



Approved by the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee on 12/8/2022

MetroGIS
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MetroGIS 2023 Work Plan

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What is MetroGIS?

MetroGIS is voluntary collaborative of government, private sector, non-profit and academic interests working to serve the on-going need for geospatial information in the Twin Cities metropolitan region. MetroGIS was formed in 1996 in response to the articulated need for maximizing the benefits of sharing geospatial data in the metro region.

The goal of MetroGIS is *to expand stakeholders' capacity to address shared geographic information technology needs through a collaboration of organizations that serve the Twin Cities metropolitan area.*

Relying entirely upon voluntary participation, MetroGIS realizes this mission by:

- *Identifying and defining shared geospatial information data and project needs;*
- *Implementing collaborative regional solutions to address shared needs;*
- *Fostering widespread access and sharing of geospatial data;*
- *Fostering recognition of the value of GIS as a core business tool;*
- *Facilitating knowledge sharing relevant to the advancement of GIS technology;*

MetroGIS' Mission Statement

"To provide an ongoing, stakeholder-governed, metro-wide mechanism through which participants easily and equitably share geographically referenced data that are accurate, current, secure, of common benefit and readily usable."



Adopted February 8, 1996

Sponsorship Statement

The work of MetroGIS is made possible and strengthened by the range of resources offered by its entire stakeholder community. Since MetroGIS' inception in February of 1996, the Metropolitan Council has provided the financial resources and administrative oversight to the collaborative, while other agencies, organizations and governments provide data, research, expertise, guidance, in-kind contributions, and governance. This blend of diverse resources is vital to the continuance of the MetroGIS collaborative to represent and serve the broad geospatial stakeholder community of the Twin Cities metropolitan region.

"MetroGIS" and "Sharing Information Across Boundaries" as well as the MetroGIS logo are registered service marks of the Metropolitan Council.

Introduction

The purpose of the MetroGIS Work Plan document is to provide a concise summary of the projects and activities to be undertaken in calendar year 2022 by the participants of the collaborative. The Work Plan is intended to be a living document and is subject to revisions and changes as recommended and approved by the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee.

Revision Procedure

The MetroGIS Coordinating Committee will formally revisit and edit the Work Plan once per year (*generally at the Fall Committee meeting*) to chart the progress of existing projects and include new projects which rise in priority and interest. The Annual Work Plan is then formally adopted by vote of the Coordinating Committee at its following meeting. The Work Plan is used as the primary instrument to direct activities and to program the annual MetroGIS budget.

Mid-Year Adjustments

Revisions and modifications to this Work Plan can be suggested by any member of the Coordinating Committee and be approved by vote at any quarterly meeting of the Committee. For a new project recommendation, a Coordinating Committee member may propose the project at a quarterly meeting. Committee members are encouraged to indicate the following regarding their proposed project:

- A project **owner**: *A person who would serve in a leadership role for the project, to act as its spokesperson and steward;*
- A project **champion**: *A person at senior management or policy-maker level who can advocate for the benefits of the project and its outcomes;*
- A project **work team**: *A group of individuals committed to the work tasks, review, course correction and implementation of the project;*
- A business case summary or similar document outlining the need(s) for the project and an indication of the anticipated **benefit** of the proposed project;
- A recommendation as to **budget requirements** and possible **funding source(s)**;

Upon receiving project proposals, the Coordinating Committee may then decide to:

- Accept the project to be worked on in the current year and prioritize it relative to the other projects scheduled for the current year;
- Table, or 'put on hold' the proposal and request additional information be gathered or research to support the project be conducted.
- Direct the Committee members, other staff or duly appointed party to conduct further research on behalf of the project and bring their findings to the Committee.
- Create a work group to begin work, research or other activities;
- Postpone the project until the next annual planning cycle;

Publication and Availability of the Work Plan

Revision and re-publication of the Work Plan document is the responsibility of the MetroGIS Coordinator or a duly appointed designee by the Coordinating Committee. A copy of the most current approved MetroGIS Work Plan will be made available to any member of the stakeholder community and public via metrogis.org or upon request submitted to the Matt McGuire.

