

GIS Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

June 26, 2025

1:00pm – 2:30pm

Members present: Alfredo Herrera (OPM), Stuart DeLand (DEEP), Dan Czaja (DESPP), Erik Snowden (CRCOG), Mark Hoover (MetroCOG), John Guskowski (CCM), Tracy DeGrazia (CCM), Emily Wilson (UConn), Peter Sampiere (United Illuminating)

Absent: Scott Gaul (OPM), Elizabeth Congo (DOT), Gary Archambault (DPH), Meghan McGaffin

Start time: 1:02PM

Introductions and Attendance

- Welcome from Alfredo Herrera
- Attendance

Council Administration

- None

2025 Legislative Session Update

- Several GIS related bills
- Passed:
 - Towns annually submit data on bridges and culverts to OPM by 2028. OPM, DEEP, DOT named to receive the data
 - Update to state plane and coordinate system. Changed language so when there is an update DOT is able to review and accept
 - \$5M for statewide flood and resiliency mapping
- Did not pass:
 - Change in collection date for parcels
- Other:

- Bill to require indoor mapping legislation proposal to map inside schools and other public facilities; we wrote testimony to oppose this bill on technical and fiscal fronts; this bill did not pass

GISO Priority Topics and Working Group Updates

Interagency Working Groups (Carl Zimmerman)

- Water Resources
 - DeAva Lambert & Carl Zimmerman working together on water resources planning regarding 3DHP
 - Received funding for flood and resiliency mapping
 - Kicking off a new group to create schema and guidelines for the future of CT's water resource data
 - Should begin later this month
 - DCA to USGS for cooperative funding. effort with other New England states. Strong proposal. Due to fiscal uncertainty, unable to access the fund that would have been used. Money is allocated for our portion of the project, but unable to spend now. Will submit new DCA in the upcoming fiscal year and will include New Hampshire plus New York.
 - Working on getting our imagery and lidar data integrated into the 3DEP program.
- Emergency Management
 - August to November 2024 wildfires in Berline and across the state
 - We assisted in mapping effort during that time, identified a gap in our system
 - Getting together a workgroup with key state agencies (July)
 - How to plan and address emergency issues efficiently so we have a clear plan and workflow when emergencies happen
 - Hope to improve the statewide process for emergency management
- Culverts and Bridges
 - We will need a workgroup in the future
 - Will work with DEEP and DOT to create initial framework
 - get a plan in place with guidelines so we can have a clear and effective process by the 2028 deadline

Imagery and LiDAR Updates (Carl Zimmerman)

- Impervious cover
 - Impervious cover data products through Ecopia. Making significant progress and should have pilot by end of July.

- Two deliverables: impervious cover & pavement/transportation markings (also including bounding box for intersections)
- Early pilot example to show the level of detail
- Vegetation Rasters
 - Three rasters delivered (2m):
 - Canopy height model (distance between ground and treetop)
 - Foliage height diversity (vertical structure of the canopy)
 - Plant area index (green leaf area and plant parts per unit of ground area)
- Planning for next imagery and lidar capture
 - Flight in early Spring 2026

Annual Update of Strategic Plan (Carl Zimmerman)

- Revisions incorporated in an updated draft of the document, sent out in June
- Previous draft reviewed by GAC members and received comments
- Adjustments
 - Reworked objectives and scoring, link operational work with larger strategic plan
 - Summarized objectives and linked to the strategic plan
- Vote of approval at the next meeting (August)
- Mark Hoover: This revision is very clear and has great improvements.

Contours (Alfredo Herrera)

- Vector tile of 1-foot contours for the entire state, available on the Geodata Portal (20 million features) – quick and scalable rendering, faster performance.
- Limitations: need to be in Web Mercator projection, significant time in preparing and optimizing data for publishing
- Published beta version of 5-foot contour feature class for testing and use
- Asking feedback from the council: Is a 1-foot contour feature service worth the effort to continue work on?
 - Consensus from council that 1-foot contours are highly requested from clients for work, and the product is worth the effort for publishing

Parcel and CAMA Updates (Leah Hodges and Ashley Benitez)

- 2025 Collection
 - All COGs submitted, 8 of 9 COGs processed
 - Once processed, GISO will work on consolidating the 2025 parcel dataset
 - Deadline to receive data is July 1, so still some time to submit data
- GIS Office & UConn CLEAR
 - Presented at CT Assessors Association at beginning of June

Statewide Addressing Updates (Ashley Benitez)

- Working with UConn MS Data Science Applied Capstone
 - Students working to design and test methodology to support maintenance of master address dataset derived from several different datasets
 - Come up with a weighting system to assess address quality, develop classification of each address
 - Two separate teams coming up with two methodologies
- Secretary of the State - new voter registration system based on address points, willing to share these datasets with us publicly. They have hand validated 1.6 million residential addresses, only 11,000 flagged as needing review or as errors. Use this as a weighted and trusted valid dataset.

Geodata Portal Publishing Guidelines (Sarah Hurley)

- Updated GIS Office main website page. A little cleaner and with updated information. New additional site with guidance documents
- The Geodata Portal Publishing Guidelines are now available on the GIS Office main website
- At the previous GAC meeting, the council reviewed and gave feedback on the draft.
- Updates were made, and the document is now available.
- We will audit datasets on the Geodata Portal to ensure compliance with the new guidelines, and will reach out to data publishers as necessary

Geospatial Clearinghouse Working Group Recommendations (Emily Wilson)

- This document is now with the working group for review and will be shared to the council ahead of the August meeting, voting on the document will be in October
- The working group visited every other state to review their clearinghouse websites
- The document is written generically, with recommendations and examples included

Public Comment

- None

Closing Remarks

- Thank you for joining us and weighing in.

Adjourn: 2:07PM

