



**TO:** Policy Board

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

**SUBJECT:** Information Sharing

**DATE:** April 12, 2010  
(For the Apr 21<sup>st</sup> meeting)

Announcements and information provided by individuals other than the Staff Coordinator are so noted.

**A) MN STATEWIDE GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL: MARCH 31 MEETING RESULTS**

The preliminary meeting summary for the March 31 MGAC meeting was not available when this report was prepared. When available, the summary will be accessible at <http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/councils/statewide/index.html>.

**B) NATIONAL GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (NGAC): MARCH 24-25 MEETING**

The preliminary meeting summary for the March 24-25 NGAC meeting can be viewed at [http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/march-2010/index\\_html](http://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/march-2010/index_html). Major items of business involved developing an action plan for the NGAC. Key components include defining the scope/meaning of a national geospatial platform and providing guidance concerning an initiative referred to as place-based budgeting.

**C) METRO AND STATE GEOSPATIAL INITIATIVES UPDATE**

**1) 2010 Geospatial Advisory Council meetings scheduled**  
**- Statewide Council**

Dates: March 31; June 30; Sept. 29; Dec. 29

Time: 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

Place: Blazing Star Room, Ground Floor Centennial Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul

Directions: <http://www.gda.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=16259>

Videoconferencing is available with at least 48 hours advance notice; see:

<http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/councils/videoconference.html>

**- State Government Council**

Dates: March 12; May 11; July 13; Sept. 14; Nov. 9

Time: 10:00 a.m. - noon (EXCEPT the March meeting which will be 1:00-3:00 p.m.)

Place: Nokomis Room, 3rd Floor Centennial Building, 658 Cedar Street, St. Paul

Directions: <http://www.gda.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=16259>

**2) County GIS Planning/Interactive Mapping (Parks Planning)**

A meeting was held on March 5 to talk about a potential county collaboration initiative to create a Parks and Trails mapping application. (See summary in Attachment A.) This effort has grown from conversations between counties about using SHIP grant dollars designated for this purpose. Instead of each county creating their own site, there are now talks about trying to share data and maybe create a common mapping application. This meeting is about determining the possibilities.

Scott and Carver County received this SHIP grant together and we are working on some things between us to utilize what Carver County has already created within their TRIP application – [www.gocarvergo.org](http://www.gocarvergo.org).

Members Slusarczyk and Knippel will be attending and have agreed to share the results with Committee members at the March 18 meeting. Topics to include:

- Share current plans and goals for each county
- Review a cross county interactive mapping system concept

- Discuss a standard data model
- Explore if a consistent interactive mapping platform is possible

*Comment from John Slusarczyk:* I've met with the Community Health folks here at Anoka County several times on this project. This has all happened rather quickly because they are looking to spend last year's SHIP money (I believe) and our work needs to be completed by June 30th. We're talking about doing something very similar to Carver Co's "GoCarverGo" site. Cindy Tranby had some conversations with Curt Peterson and it sounds like Ramsey is looking at a similar application as well.

Cindy had the idea of talking to all the metro counties about a collaborative effort which I thought made sense. I told her to contact Mark and/or Randy to possibly get MetroGIS involved as well. This meeting is intended to get GIS/Community Health staff together from the various counties to discuss similar applications and whether a metro-wide application would be a possibility.

- 3) **MetroGIS highlighted for [CTS Study](#)** - Transitway Data Management Project.
- 4) **The Dakota County Winter 2010 GIS Newsletter** has been posted to the Dakota County website. You can view it by clicking on this link:  
<http://www.dakotacounty.us/Departments/GIS/Newsletter/default.htm>.
- 5) **LOGISmap Offered on Public Site**  
LOGISmap has been the "flagship" example of browser-based GIS for the consortium. It lightly integrates with the consortium's property data and permitting systems, as well as a variety of data tables and document imaging systems, allowing city staff to geographically acquire necessary business information, investigate spatial relationships, produce simple map/report products, and compile mailings for city business. The functionality is now available for public use. For more information, see <http://www.mngisliis.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=521>