MetroGIS Sustaining Activities



Maintenance Actions

MetroGIS assumes a core maintenance role for a variety of activities serving the geospatial community of the metropolitan region.

(1) Maintenance of Regionally Federated Datasets

The top priority of the MetroGIS collaborative is the maintenance and perpetuation of the Metro Regional Datasets, these being the Regional Parcel Dataset, Metro Regional Road Centerlines Dataset and Metro Regional Address Point Datasets. MetroGIS provides on-going support and maintenance activities to ensure these datasets are up-to-date, accurate and continually available including the following activities:

- The maintenance of the Memorandum of Agreement and its supporting Contract between the Seven Metropolitan Counties and the Metropolitan Council;
- The quarterly collection and review of the parcel data produced by the Seven Metropolitan Counties;
- Providing and editing of validation scripts and other tools for both the data producer and data consumer community to make use of.
- Documentation of questions, and responses back to the input from the data user community regarding the dataset;
- Publishing updated datasets and accompanying metadata to the Minnesota Geospatial Commons.

Regional Datasets supported and maintained by the MetroGIS collaborative include:

Metro Regional Parcel Dataset

The regional parcel dataset has been continuously published since 2002. Parcel data is collected and assembled quarterly (January, April, July, October) from authoritative county sources.

Metro Regional Address Point Dataset

The first regional address point dataset was published in August 2018. The dataset now includes Sherburne, Isanti, and Chisago Counties. It is a key dataset for NextGen9-1-1 deployment. It will be published to ESRI's Community Basemap for use in ESRI's World Geocoder.

Metro Regional Road Centerline Dataset

Available since April 2017, the metro centerlines dataset completed its transition from the MRCC format to the GAC-approved Road Centerline Standard format. It is a key dataset for NextGen9-1-1 deployment. It is published to ESRI's Community Basemap.

Metro Regional Park Dataset

Available with attributes since early 2018, this dataset represents an ongoing process of federating local, county and state parks, and related data into a regional dataset.

Metro Regional Trail Dataset

Available with attributes since early 2018, this dataset represents an ongoing process of federating local, county and state trails, on-street cycling routes, and related data into a regional dataset.

(2) Maintenance of the 'metrogis.org' website

MetroGIS staff maintains the 'metrogis.org' website as a resource for a variety of audiences including MetroGIS stakeholders, private sector stakeholders, non-profit and academic stakeholders; local, county, regional, state, and federal government participants, and researchers looking for data, standards, and related information.

(3) MetroGIS governance

MetroGIS maintains two on-going governance bodies, the Policy Board (comprised of elected officials, appointed officials, CIOs and administrative-level decision makers) and the Coordinating Committee (comprised of lead technical and management-level professionals). The MetroGIS Coordinating Committee also has the option to create and activate task-specific work groups as it sees fit. MetroGIS staff provides the support functions for these bodies to convene and act efficiently.

(4) Center of excellence for inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional collaboration, data development and data sharing

MetroGIS serves as a 'living laboratory' and resource to both the academic and government community in the operation, funding, management, and governance of a voluntary, inter-agency geospatial collaborative.

MetroGIS takes an active interest in the legal and legislative aspects of data development, data sharing and public data availability of geospatial and participates in research and advocacy efforts which facilitate the wider availability of geospatial data.



MetroGIS Projects for 2023

The following pages provide a one-page synopsis of each anticipated MetroGIS 2018 project; a short summary of the inactive projects is also provided.

Project Prioritization Brief

As a volunteer collaborative with limited fiscal and human resources, MetroGIS needs to be judicious when selecting the projects and initiatives it will proceed with.

Project priorities identified for the **2023 Work Plan** work cycle are identified in the table below. This ranking and prioritization reflect the discussion and decision of the Coordinating Committee. There are six (6) active projects. Two (2) projects are proposed. One proposed project needs more definition, documentation and shaping. The second proposed project, with low priority to the CC will not be actively pursued by MetroGIS during 2023. There are two (2) projects on hold. Finally, two long standing projects are complete and moving to maintenance status.

