

**NYS GIS State Agency Advisory Group**  
**Meeting Report**  
at NYS Thruway Authority, Building 10  
January 9, 2018

**Welcome/Introductions.** The group went around the room and introduced themselves:

- Eric Herman – NYSTA
- Jeff Langella – GPO
- Paul Fasano – GPO
- Mark Giddings – DOH
- Jerry Farrell – OPWDD
- Melissa Albino-Hegeman – DEC
- Maurico Roma – OAG
- Matt Kendall – APA
- John Barge – APA
- Lynne Gort – OPRHP
- Christina Croll – OPRHP
- Sean Heaton – SHPO
- Tim Daly – ITS / DEC
- Dennis Wischman – DEC
- Mary Susan Knauss – DOT
- Cheryl Benjamin – GPO
- Anyée Willows – NYSTA
- Kevin Hunt – ITS (RT)
- Gwen LaSelva – DOH
- Dan O'Brien – OEM
- Todd Nelson – GPO/NYSP
- Doug Heim – OTDA
- Nick Mezzadonna – OTDA
- Katherine Barnes – DEC
- Jason Baum – GPO
- Beth Nolan – GPO

**GPO Data Updates.** Paul kicked off the discussion with an overview of the state's civil boundary web service. This public-facing web service is updated quarterly, and is scheduled to be updated this week. It contains all of the state's civil boundaries, and a point file for both incorporated and unincorporated places. There is also a service with county tax parcels and tax centroid points which with contains 5.5 million points statewide. Paul noted that civil boundaries do not come from parcels; they come from 24,000-scale maps. Users can check for information and updates to the web services at <http://gis.ny.gov>. Paul also mentioned that the GPO updates legislative boundaries as needed.

Jeff then discussed the GPO's new methods for accessing LiDAR Data. This data is now available via ftp download at <ftp://ftp.gis.ny.gov/elevation/LIDAR/>. There are over 14 TB of point cloud data dating back to 2002. Metadata and tile indices are available with the downloads. There is also a feature service of the index to this data hosted by the GPO. The server has performed quite well so far, though Jeff noted that anyone downloading large numbers of files should use a third party ftp client like WinSCP, FileZilla, etc. He then showed indices to the existing collections and bare earth DEMs available at this link: [https://elevation.its.ny.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Dem\\_Indices/FeatureServer](https://elevation.its.ny.gov/arcgis/rest/services/Dem_Indices/FeatureServer).

**Building Footprint Mapping.** Jeff then continued, by discussing current projects that are experimenting with mapping building footprints using LiDAR data. This work is still in its early stages, and the office is working alongside NYSERDA and the Center of International Earth Science Information Network (CIESIN) to explore different methods to automate footprint generation with tools such as ArcGIS Pro and Global Mapper. Initial results are quite promising with a progress already made for a number of counties.

**Relevant Federal Activities.** The topic then turned to relevant federal activities, and Jeff noted that the federal government has completed a statewide collection of orthoimagery for the entire state in the early fall of 2017 (leaf-on), as a part of their National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). The imagery is 4-band, and 1m resolution, and is available as a web service at: [https://gis.apfo.usda.gov/arcgis/rest/services/NAIP/New\\_York/ImageServer](https://gis.apfo.usda.gov/arcgis/rest/services/NAIP/New_York/ImageServer).

Jeff then wrapped up his topics with a discussion of upcoming changes to geographic datum and coordinate systems. He noted that many changes are already here with the use of NAD83/2011, the Web Mercator Auxiliary Sphere, and Geoid 12B. However, the primary focus was on the fact that in 2022 the NGS will present the North American Terrestrial Reference Frame of 2022 (NATRF2022). Discussions ensued about the magnitude of shifts from the current datums, and how the new datums will focus on up-to-date referencing, rather than a fixed position and date. This will affect everyone using spatial data. Information can be found at <https://www.ngs.noaa.gov/datums/newdatums/index.shtml>. Tim Ruhren will be heading a new work group to discuss the impacts of the new standards in NY. Anyone interested should contact Tim at [tim.ruhren@its.ny.gov](mailto:tim.ruhren@its.ny.gov).

Next, Cheryl discussed the Geospatial Data Act. This proposed legislation had contained some controversial wording in an earlier iteration. Many felt that the wording could be misconstrued. The latest version was produced over the summer, in sessions to work out these discrepancies, and the offending wording was dropped from the bill. The act will require better coordination for spatial data, codify existing FGDC efforts, strengthen the National Geospatial Advisory Council, and require adherence to certain standards. The new bills (which have been renumbered), now have a great deal of support universally. In November, NSGIC and AAG asked the states to support it. 30 agencies are now supporting the legislation as it moves forward. The state Geospatial Advisory Council has provided a letter of support, and sent it on to Congressman Tonko. The state GIS Association is currently considering providing formal support too. Interestingly, the original bills have not yet been withdrawn, but no one is expected to push for these old versions. More action is expected around the February/March timeframe. Cheryl also noted that the federal Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) report card is also being updated, and expected to be released in March.

