform upon which to clarify collaborative objectives for addressing sharing information needs and providing a means for devising an organizational structure appropriate for collaboration across sectors and supported by multiple stakeholders. In Attachment C, rationale is offered to host a forum of experts to define such an organizational structure.

Two opportunities have arisen recently that, if able to be leveraged, have the potential to aid in addressing this local need. These opportunities are as follows:

- 1) 2010 NSDI CAP Grant – Category 5 ROI Studies that focus on Multiple Agency Collaborative Endeavors. 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. To act on this belief, a proposal was submitted for this grant opportunity. See Item F, above.
- 2) NGAC Action on Metrics Proposal: 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 2nd 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.

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 3rd 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 (Submitted by John Hoshal, MnGeo)

1/15/10

Regarding the status of the FGDC Structures CAP grant, since my report to you on October 1, 2009 we have been busy wrapping up the grant deliverables. Our activities over the past three months focused on data, web tools and outreach.

Data technical design and mapping highlights:

- EPC volunteers completed their data review and harmonization with federal (HSIP, National Map, iCAV, HAZUS, etc.) and state data holdings. This required a significant amount of effort but we now have a better understanding of current federal, state, local and discipline-related data bases and their associated attributes.
- From this research, the EPC has developed a “Minnesota” data schema for each of the grant’s data sets (hospitals, fire stations, police stations and schools).
- Starting with the original (HSIP Freedom and Mn Department of Education) data’s schema, each data set has been modified to meet the “Minnesota” design and ported to the SharedGeo CAP structures web-mapping review and editing application.
- MnGeo and EPC members completed the creation of a suite (over 2,000 maps) of 10K standardized maps for the entire state based on the U.S. National Grid (USNG). These maps include the location of CAP structures data (schools, hospitals, fire stations, police stations) – where it exists – and will be available for download via a ftp site hosted by MnGeo. They will also be accessible via the SharedGeo CAP Structures application. Its geospatial driven map library will allow individuals to select, view, and print U.S. National Grid (USNG) map products for anywhere in the state

Web tool development highlights:

- MnGeo and SharedGeo staff continued work on the CAP Structures web-based mapping application. This is a **prototype**, geospatially driven, structures editing tool that will allow communities to review, update, and add location and attribute data for structures in their community or region. Per MnGeo’s contract with SharedGeo, all functional requirements have been met and the final version has been delivered to MnGeo. It will be made available to EPC members and select emergency managers for review and comment.

Outreach highlights:

Though not entirely devoted to the CAP Grant, the grant was, or will be identified during these presentations:

October, 2009 -

- State Fire Chief’s Association convention; Randy Knippel
- Wisconsin Land Information Association regional conference; Steve Swazee
- Minnesota GIS-LIS conference; GCGI EPC members (six presentations)

November, 2009 – No formal presentations made.

December, 2009 –

- EPC Quarterly meeting

January, 2010 –

- FBI InfraGuard Program, 80 attendees, Swazee
- Incident Command Course, 15 attendees, Knippel
- IEMC Situation Unit, 15 attendees, Knippel
- CAP Structures on-line PowerPoint will be available (see below)

Other activities:

- MnGeo and EPC members are refining a PowerPoint presentation that describes the CAP Structures effort. It will be available via the EPC's web site.
- MnGeo and EPC members are preparing the final report required by the FGDC. The report will be submitted in late February and will be available via the EPC's web site.