**After initial preferential rankings are complete, the Coordinating Committee may discuss the projects and manually re-order them as per their relevance to known business needs, likelihood of success and relevance to stakeholder interests. In such case, the order of projects would reflect this discussion and not match the numerical Priority Score assigned.*

Project/Activity Name	Status	Do in '23	CC Priority
Lidar Acquisition	Active	Yes	1
External Platform Publishing	Active	On-Going	2
MLCCS Update	Active	Yes	3
Migration of Address/Centerlines to the GAC Standard	Completed	Maintenance	4
9-1-1 Regional Data Viewer	Completed	Maintenance	5
Regional GIS Data Provisioning	Proposed	Unknown	6
Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)	On indefinite hold	No	
Metro Park and Trail Dataset and Data Standard	On indefinite hold	No	
Parcel Best Practices Guide	On indefinite hold	No	
Addressing Resource Guide	On indefinite hold	No	
Increased Frequency of Parcel Data Updates	Abandoned in 2022	No	

Detailed descriptions of projects and role of those involved are outlined in the following pages.

Priority #1 – Lidar Acquisition

Project Brief	This project demonstrates the importance of updated elevation data to the metro region. MetroGIS is contributing funds to the State of Minnesota to acquire newer and higher-resolution Lidar elevation data in partnership with the Federal collection (USGS 3DEP).
Critical Stakeholders	All MetroGIS participants and constituent partners who use elevation data in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan region of Minnesota.
Priority Level	1st
Budget	\$22,000 (Spent in 2022)
Benefit to Stakeholders	Benefits of more accurate and current elevation data for a wide variety of geospatial projects ranging from NextGen9-1-1 support, infrastructure development and management, water resources management and erosion control to name just a few.
Project Owners	Matt McGuire (Metropolitan Council) and Geoff Maas (Ramsey County)
Project Champion	N/A
Project Team	Tanya Mayer and the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee
Expected Timeline	Collection of imagery by vendor: during 2022 Delivery of imagery by vendor during 2023
Key Steps & Milestones	MetroGIS Project Funding approval (Sep 2021) USGS Funding Partner Form (Sep 2021) Metropolitan Council Inter-Agency Agreement with MNIT (Nov 2021) MNIT JFA with USGS for Central Mississippi River Lidar Collection Area Lidar collection (Spring 2022) 3DEP Standard Deliverables production (Point Cloud, DEM, Lidar Swath Polygon, Hydro-break lines, Metadata & Reports) Foundational Derived product development (1-ft Contours, Hill-shaded DEM, Canopy Height Model)
Policy Implications	There are no known policy implications to the request for funding.
Notes:	

Priority #2 – External Platform Publishing

Project Brief	As parcels, address points, centerlines and park and trail datasets transition from create to maintenance and their availability is consistent, it is the goal of the Metro County managers to have larger platforms consume this data as authoritative.
Critical Stakeholders	The data producer and data consumer community; Large platform hosts such as Google, ESRI Community Basemap and Open Street Map
Priority Level	2nd
Budget	None required
Benefit to Stakeholders	Authoritatively sourced, standardized geospatial datasets from the Seven Metropolitan Counties being readily available in larger platforms
Project Owners	GIS Managers from the Seven Metro Counties
Project Champion	Randy Knippel (Dakota County)
Project Team	Joe Sapletal (Dakota County)
Expected Timeline	Project participants will be examining methods and approaches as time permits
Key Steps & Milestones	Metro Counties are encouraging them to consume the data; 2019 Metropolitan Council ESRI Community Basemap account; 2019 Upload Parcel Data 2020 Upload Street Centerline Data 2020 and quarterly Upload Address Point Data 2022
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	On-going effort to get metro datasets consumed by external platforms

