

GIS Advisory Council

April 17, 2025

Council Members

Alfredo Herrera
Scott Gaul
Stuart DeLand
Elizabeth Congo
Dan Czaja

Gary Archambault
Erik Snowden
Mark Hoover
John Guskowski
Tracy DeGrazia

Emily Wilson
Peter Sampiere
Meghan McGaffin

Official Start time: 1:04pm

Agenda

Introductions

Attendance:

Alfredo Herrera
Scott Gaul
Stuart DeLand
Elizabeth Congo
Dan Czaja

Gary Archambault
Erik Snowden
~~Mark Hoover~~
~~John Guskowski~~
Tracy DeGrazia

Emily Wilson
Peter Sampiere
~~Meghan McGaffin~~

Introductory remarks

- Meeting invites for the next few meetings have been sent out ahead of time.

Meeting Administration

- Public comment moved to the end of the meeting.

GIS Office Updates

Broadband Mapping (Alfredo Herrera)

- Map of change in number of internet service providers per census block between 2022 and 2024. We are making progress in promoting the development of broadband by informing grant making and decision progress and track the results.
- Ashley Benitez finished meeting with all the ISPs in April. We are working on collecting the data from the ISPs using the FCC schema. Data collected in April represents the data as of Dec 31, 2024. We receive the data at about the same time that they are submitted to the FCC, so that we can early access to the data which is important for advocacy work.
- Working on updating the Broadband Hub. Let us know if you have feedback and suggestions.

Parcel and CAMA Improvement Grants (Alfredo Herrera)

GIS Advisory Council Section 79 of Public Act 21-2 of the June 2021 Special Session

- These are completed. We have received all of the work plans from the COGs. We have been working closely with the COG representatives.
- Elizabeth Congo: All the information has the suppressed records removed.
 - o Alfredo: There were some concerns about the status of the suppressed records. In the CAMA vendor reports, these records should be suppressed. We requested adding the suppressing field last year and discovered some datasets that did not have the data properly suppressed.

Parcel and CAMA Data Updates (Leah Hodges)

- This year we updated the domain for the Parcel Type field.
- One big change for this year is we are asking for data to be submitted through a data submission website.
- Demo of the new data submission website: geodatasubmission.ct.gov
 - o Sign up for an account
 - o Directions included on the site
 - o Data submission survey
 - Updates dashboard on the site
 - o Data review dashboard that updates when data is submitted
 - o Survey for COG to verify that data is submitted
 - o Resources to guidance page, Open Data Portal, Geodata Portal
- Previously we were receiving files in a variety of ways (email, OneDrive, etc.). We wanted to create a centralized data submission system to facilitate the data quicker and more streamlined.
- For those involved in the process, if you have more questions we are happy to show you what we are doing.
- If you have a use case to extend this process to other data topics (address, culverts, etc.), please talk to us so we can try to set something up.

Imagery and Lidar Updates (Carl Zimmerman)

- All data has been received.
- One outstanding downstream product (Impervious Cover data collection)
- Buildings received and published in "beta". They will continue to be received.
- 3D Buildings available on CT ECO
- Durga Joshi (intern) has finished the vegetation datasets
- Working on getting the contour service running. There is a lot of data, but we are working on it.
- Distribution of data: We are working on getting the data distributed to the public. DEM is out to NOAA. Distributing data to Esri Community Maps.
- Updating Imagery Hub site available in the Geodata Portal. An informational page.
 - o Emily Wilson: Download tool published by CT ECO allows users to easily download imagery and lidar data.

