

## GIS Advisory Council

April 25, 2024

### Council Members

Alfredo Herrera  
Scott Gaul  
Stuart DeLand  
Elizabeth Congo  
Dan Czaja

Gary Archambault  
Erik Snowden  
Mark Hoover  
John Guskowski

Emily Wilson  
Peter Sampiere  
Meghan McGaffin

**Official Start time: 1:02pm**

### Agenda

#### Introductions

##### Attendance:

Alfredo Herrera  
Scott Gaul  
Stuart DeLand  
Elizabeth Congo  
Dan Czaja

Gary Archambault  
Erik Snowden  
Mark Hoover  
John Guskowski  
Emily Wilson

Meghan McGaffin

#### Introductory remarks

- GIS staffing changes. New GIS Coordinator starting on May 17 – Ashley Benitez from CTDEEP.

#### Public Comment

- None

#### Meeting Administration

- Changes in membership of council
- Liz Congo – New DOT representative
- Thad no longer on the council, working on reappointment.

#### 2023-2028 Strategic Plan

- First edition of the plan is complete and reviewed. Thanks to Carl Zimmerman for all his work.
- Plan is fully written, edited, and checked. Once council approves plan, it will be posted on the website. Reviewed by external stakeholders and internal reviewers.
- Questions or comments? None.
- John Guskowski: Motion to approve and adopt the strategic plan; seconded by Meghan McGaffin.

- All approved. Motion carried. Adopted unanimously by the Council.

### **GISO Priority Topics**

- **Broadband Mapping**
  - We have been working with DEEP Bureau of Energy and Technology Policy (BETP) to aggregate and evaluate data on Connecticut Community Anchor Institutions, which are used in part of the BEAD Program.
  - In March the CAI list was published and currently there is an opportunity to challenge the locations for a variety of reasons.
  - Questions arose about the how the published broadband availability speeds, which are sourced from the FCC Broadband Data Collection data, compared to actual speeds that are offered by local service providers.
  - We were able to evaluate the BDC availability speeds in the CAI list and compare it to speeds offered by CEN at the same locations, to understand the magnitude of what the challenge process will look like for them. This was important to see where discrepancies arise for served and unserved locations to better understand the landscape of how CAIs are served.
- **Aerial Imagery Update**
  - Delivery is progressing – up to 60% of the state.
  - We are working through a QA/QC process to find systemic errors; many stakeholders agreed to review the data. Working through Block 1, 2, and 4. Using this information to respond to the vendor.
    - Block 1 is finished and returned.
    - Block 2: GISO approval soon, on schedule; it will take vendor 2-3 weeks to respond to comments.
    - Block 3: on schedule
    - Block 4: Working through it, most parts on time, some parts a little behind schedule
  - Status of derivative products:
    - Stream and lakes: generally very good, the width and size limitations cause some separation
    - Building footprints: 2 million+ buildings, had some issues with quality of this data, working with the vendor to fix the quality issues, in discussion with vendor about final edits
    - Shoreline and low tide: logical and consistent
    - DEM/Surface model: excellent, very few errors, clarification with vendor of how a saddle is defined
    - Many edits from stakeholders; 25 people participating with review of the data
  - We are receiving some really excellent imagery!
- **Question from Meghan: Will you be releasing data all at once or staging data?**
  - Carl: Data will be released at different times as it is available to come out. More details to come about the timelines of all the products.
- **Question from Meghan: Are there more funding opportunities to keep this going?**
  - Alfredo: No answer yet, we are trying to get through this round first.

- Comment from Erik Snowden: Hopefully Dewberry is learning a lot from this round so that it can be done quicker next time.
  - o Alfredo: Yes, we are in discussion for what the contingency plans will be. Plan for next flight in 2026.
- Question from Stuart DeLand: Regarding 2026 flight, will the QA/QC process be the same?
  - o Carl: It would probably be more streamlined by then because the process will be more refined. Hopefully it will be less work and less involvement next time around. We will be able to provide more guidance to the vendor, so we should receive fewer errors.
- Parcel Collection and Aggregation
  - o May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline
  - o We are wrapping up outreach for this collection
  - o CAMA changes:
    - Added additional field “Suppression”, so you can identify that an entry should be suppressed
  - o Biggest change in this collection will be changes in the parcel schema
  - o New CAMA and Parcel Website (which has been moved from the IGPP page)
  - o The current parcel dataset is very widely used; if you have any interesting uses in this data, please let us know so that we can accommodate unique use cases.
  - o Comment from Meghan: Results are vastly improved over previous year, thanks to all the work that went into it.
  - o Comment from Mark Hoover: It would be helpful if we copy the COG staff on the emails to assessors going forward.
    - Alfredo: Noted, we will do this going forward.
  - o Question from Erik: Because of suppression field being added to reports, there are some delays in the data. It may be coming in a little later than May 1<sup>st</sup>. How are we tracking if the data is submitted?
    - Alfredo: Web application being developed so you can find out who submitted data.
    - Erik: Is there going to be a formal template on the compliance?
    - Alfredo: Hope to collect through the survey app and parse the information that way. Happy to work together on this while we are developing. Hope to get the app/dashboard out soon about who has submitted.