Priority #3 – MLCCS Update

Project Brief	Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data is widely used by county and city planners in the metro area. Due to the high cost of creating the data, a majority of the metro area has outdated MLCCS data. The goal of this project is to identify new GIS technologies that would lower the cost of creating Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data.
Critical Stakeholders	County and local governments and commercial developers
Priority Level	3rd
Budget	\$26,500 in 2023
Benefit to Stakeholders	Support comprehensive planning efforts and natural resource protection with a process to create current and accurate land cover data.
Project Owners	David Brandt, Geospatial Systems Architect, Washington County
Project Champion	Chris Lord, Anoka County Conservation District
Project Team	Bart Richardson, MNIT @ DNR Catherine Hansen, MNIT @ DNR Jason Husveth, Critical Connections Len Kne, U of M Kristine Mauer, Hennepin County Jim Drake, NatureServe Paul Bockenstedt, Stantec Jay Riggs, Washington County Dave Holmen, Dakota County
Expected Timeline	
Key Steps & Milestones	
Policy Implications	
Notes:	\$5,500 through in-kind (DNR and other agencies)

Priority #4 – Metro dataset migrated into the GAC Standard format

Project Brief	Migration of metro datasets from formerly used metro-level standards to GAC-adopted standards
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders creating, needing, or GIS data interjurisdictionally in the metropolitan region.
Priority Level	4th
Budget	No funds are allotted from MetroGIS to advance this initiative;
Benefit to Stakeholders	Access to authoritatively sourced, standardized road and address point data for the entire metro region
Project Owners	All counties contributing data and Metropolitan Council staff performing validations
Project Champion	None
Project Team	GIS staff at each participating county working on preparing and submitting data for inclusion.
Expected Timeline	Completed
Key Steps & Milestones	Project declared complete at MetroGIS CC Meeting September 2021
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	Project is complete, partners are migrating data into the GAC Standards for the regional datasets – now in maintenance mode

Priority #5 – 9-1-1 Regional Data Viewer

Project Brief	The development and maintenance of a freely available data viewer resource that facilitates viewing of regionally federated datasets needed by the 9-1-1 community to may lack access to GIS software or expertise.
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders needing authoritative address points Addressing Authorities (primarily cities) Data aggregators (County Governments, Metropolitan Council, MnGeo)
Priority Level	5th
Budget	No funding necessary Staff time and In-kind services of participating agencies will conduct the initial stages of work of the project
Benefit to Stakeholders	Availability to geospatially enabled and non-geospatially enabled staff of stakeholder organizations of regionally federated datasets in an easy-to-use data viewer. While being tailored specifically to the needs of the NextGen9-1-1 user community, the viewer will be available to the public.
Project Owner	Marcia Broman, 9-1-1 Data Coordinator Metro Emergency Services Board
Project Champion	Jill Rohret, Executive Director Metro Emergency Services Board
Project Team	MESB Staff (Broman, Oslin) Metro County GIS Staff (Representatives from each Metro County) Metropolitan Council Staff (McGuire, Murphy)
Expected Timeline	Maintenance Mode
Key Steps & Milestones	First version is available, initial informal testing with county GIS staff has begun as well as with select PSAP representatives. A more formal user-experience testing session is anticipated sometime in late 2019 or early 2020. Input from these sessions will be incorporated in future improvements of the resource.
Policy Implications	County GIS Offices developing and maintaining good relationships and to execute contracts (as needed) with their constituent cities to ensure the continuous flow of authoritatively created address point data; Ensuring the aggregated data meets the needs of NextGen9-1-1 use cases;
Notes:	Project has been in maintenance mode since 2020.

Proposed Project – Regional GIS Data Provisioning

Project Brief	This proposed project aims to document data lifecycle/flow from address and road creation through the regional datasets into the statewide datasets, including those used for NG9-1-1
Critical Stakeholders	Stakeholders involved in the creation, aggregation, and validation of multi-use address and road geospatial datasets
Priority Level	6th
Budget	No budget current dedicated to this project
Benefit to Stakeholders	Create clarity of ongoing lifecycles for addresses and roads, leading to their inclusion in regional and statewide datasets for consumption in multiple uses, including Next Generation 9-1-1
Project Owners	Marcia Broman (MESB)
Project Champion	Jill Rohret
Project Team	On-going outreach to GIS staff at each participating county as needed for input in the development/review of lifecycle models, agreements, and any other documents created; Participation welcome from any interested party
Expected Timeline	12-31-2022/ongoing
Key Steps & Milestones	Develop lifecycle models/frameworks Identify any underpinning agreements/documents Develop supporting materials Share with counties as a framework for county use in aligning at their discretion with internal processes
Policy Implications	None identified at this time
Notes:	This project effort is not exclusive to the requirements of NG9-1-1 and is proposed to address the lifecycles of address and road data supported by metro county GIS organizations and intended for multiple use cases.

