

## **NYS GIS Strategic Planning Project Long Island Stakeholder Meeting**

### **Stoney Brook, NY**

Meeting Date: October 12, 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 Turner from Applied Geographics, Inc.

#### **Strong supporters of the orthophoto program**

Both counties are strong supporters of the orthophoto program and have participated in local buy-ups. Suffolk County expressed an interest in looking at bi-annual ortho updates as an improvement over the current tri-annual cycle.

#### **Requirements for funding consortia to participate in the buy-ups**

Suffolk County expressed some challenges in finding the buy-up money solely from county coffers and an interest/need to develop a multi-agency consortium that would include local governments, utilities and the Long Island RR. Suffolk also described the challenges of a free rider problem hindering the ability to create these types of consortia. Due to FOIL if entities don't participate in the funding consortia they will still gain access to the products by “waiting things out”.

#### **Brookhaven reports the “flyover pays for itself”**

Brookhaven uses the orthophotos for zoning enforcement and reported enforcement action generated \$250k of revenue which more than covered the \$100k buy-up participation.

#### **Both Nassau and Suffolk Counties had FEMA map modernization**

Suffolk County got FEMA to generate LiDAR data but did not have direct input into the specifications for the project. However, they reported that it “happened to work well” even with the lack of coordination. In Nassau County, FEMA originally performed an update using 10 foot contours and did not use the 2 foot contours that the county had produced themselves and supplied. FEMA is in the process of doing a new update and has notified the county that they will use the 2 foot contours during this update.

#### **Brookhaven observed there is lots of private sector elevation data creation**

Many private sector developments create detailed elevation data. Is there a way to gain access to those data?

#### **Local wetlands expert is retiring; concerns about his data legacy**

There is strong local interest in wetlands data and a recognition that the statewide DEC wetlands are inadequate for many local purposes. DEC's field office housed a wetlands expert, Fred Mushak (sic), who developed large quantities of wetlands data and imagery for Long Island and there was local concern that this data would be lost, or become

unavailable after his retirement. Suffolk County obtained the data directly from him and bypassed the DEC headquarters in Albany. There was concern that headquarters was not adequately focused on data management to recognize the value of this local resource.

**Nassau is concerned with TeleAtlas involvement in statewide roads program:**

“If TeleAtlas is involved, then I’m less comfortable. The private sector should not benefit from state efforts”.

**Suffolk County’s CAD program has a unique data structure:**

The ability of Suffolk County to fully participate in the MMNT program is hindered by the county CAD program’s unique data structure. Since MMNT does not produce the data required by the CAD program, the county must maintain its own countywide roads data set. The county is willing to share this data set wholesale with the state but it is reluctant to use MMNT to duplicate the updates into the statewide DB. However, the county sees the MMNT potentially being a valuable tool for helping its own cities and towns post the need for changes to the Fire Response and Emergency Services (FRES) team.

**Suffolk County asked whether the state was able to review how US Census had incorporated the LUCA updates provided by the state.**

While the state was able to give the Census updated roads on statewide basis, the state has not been given an opportunity to perform quality control to ensure that Census properly handled the data given to them.

**Nassau County makes their parcel data available on the web, however, they are more reluctant to distribute the raw data.**

Nassau County charges fees to obtain the parcel data for “commercial use”. However, the county believes in making the information contained in the data readily available via a publicly accessible web-site (that does not support data download).

**Suffolk County suggested a strong interest in obtaining state support for application development.**

Due to the challenges of funding and staffing technical application developers, the suggestion was made to have the state make its application code available to counties. Such a code base was viewed as a means of providing application development shortcuts. Alternatively/in addition the state could create application templates that counties could adapt to local conditions and data sets.

**Brookhaven supported the notion of having broad, countywide parcel data access.**

Brookhaven described projects such as “strip zoning” that require the ability to look across municipal boundaries to see surrounding landuses and zoning. Currently, such town-to-town sharing takes place on an informal basis. Nassau reported that they readily institute “intergovernmental data sharing agreements” with incorporated entities within the county.

**Nassau County observed that the current GIS Coordinating Body parcel standard is not sophisticated enough for larger counties:**

The possibility was raised of “re-engaging ORPS” to once again become more active in the GIS arena. Suffolk “strongly endorsed” ORPS involvement in GIS standards and best practices.

**Suffolk County is currently engaged in a countywide GIS Needs Assessment:**

It is hoped that this plan will provide the county a strategic direction for further GIS development and will lead to additional funding support.

**Administrative boundary issues are prevalent on Long Island:**

There was extensive discussion of boundary issue challenges from many stakeholders. Observations included:

- “It can be tough to work with the Secretary of State”
- Boundaries need to be made coincident with parcel boundaries
- In Suffolk County, boundary data are maintained by Board of Elections (and it’s a slow process)
- In Nassau County, the long range goal is to have all boundaries lines be coincident with property lines wherever possible, or, if not drawn accurately they are maintained where appropriate by Assessment
- Legislation identified the “Pine Barrens” boundaries and Suffolk is working to align them with parcels
- Guidance on boundary issues would be beneficial: “can the Strategic Plan highlight the issues and best practices?”

**Beth Cartwright (affiliation not noted) endorsed the importance of the NYGIS help desk:**

In addition, she suggested that for every data layer on the clearinghouse there should be a “Help Desk” button that would then take you to an index of any help desk tickets pertaining to that data set. In addition to metadata, users could find layer-by-layer technical tips.

**Beth Cartwright (affiliation not noted) suggested that “recharge basins” are an important data gap on Long Island:**

These data are essential for stormwater modeling.