Discussion

Strategic Plan (Carl Zimmerman)

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- A year ago we completed the first Strategic Plan and now we will be doing annual updates.
- Primary focus is what we made progress on, where we are at in meeting objectives and activities, and operational goals.
- We have a draft finished and are in internal review. Once that is finished we will distribute to the Council to review.
- Vision and mission statements are unchanged
- Same strategic goals
- Highlights from the year: CAMA and Parcel data, Parcel improvement grant program, 2023 lidar and imagery data delivered, CT ECO data download site, GIS newsletter and improved communication, infrastructure improvement with hardware and software, monthly webinars and interagency GIS group, vegetation dataset, Esri SAG award, outreach and networking with users and stakeholders
- Stakeholder outreach and data collection – identify critical changes in user needs or GIS community
 - o External survey closed in March, received about 37 submissions
 - o External stakeholder meeting at UConn Middlesex, about 20 attendees
 - o Interagency GIS Users meeting, 80+ attendees. Received a lot of feedback about what people are working on or want to work on.
- Internal staff progress review
 - o Annual goals came from the internal review of the list
 - o We evaluated if we met the goal, and if not why.
 - o Self-evaluated if we met the objective and activities
 - o Internal grading of progress, overall a B-
- Composite results
 - o Limited participation and limited new information
 - o GAC, GISO, and CT Geodata Portal are more visible
 - o At the state level, most people have access to and use Esri, not much open source
 - o Concern in the parcel system integration
 - o Important datasets – parcel, addresses, boundaries, imagery
 - o The community is not concerned about finding data or data in web services
 - o Funding environment is possibly at risk
 - o Users want training for the whole ecosystem
 - o Minor tweaks to objectives and activities
 - o Overall: we have made good progress in the last year
- Memo send to GAC about the operational goals.
- Gaps and issues in the annual goals
 - o Reduce manual parcel analysis
 - o Permanent funding
 - o Limited datasets for emergency management
 - o Water resources, start plan for CT Water Resources data improvements
 - o We will meet with COGs in person to increase interaction with smaller towns and non profits
 - o Need for a statewide geocoder, we will be working on creating and improving a geocoder

- Provide automation support for users, set up a GitHub site
- Collaborate with Higher Education
- Create intake process for projects
- Statewide ELA plan or access to open-source GIS tool – universal access to some GIS tools and provide training
- Acquisition of impervious cover datasets and distribute
- Create services of the impervious cover datasets, training on the 3D data, distribution packages of foundational datasets
- Discussion
 - Stuart DeLand: ...
 - Alfredo: We will probably be pushing that off. Spoke with MassGIS about their experience and it was a big lift. It is still a goal for the future, but it will probably take some time to get it done since it includes so many different stakeholders that need to agree on an approach.
 - Stuart DeLand: Emergency management piece. DEEP has had many discussions following the Hawthorne fire. Management is very interested in what will happen regarding fire response.
 - Alfredo: We will.... Of things that did and did not work. We will be reaching out to those involved to make sure we give people what they need regarding mapping support and applications.
 - Carl: The user side presents an opportunity to have domain groups of likeminded users to improve the data and processes.
 - Emily Wilson: Don't see standards on the list, there are a lot of standards in process.
 - Alfredo: We will make that adjustment.

Geodata Portal Publishing Guidelines (Sarah Hurley)

- The purpose of the Geodata Portal Publishing Guidelines is to help GIS data publishers follow a clear, consistent process when contributing to the CT Geodata Portal.
- Data publishers are state agencies and trusted partners
- The Guidelines will offer standards for data quality, metadata, walkthroughs, etc.
- The GIS Advisory Council received this document to review and we are looking for feedback on the document and what should be added or changed.
- Emily Wilson: File format and size considerations (sharing the item out when it is hosted somewhere that isn't on the portal). A lot of language saying "agency", but be clear on who the audience is and who would be publishing to the portal.
- Stuart DeLand: Date created and data updated information is really important. But in AGOL it is misleading information. Important to have it in the metadata, but people aren't looking at the metadata, just what is being generated by ArcGIS Online
 - In terms of metadata, add a blurb of the field names and descriptions. At least for fields that you are symbolizing off of.

Public comment

- None

Closing remarks

- Thanks to everyone for joining and participating. Next meeting will be in the last Thursday of June. Let us know if any council members have any conflicts.
- We are considering having an in-person meeting for this group at some point.

Adjourn: 2:06pm