On hold: Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)

Project Brief	The MSWGP is focused on the creation of a stormwater geodata transfer standard to meet the various needs of the mapping, modeling, water quality, regulatory and engineering community including a pilot project of sample data to enable the community to test the standard in context, and refinements to accommodate and document input from the stakeholder community.
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders who create, use, consume or need stormwater system data in the Twin Cities metro region; these include city, county, regional, state, federal data creators and users as well as academic interests, engineering and modeling professionals and the water quality and regulatory community
Priority Level	On hold
Budget	None needed
Benefit to Stakeholders	Availability of a stormwater geodata transfer standard for the entire geospatial community to make use of for creating, maintaining, and assembling stormwater system data in GIS;
Project Owners	Geoff Maas, Ramsey County Information Services Carrie Magnuson, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Project Champion	None
Project Team	30-plus member MSWGP Steering Committee (Formed in April 2018, met last in early 2021 on-line to discuss revisions)
Expected Timeline	Draft version of stormwater data will be available indefinitely. As agencies begin to utilize the standard, they can propose additional revisions and changes as they see fit. Maas to continue to serve as point of contact and document custodian for the effort
Key Steps & Milestones	Draft version of the standard proffered to the GAC Standards Committee. GAC Standards Committee
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	The University of Minnesota Stormwater Research Council remains interested in promoting the standard as a resource to the professional stormwater community.

On hold – Metro Park and Trail Dataset and Data Standard

Project Brief	The creation and adoption of a park and trail data standard and the creation and maintenance of a metro wide park and trail dataset that is freely and openly available and updated periodically to reflect the presence of park and trail assets of the region.
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders creating, needing or using park and trail data interjurisdictionally in the metropolitan region.
Priority Level	On hold
Budget	No funds are allotted from MetroGIS to advance this initiative;
Benefit to Stakeholders	Access to authoritatively sourced, standardized park and trail data for the Seven County Metropolitan region
Project Owners	Alex Blenkush, Hennepin County Jon Hoekenga, Metropolitan Council Geoff Maas, Ramsey County
Project Champion	
Project Team	GIS staff at each participating county working on preparing and submitting data for inclusion.
Expected Timeline	An updated version of the dataset in Version 1.2 was published to the Minnesota Geospatial Commons in February 2020, this represents the best version of the data available at this time.
Key Steps & Milestones	January 2019 project team meeting created v. 1.2 of the data schema, agreed upon which fields would need validation. Validation script based on these decisions and provided it to the county partners for running on their data prior to submittal. A Best Practices Document to support the dataset.
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	On-going through 2020 and beyond

On hold - Parcel Data Best Practices Guide

Project Brief	The creation of a document/resource that draws together technical, legal, policy and procedural information for the creation, maintenance and use of parcel data.
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders creating, needing, or using parcel data
Priority Level	(ON HOLD)
Budget	None needed
Benefit to Stakeholders	A centralized document or resource which contains information germane to the creation, maintenance and use of parcel data.
Project Owners	None
Project Champion	None
Project Team	None
Expected Timeline	No timeline
Key Steps & Milestones	None
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	There is no one currently available to perform this work.