### **Presentation from the Federal Geographic Data Committee – Josh Delmonico**

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) – What is it? And why is it important to Connecticut?

- FGDC lead entity in executive branch for reviewing geospatial data policy and standards.
- Summary of FGDC Duties under GDA
  - o National – lead development and management of NSDI
  - o Federal – oversee management of federal geospatial portfolio, operate GeoPlatform that provides public access to data.
- NSGIC Maturity Assessment
- The Geospatial Data Act

- Established FGDC responsibilities and National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC): state and local representatives on the committee
- Economic Value of Location
  - \$1.6 trillion in revenue
- NSDI is the digital infrastructure that connects our Nation's data enabling local to national solutions
- What does the NSDI consist of?
  - Made up of the technology, policies, criteria, standards, and people necessary to promote geospatial data sharing throughout the Federal Government, State, tribal, and local governments, non-profits, academia, and private sector.
- How is the NSDI being used?
  - Used across the country to support wide variety of functions critical to government and business
- Examples of local, state, and federal data
  - Local/state: road, address, parcel, local boundaries
  - Federal: public land parcels, hydrography, elevation, satellite remote sensing
- Why the NSDI? What value can it deliver?
  - Emergencies don't understand political boundaries; we need to be able to coordinate and collaborate across the boundaries to solve problems.
  - How do we bring all the data together? NSDI is a mechanism of bringing the data together
  - NSDI requires us to have complete, consistent, and standardized data across administrative boundaries nationwide.
  - NSDI working on some pilot work
- CT and the NSDI
  - Local and state governments have a role in contributing to best practices
  - Data sharing and coordination, data collection and maintenance, compliance
  - CT contributes experiences
- NSDI Now and into the future
  - Today:
    - Robust national datasets
    - Global standards framework shows what is possible
    - Tools and applications available
    - Robust policy framework
  - Future (2035)
    - Looking towards AI driven action, global interoperability, self updating maps, better search and discovery, immersive visualization, more geospatial insight (help users derive first and second level knowledge from the data)
  - Strategic plan: working on a 2035 strategic plan
    - Drafted set of goals based on stakeholder engagement
    - Aligned draft with United Nations group of experts to include global partners
    - Integrated all of the feedback to come up with the current draft
    - Will go out for public comment.
    - NSDI Vision and Mission Statement

- NSDI Goals and Objectives
- Priority national datasets to fill by 2035
- Next steps: finalize draft plan, release for public comment in May, go through comments (June), finalize plan through steering committee (July), develop implementation plan (now through 2025), implement.
- A shared vision for the future: there is a lot of shared vision between CT Geospatial strategic plan and the NSDI strategic plan.
- Opportunities to work together
  - Input on strategic plan during public comment period
  - Nominations for National Geospatial Advisory Committee
  - Update and maintain data
  - Make data available
  - Tell your story
- Start thinking about your part in the plan; what would it take in your perspective to achieve the 2035 plan
- Questions:
  - Alfredo: What is a tangible way that state/local can contribute to NSDI?
    - Josh: Make sure your data meets your state and local requirements; fundamentally maintaining your data; participate.
  - Alfredo: When developing datasets, recommendations for how we can structure or prepare the data, so we can think about it from a more holistic perspective?
    - Josh: Federal has a lot of work to do in that area, but may not have time to do it. Perhaps could use something like AI. Work to do in developing strong national data standards and models. Look widely to find standards. FGDC has not have a standards staff person for several years. Hoping to eventually have more standards developed.
  - Carl: Data moves fast, how do you think concept of NSDI translates to the future when more data is flowing through more systems?
    - Josh: We are seeing a lot of open street map and crowdsourcing data; there needs to be a huge rethinking in what the NDSI is.
- How did CT receive this information?
  - It would be good to talk about tangible ways we can interact and how NDSI can interact with the state, and especially the local, level. A lot of the people on this call are the ones on the ground making the call. The decisions made have wide-reaching ramifications.

### **Closing remarks**

- Thanks to everyone for joining and participating.

**Adjourn: 2:26pm**