

NYS GIS State Agency Advisory Group
Meeting Agenda
at NYS Thruway Authority, Building 10
January 8, 2019

Welcome/Roundtable Discussion of Noteworthy Projects. The group went around the room, introduced themselves, and noted significant projects that are currently active within their offices:

- **Eric Herman – NYSTA:** Looking into the Cyclomedia product, which captures 100-megapixel imagery and terrestrial LiDAR; Also continuing work on implementation of statewide Computer Aided Dispatch system from Hexagon
- **Mauricio Roma – OAG:** Office is active with using GIS and producing maps for case exhibits
- **Mark Giddings – DOH:** Mark continues servicing the program; Nutrition's legacy information system is being transferred to a new one, which is a big focus now
- **Tim Ruhren – GPO:** Referenced recent emails to the listserv regarding new elevation data projects; FEMA and USGS are collecting LiDAR to fill in gaps across the state; Noted that he is familiar with Cyclomedia, and believed Westchester County is a user
- **Melissa Albino – DEC:** DEC's artificial reef map is about to go public via ArcGIS online; Survey123 is being used for volunteer maps
- **Scott McDonnell – DEC:** Scott is the agency aviation coordinator in Albany, focusing on the drone program; Working in strong coordination with the State Police
- **Gary McPherson – DEC:** Pilot, with a background in engineering, also working on drone program
- **Dan O'Brien – OEM:** DHSES mitigation working with SUNY Albany; Looking at eligibility for presidential disaster funding; Looking at vulnerability of buildings
- **Peter Lauridsen – DOS:** Coastal Management Office is finishing mapping risk areas for Lake Ontario counties ("Resilience Planning") as the in-house regulatory arm; Looking at eligible water data, and cleaning up datasets
- **Rebecca Newell – DOS:** Flooding and erosion issues and overlay of assets to identify the greatest risks/ensure resilience in the future
- **Christina Croll – State Parks:** Refining data collection for state utilities to take paper and CAD drawings and assemble them into an ArcGIS Online application
- **Hieu Nguyen – CCF:** (New to the position and group) Working on a project for 2020 Census in connection with Tableau
- **Tim Daly – ITS (GIS Client Office):** New GIS Client Office at ITS is now starting up; DEC information locator focuses on locations of DEC interest to map: water, wells, recreational facilities, etc.; Web mapping location to be developed for this, with links to documents that are appropriate
- **Stephen McGrail – Canal Corp:** Publicly available LiDAR for the old Chenango Canal portions that are still owned by the Canal Corp, through identification of tow paths (the "red line")
- **Dennis Wischman – DEC:** Helps Scott with drones, and mirrors Tim Daly's comments
- **Anyée Fields – NYSTA:** Recently completed NYSTA conversion of right-of-way mapping to a GIS format, for internal use

- **Gwen LaSelva – DOH (Environmental Health):** Updating tracking website for outcomes of various health issues

Coordination & Training Info for Agency Drone Use. Scott and Gary set up some drones in the back of the room, for people to look at, and gave a comprehensive, hour-long presentation of the use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS, a.k.a. drones) for the State of NY. They noted that there has been no top-down direction for approach to drone use yet, but that DEC has been providing a lot of guidance for use of these tools. DEC started UAS work in 2014 and has been involved in the state agency workgroup, formed last January, to work on these issues. DEC has about 30 people trained in UAS use, and about 60 units. Scott reviewed the various makes and models of drones and their benefits/drawbacks. He then talked about regulations in place for using for these devices, and training options/requirements. Scott and Gary then discussed a variety of projects for which they've used UAS technology. In addition to DEC project, they provide UAS services for other agencies, as needed. They discussed the mapping details of UAS data collection, including software, image overlap, orthorectification, and point cloud generation. The cost savings of using UAS is significant, with about a 90% savings versus manned flights, and 95% savings as compared to ground surveys.

GIS Strategic Plan. Frank reviewed the latest version of the state GIS Strategic Plan. The current draft has evolved significantly and is ready to be put forth for adoption. It was modeled after the ITS Strategic Plan, and serves as a companion document to that, with actionable recommendations. Frank noted that the last GIS plan was from 2008, and that many of the items on that plan have now been accomplished. He highlighted several the major goals in the current document, which was recently approved by the Geospatial Advisory Council.

ShareGIS Proof of Concept. Frank then discussed the ShareGIS project. Although originally expected to be run on the IBM cloud, this proof of concept (POC) is now being run on both the Amazon and Google clouds, due to existing agreements with other vendors. ITS has a contract with Boundless (which provides Amazon space), and OpenSensorHub (which uses Google). Through these existing contracts, the GPO is now able to very quickly get the POC up and running. The state's tax parcel service will go up through the Boundless solution, and OpenSensorHub will provide access to web services for real-time data.

Orthoimagery Status for 2019. Frank and Tim noted that the RFP for the orthoimagery program was unexpectedly canceled, putting the ortho program for this spring in jeopardy. The office is looking into the possibility of extending the expired contract with the last vendor, but there is a very good possibility that this may not happen. If that's the case, it would be the first missed flying season since the program's inception in 2000. LiDAR data collection would not be affected by this.

Filling GIS Positions with ITS1/2 Titles. Frank then explained to the group that ITS titles have become quite popular for GIS practitioners employed by the state. The entry level positions for this series—ITS1 (grade 14) and ITS2 (grade 18) have been using a different catalog of experience and education than the higher-level skill inventory that is used for selective certification of the higher titles in that series. Civil Service is looking into the possibility of using the same inventory for the ITS1 & ITS2.

Review of Base Map Options/Needs. Eric brought up the fact that the agencies may want to consider if it's worth having a consistent state basemap, based on the framework datasets that the GPO coordinates. This would allow for a common experience between agencies, speedy performance, and up-to-date content. Although there are myriad commercial basemaps available, each comes with its own plusses and minuses. Eric also relayed that DOT produces its own basemap, which is fast and clean, but from 2016, and is a burden for DOT to maintain. DOT has been considering letting go of this service. Frank agreed that the GPO could be a good potential home for such a map, and that it may be able to be updated automatically on a scheduled basis. Due to the late hour, this topic was tables for a future meeting.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 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. Send any questions or concerns about any of these issues to the Advisory Group Chair, Eric Herman at the NYS Thruway Authority (518) 471-5890, or eric.herman@thruway.ny.gov.