On hold - Addressing Resource Guide

Project Brief	The creation of a document/resource that draws together technical, legal, policy and procedural information for the creation, maintenance and use of address point data
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders creating, needing or using address point data
Priority Level	On hold
Budget	No funds are allotted from MetroGIS to advance this initiative; In-kind (staff time) resources will provide the work;
Benefit to Stakeholders	A centralized document or resource which contains information germane to the creation, maintenance and use of address point data.
Project Owners	None
Project Champion	None
Project Team	NextGen9-1-1 Standards Workgroup GAC Standards Committee Metro Addressing Work Group
Expected Timeline	Unknown
Key Steps & Milestones	Initial research and documentation and creation of examples has begun
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	There is no one available at this time to perform the work

Abandoned Project – Increased Frequency of Parcel Data Updates

Project Brief	Increasing the frequency of parcel data updates from the current established quarterly schedule (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct)
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders needing authoritative address points Addressing Authorities (primarily cities) Data aggregators (County Governments, Metropolitan Council, MnGeo)
Priority Level	ABANDONED
Budget	None
Benefit to Stakeholders	Availability of more frequently updated, authoritatively sources parcel data to the user community.
Project Owner	Randy Knippel, Dakota County
Project Champion	Randy Knippel, Dakota County
Project Team	None
Expected Timeline	On-going
Key Steps & Milestones	Attempted to perform 6x a year parcel data collection. This was abandoned and returned to the 4x a year schedule
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	Project has been abandoned To be removed from next version of work plan

MetroGIS 2023 Budget

MetroGIS' core financial support is provided by the Metropolitan Council in the form of an annual budget allotment. Until 2018, MetroGIS budget was \$86,000/year. In 2018, MetroGIS' budget was reduced to \$50,000/year by the Metropolitan Council Information Services Department. In 2023, MetroGIS' budget is \$57,000. Formal programming and direction of the collaborative's available funds are decided upon by the Coordinating Committee. This budget can be amended by actions of either the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee, MetroGIS Policy Board or the Information Services Department of the Metropolitan Council as is needed to meet the project aims of the collaborative.

Summary Budget

Rank	Category	2023	2022	2021	2020
<i>Budget</i>	MetroGIS Regional Data Sharing Agreements (Counties)*	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
<i>Budget</i>	MetroGIS Regional GIS Projects*	26,500	25,000	22,000	22,000
<i>Budget</i>	Total Metropolitan Council IS Budget Allotment for MetroGIS	58,500	57,000	54,000	54,000
<i>Funding</i>	External Grant Funds	0	0	0	0
<i>Expenses</i>	County Data Sharing Agreements	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
1	Lidar Acquisition (Spring 2022)	0	22,000	0	
2	External Platform Publishing	0	0	0	0
3	MLCCS Update ^(a)	26,500	[8,000] ^(a)		
4	Metro Migration to the GAC Standards (Maintenance)	0	0	0	0
5	9-1-1 Regional Data Viewer (Maintenance)	0	0	0	0
P	Regional GIS Data Provisioning	0	0	0	0
H	Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)	0	0	0	0
H	Metro Park and Trail Dataset and Data Standard	0	0	0	0
H	Parcel Best Practices Guide (on hold)	0	0	0	0
H	Addressing Best Practices Guide (on hold)	0	0	0	0
A	Increased Frequency of Regional Parcel Dataset Updates		0	0	0
	Committed and/or Already Spent	54,500	50,000	28,000	28,000
	Remaining: Unspent/Unused	4,000	7,000	26,000	26,000
	MetroGIS Misc. Expenses - Earmarked**	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
	MetroGIS Misc. Expenses - Total Spent	0	0	0	0

* Awaiting Metropolitan Council budget adoption

** MetroGIS Miscellaneous earmarked expenses - \$2000

^(a) Budgeted \$8000 in 2022 which was not used

P = Proposed, H = Hold, M = Maintenance, C = Complete, A = Abandoned

Prioritization Process -

5.1 At Committee meeting, review the projects;

5.2 Identify and address any errors;

5.3 Share form with CC members to score *each* MetroGIS project's importance to the agency they represent;

5.4 Brief review and discussion of process;

5.6 CC has a week to review, give more thought and resubmit scoring form;

5.7 Preferences are tallied, and each project gets a priority score;

5.8 Committee can change priority during an agenda item at a future meeting, if the committee so chooses;