**ITS Organizational Changes.** Cheryl also reviewed the latest changes to the organization of ITS. The “cluster” support model for the agencies is being changed to a “portfolio” model, with each ITS portfolio covering fewer agencies than the clusters did. ITS is implementing this a few clusters at a time, and has started with three of the clusters. The Public Safety Cluster, which includes the GIS Program Office, is towards the end of this order. Instead of Cluster CIOs, Directors will head the portfolios.

**ShareGIS Phase 2 Status.** Jason then discussed the status of ShareGIS. This shared enterprise GIS application is in place and evolving. It consists of web server and database components, and seeks to provide a single, enterprise-wide platform for the state. This would allow agencies to focus on the services and not the infrastructure. Phase 1 consisted of standing up a consolidated version of what was already being done within the ITS Public Safety Cluster. The GPO is working on consolidating to a single geocoding service, and will

decommission the old one. Anonymous ftp services for access to elevation data was also a part of this, as were the elevation services now discoverable on the gis.ny.gov website.

In Phase 2, the focus is to create an enterprise-wide environment with more capabilities. The GPO is trying to meet business cases, and gain efficiencies. In a recent development, to help reduce the expenses for overcommitted funding, the GPO is now starting a proof of concept to use the commercial cloud for hosting services. The state streets data will require the cloud in order to accommodate required performance levels for feature services. ShareGIS will also be used to support Tax and Finance's Assessment Community Enterprise System (ACES) (formerly RPS v5). This would be a new, web-based interface, instead of the old local installations in every assessor's office. There will also be a publically-available face to this application that uses GIS services. It is being designed to be scalable, to accommodate high-use days. ShareGIS will also support DOT's "System of Engagement" for Capital Planning. Eventually, agencies could use this infrastructure to host their agency data, once additional controls and security are implemented.

**DOT System of Engagement.** Kevin then gave a presentation to provide an overview of the DOT System of Engagement (SoE). The SoE is an app-centric strategy for connecting systems, people, processes, and data that leverages the System of Records to provide widely available information and insights from data. It allows for self-service information from NYSDOT on any device, with a job-specific suite of applications. The SoE provides a single destination to find/share apps and content. DOT has been working with Esri to hold meetings and develop their list of 37 SoE applications. They have been prioritizing the applications and focusing on operational awareness, data management, analytics, and field mobility. The current focus is on updating infrastructure and creating a new clean data architecture. There is a phased-in approach to app development over the next 3 years. ShareGIS will be a big part of the final solution.

**ArcGIS Collector for Sign Information.** Mary Susan presented on DOT's asset inventory management using ArcGIS Collector. DOT has include requirement in contracts that contractors geolocate everything they install. The agency is using more modern forms of data collection and inventories, and replacing existing spreadsheets. Applications such as the sign editor application, developed for DOT Region 8, use ArcGIS Collector on a mobile device, and connect to the data stores on ArcGIS Online. Mary Susan noted that the organization is using Bluetooth GPS devices for high-level accuracy in locating their signs. The process is simple, involves no back-office processing and the data is collected, and placed into the application immediately. ArcGIS Collector is a free application, and has been working quite well on existing mobile devices.

**Thruway Authority's Incident Response Dashboard.** Finally, Eric provided a quick overview of NYSTA's new Incident Response Dashboard (IRD). The IRD was created to provide quick and easy access to information and statistics during major incidents such as snowstorms. It is an internal tool that provides a map-based interface, data info blocks, and reporting tools. The map interface, built with the Google Maps API includes data about weather, plow activity, incidents, facilities, messages to the public, traffic speeds, and more. Data blocks allow users to report on traffic times, and volumes, as well as incident-related information. The reporting

allows for summaries about incidents, key activities, and equipment use. The application, built internally, was recently released for its initial use in this winter's activities.

**Open Forum.** The only item noted during this time was that John Fox has announced a schedule for training sessions for the state's CIRIS application. Please send inquiries to [CIRIS@its.ny.gov](mailto:CIRIS@its.ny.gov).

*The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 17, 2018 from 9:30am-12:00pm at the NY State Thruway Authority Offices. If you have any ideas for topics or would like to provide a demonstration at this meeting, please let us know. Any questions or concerns about any of these issues can be sent to the Advisory Group Chair, Eric Herman at the NYS Thruway Authority (518) 471-5890, or [eric.herman@thruway.ny.gov](mailto:eric.herman@thruway.ny.gov).*