# NYS GIS Strategic Planning Project
# New York City Stakeholder Meeting

## New York City, NY
Meeting Date: October 11, 2007

A representative cross-section of different levels of government and the private sector was in attendance (see registration list for names of attendees). The following presents "synthesized highlights" of the discussion that took place at the meeting as recorded by Michael Terner from Applied Geographics, Inc.

**Leaves-on imagery:**
Expressed interests in leaves-on imagery to support bio-mass calculations and to identify best places for new tree plantings.

**Interstate data interests:**
Office of Emergency Management expressed an interest in obtaining data for Northern New Jersey. Is there an opportunity for state to collect once for state use and share with locals such as NYC OEM?

**Oblique imagery:**
Many users expressed a strong interest in oblique imagery and NYC is completing a 2007 oblique imagery project. City expressed strong support for a statewide oblique imagery contract that the city could buy off of (a la the existing orthophoto contract).

**NYC LiDAR project:**
City described a spring 2007 project to collect citywide LiDAR. When queried, city expressed that data would only be available to city government agencies as a matter of "city policy".

**Lack of elevation is a current challenge:**
Description of work to identify watersheds and sewersheds that is currently forced to use 10 foot contours which is inadequate for the task.

**Unique interests and requirements for sub-surface data:**
Subway and vehicle tunnel depths are necessary to assess flood risks. Active work at OEM to map subway stations in 3D.

**NYC Dept. of Design and Construction has detailed boring and benchmark data that is not readily available to the public:**
Data may be requested under FOIL, but this has not been tested frequently.

**Hydrography Data Availability:**
The enhanced NHD data being produced by DEC is being supplied to USGS under the terms of the joint project. The USGS will make the data available to the public over time and on a basin by basin basis.

**Strong interests in wetlands data:**
DEC data is inadequate as the minimum wetland size of several acres is too large. NYC DEP has some of its own wetlands data of superior quality.

**Data sharing is limited by "security concerns":**
There was an extensive discussion of how general data sharing in NYC is hampered by concerns over homeland security and data sensitivity. While recognizing that some data is legitimately sensitive, many in the audience suggested that "general security concerns" were used too often as "excuse" to not share data. It was also acknowledged that there is no definitive list of what is sensitive.

**City Planning maintains and distributes a great deal of NYC digital data:**
Data sets that are distributed include:

- Citywide address textfile containing Parcel-ID, Bldg-ID and address
- GeoSupport Toolkit to support citywide geocoding and includes street centerlines
- PLUTO parcel-based land-use coding based on "building class codes"
- Parcel data available on a county-by-county basis
    - Sold for $250/county
    - Sold with license agreement that prevents re-selling of the geometry

City Planning acknowledged that their data distribution policies and pricing was a result of receiving numerous FOIL requests and an effort to simplify their own ability to respond to such requests.

**City is in the midst of a parcel data upgrade and shifting the parcel responsibility from City Planning to Finance:**
Parcel improvements will include the addition of parcel dimension annotation and "moderate" conflation so that the parcel match the city's "true orthos" better. Finance will eventually deploy an on-line parcel viewer to the public. Cut over date for completion of project is approximately 1 year from October, 2007.

**Westchester County does not maintain countywide parcels:**
In a somewhat unique situation the county does not maintain the parcel tax maps. Rather, each of the 21 cities and towns in the county maintain them themselves.

**TeleAtlas data for Queens includes neighborhoods boundaries:**
Representatives from Queens described that the neighborhood coding within the TeleAtlas data complicates geocoding and asked whether the state could investigate having TeleAtlas alter this practice.

**FEMA expressed a strong interest in many local data sets:**
FEMA interests included:
- Parcels for damage assessment
- Bathymetric data

- Maintaining cross county data sets to support evacuation planning and equipment movement
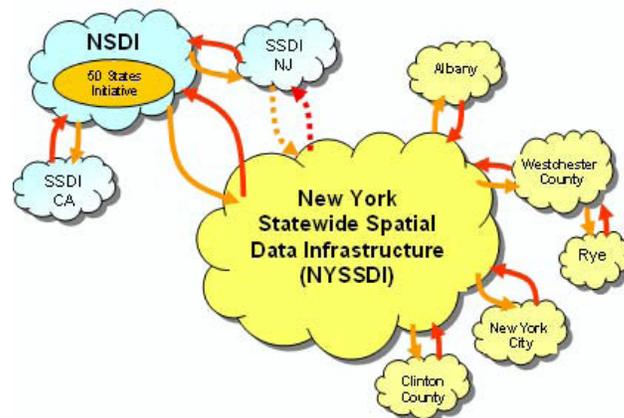
**EPA expressed a strong interest in gaining access to many city data sets:**
EPA suggested deploying technology to facilitate sharing including:
- Web services
- Self-service "clip-zip-and-ship" of data sets

**Suggestion was made to create a bulletin board for GIS interests:**
The specific suggestion came in the data development context to help people identify others with similar data requirements so that potential funding consortia could be assembled. The suggestion was described as "carpool ride-share for GIS data projects".

**Participants:**

Jim McConnell          (NYC OEM)
Steven Romalewski      (CUNY Mapping Service)
Michele Liss           (NYC Department of City Planning)
Rudy Lopez             (NYC Department of City Planning)
Chad Wilcomb           (NYMTC)
Alvin Goodman          (Office of the Brooklyn Borough President)
Frank Donnelly         (CUNY Baruch College - Library)
Ciara Reynolds         (Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications)
Patti Bayross          (City of New York, Department of Information Technology and
                            Telecommunications)
Nachman Sanowicz       (Office of the comptroller)
Sean Ahearn            (Hunter College)
Sarah Heaton           (UJA-Federation of New York)
reginald Caphart       (NYC Brooklyn Borough President's Office)
Deepika Saluja         (City of New York, Dept. of Finance)
Barbara Berney         (Hunter College)
Harvey Simon           (U.S. EPA)
Frank Lopresti         (NYU / ITS / Faculty Technology Services)
Ana Hiraldo-Gomez      (Westchester County)
Dorothy Nash           (NYC Office of Emergency Management)
David Burgoon          (New York City Department of Transportation)
Kevin Maddox           (Port Authority of NY & NJ)
Marsha Kaunitz         (NYC DOITT)
Jo Jordon              (FEMA Region II)
Jim Hall               (Bowne Management Systems)
Lee Hachadoorian       (CUNY Center for Urban Research)
Tohru Nakaya
Paul Carris            (Port Authority)
Richard Steinberg      (Bowne Management Systems)
Mondello Browner       (NYC Dept. of Housing Preservation & Development – HPD -
Development -               Planning GIS)
James Quinn            (Columbia University)
Chung Chang            (FDNY)
Greg Kurilla           (NYC MTA)
Danitz Donovan         (Bronx Borough President Office)
Michael Crino          (Baker Engineering)
Justin Kray            (Pratt Center for Community Development)
Jessica Braden         (NYC Parks - Forestry)