#### **D) NATIONAL/FEDERAL GEOSPATIAL INITIATIVES UPDATE**

- 1) **CRS [Report](#) Published Geospatial Information and Geographic Information Systems (GIS): Current Issues and Future Challenges.** In July 2009, the Congressional Research Service (CRS) of the Library of Congress has published a report on Geospatial and GIS issues facing Congress. An updated version published in February focuses on governance, FGDC, NSDI and NGAC issues.
- 2) **National Address Standard.** A national standard has been posted at <http://www.urisa.org/about/initiatives/addressstandard>. The Address Workgroup will be reviewing MetroGIS's preliminary address specifications against these proposed national specifications.
- 3) **GITA's (Geographic Information and Technology Association) GECCo Initiative.** The purpose of these GECCo workshops is to facilitate an interactive dialogue at the local level among community infrastructure stakeholders to begin to address collaboration and information exchange issues that inhibit effective response and recovery in times of emergency. (See Attachment B for more information).
- 4) **Scholarly Peer-Reviewed [Article](#) entitled "NSDI Building Blocks: Regional GIS in the United States".**
- 5) **NSGIC Speaks: Practical Measures to Make Data Sharing Happen.** On February 9<sup>th</sup>, Linda Wayne released the [results of a survey](#) she conducted Data Sharing Issues: What Works and What Doesn't
- 6) **Paper Published: [Web 2.0 And Homeland Security: Ending The Fragmentation Of The Practitioner Community](#)**
- 7) **British Ordnance Survey maps to go free online.** For more information, see <http://www.guardian.co.uk/technology/2009/nov/17/ordnance-survey-maps-online>

#### **E) PRESENTATIONS / OUTREACH / STUDIES (not mentioned elsewhere)**

1) **Articles / Presentations** - *none*

2) **Publications:** - *none*

F) **MARCH 18 COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY**

The summary of the March 18, 2010 Coordinating Committee meeting can be viewed at  
[http://www.metrogis.org/teams/cc/meetings/10\\_0318/10\\_0318mp.pdf](http://www.metrogis.org/teams/cc/meetings/10_0318/10_0318mp.pdf)

## ATTACHMENT A

### **Metro Counties – Recreational Portal Workgroup Meeting Summary**

*Submitted by John Slusarczyk – March 9, 2010*

**Date/Time/Location:** March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at 2:00 PM – St. Anthony Community Services

**In attendance:** Cindy Tranby (Anoka County), John Slusarczyk (Anoka), Pete Henschel (Carver), Joy Ahern (Carver), Tracy Bade (Carver), Kris Jenson (Dakota), Daniel Patterson (Dakota), Randy Knipple (Dakota), Lisa Bender (Hennepin), Connie Bernardy (Ramsey), Curt Peterson (Ramsey), Jody Yungers (Ramsey), Jim Bunning (Scott), Sarah Brainard-Marsh (Scott), and Andy Hingeveld (Scott)

Six of the seven metro counties had at least one staff member in attendance. The meeting had a good mixture of GIS, Parks, Planning and Public Health staff present.

While the agenda and discussion topics were fairly loosely defined, the ultimate goal of this meeting was to determine whether collaboration could occur between counties on a “GoCarverGo” like GIS web application.

All the counties present had some interest in such an application and all were at different points in the process. Report summaries for each county are given below:

- Anoka – no current application in place, but GIS and Community Health are teaming up to develop a GoAnokaGo type GIS application using SHIP money. An initial phase of the project would be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010.
- Carver – discussed their GoCarverGo website and TRIP application to the group. Carver contracted with Houston Engineering and Creature works to develop the site and application. The TRIP web application received over 135,000 hits in 2009.
- Dakota – no current application in place, but were interested in collaborating
- Hennepin – no current application in place, but were interested in collaborating
- Ramsey – has worked on developing data templates and collecting data for the past three years. They are using a combination of SHIP money and Ramsey Co. money to develop a comprehensive recreational portal. This portal would give staff and the public access to highly attributed data sets including parks, trails, sidewalks, bike paths, public facilities and other features that encourage active living. Ramsey presented their data templates to the group and was willing to share the templates with other counties looking for a similar data model.
- Scott – no current application in place, but were interested in collaborating
- Washington – not present at the meeting

Some good discussion occurred between those present about the possibility of eventually creating a metro-wide or even state-wide recreational portal. While there would be some logistical hurdles to overcome such as site hosting, data aggregation, and maintenance, all agreed that it was worth looking into.

It was suggested that as counties begin to develop datasets for “recreation portal” type sites, that we use a common data model to make it easier to merge the data later. Ramsey County offered their data model as a standard and stated they would consider input from other counties on potential changes or improvements.

Another meeting is being scheduled in April.

## ATTACHMENT B

### Geospatially Enabling Community Collaboration: The GECCo Initiative

*“...reduce and/or eliminate the vulnerability of the infrastructures of society’s complex technology systems that increase the difficulty for attacks on U.S. systems..”*

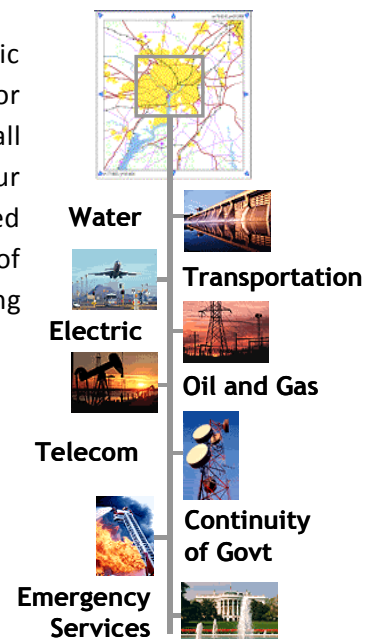


#### Excerpt, Homeland Security Presidential Directive 7

No matter the root cause of an emergency – terrorism, natural occurrences, or unintentional human error – the methods of preparing for, preventing, responding to, mitigating, and recovering from crisis are based on a common approach: the coordinated use of geospatial information to provide a common, spatially-based operational picture (map). This cannot happen without the many mutually dependent agencies and public and private organizations charged with protecting our nation’s citizens and infrastructure being able to efficiently and effectively share their geospatial data. GITA’s GECCo initiative was developed to address the obstacles that need to be overcome before this can happen.

#### Purpose of the GECCo Initiative

Critical infrastructure is vital to a community that depends on it for economic security, quality of life, delivery of service, and governance. Disruption of one or more critical infrastructure assets would have a profound negative effect on all sectors within that community. Recognizing the importance of our infrastructure interdependencies, GITA began an initiative in 2004 called “Geospatially Enabling Community Collaboration,” or GECCo. The purpose of GECCo workshops is to facilitate an interactive dialogue at the local level among community infrastructure stakeholders to begin to address collaboration and information exchange issues that inhibit effective response and recovery in times of emergency. The workshops employ an interactive, cooperative approach to enhance existing security-related efforts and enable community stakeholders to develop a framework by which public and private organizations can better collaborate in order to protect critical infrastructure. This framework includes intra- and inter-organizational collaboration and coordination, effective practices and guidelines, information access and exchange, interoperability and enterprise architecture, and data and technology requirements.



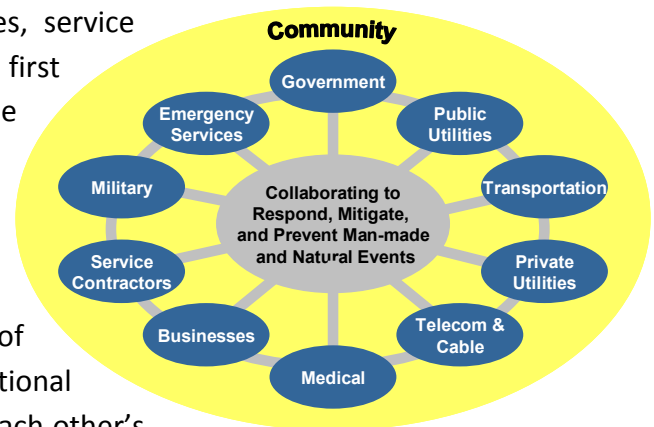
The outcome of each local or regional GECCo workshop is designed to enhance existing security-related efforts and enable community stakeholders to develop a framework so public and private organizations can better collaborate in order to protect critical infrastructure more effectively.

## Results to Date

GECCo workshops have been held successfully in Honolulu, HI, Denver, CO, Western New York State, Seattle, WA, Tampa, FL, and Phoenix, AZ. The two-day sessions have attracted an average of 45 representatives of local area utilities, local, state and federal government agencies, military units, first responders, and other user organizations. In each case, workshop participants gained valuable insight by identifying and discussing barriers to collaboration and how to overcome them, opportunities for sharing data, and defining keys to successful collaboration among local and regional organizations. In several cases following a GECCo, a local working group was established to continue to identify better ways to cooperate to provide for community infrastructure security. More recently, as part of an effort to integrate the GECCo program with national efforts, emphasis is being placed on ongoing federal directives and programs, such as the protected Critical Infrastructure program (PCII), the Homeland Infrastructure Foundation-Level Data (HiFLD) program, and the Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP).

## Community Collaboration

A community includes a variety of public and private organizations, including governmental agencies (local, state, and federal), public and private utilities, transportation, telecommunications and cable organizations, businesses, service contractors, military, emergency services and first responders, and other organizations. The goal of the GECCo initiative is to develop a replicable framework and tool set that stakeholders in communities across the U.S. can employ in constructing collaborative models for protecting critical infrastructure against both natural and man-made events. GITA's vision is a growing network of GECCo communities nationwide that contribute to national directives and programs, while continuing to gain from each other's experiences.



## About GITA

GITA is a non-profit association focused on providing education, information exchange, and applied research on the use and benefits of geospatial information and technology worldwide. Its membership includes federal, state, and local government agencies, utilities, infrastructure management organizations, and private sector companies. Visit us at [www.gita.org](http://www.gita.org).