

NYS GIS State Agency Advisory Group

May 3, 2016

The meeting was held at the NYS Thruway Authority in Albany.

Welcome/Roundtable Discussion of GIS Software in use at State Agencies. The roundtable discussion got back to basics, with an overview of the suite of GIS tools agencies are currently using.

- **Eric Herman – NYSTA:** The Authority is using ArcGIS for Desktop, ArcGIS for Server, and ArcGIS Online; Google Earth; Using Google Maps for external applications, and Quick Terrain Modeler for elevation analysis; TerraSync and Pathfinder Office for GPS; Currently looking into Portal for ArcGIS, GeoCortex, and Global Mapper software
- **Bob Gehrler – GPO:** Bob's office in the GPO uses ArcGIS Server, and is starting to look more at Open Source software
- **Paul Fasano – GPO:** The office is looking at QGIS to test services as WMS
- **Ray Faught – GPO:** For the orthoimagery program and elevation data program, the office is using ArcGIS Server and Global Mapper (the newest version, with the LiDAR module) to explore classification of LAS datasets; Also using Terrain Navigator for Emergency Response – DEC rangers use this (also on phone)
- **Dean Caskey – GPO:** Working on CIRIS project; Using ArcGIS for Desktop 10.3.1. and updating some older versions currently running 10.2.2.
- **Tim Daly – ITS/DEC:** Esri used for all GIS software; ArcGIS Desktop 10.3, and a few versions of the server software; Starting to get into ArcGIS Online; QGIS being explored in smaller programs, but not for official use; Using disconnected applications in the field
- **Dan O'Brien – OEM:** 10 workstations at the EOC; Using ArcGIS Server to put into NY Responds; Also run HAZUS software from FEMA in ArcGIS, and have some internal display systems
- **Susan Knauss – NYSDOT:** DOT is an Esri shop; Currently using version 10.1, and having performance issues; Also pushing data to KMLs and using Google Earth; Sign inventory application replacing 1000 signs along the Taconic, and looking to build a web feature service with SDE that a contractor will use through ArcGIS Online
- **Jerry Farrell – OTDA:** Just starting with GIS at OTDA; Now have two 10.2 licenses
- **John Fox – ITS/OCFS:** Multi-tiered approach to using GIS: Start with Google Maps, then training using in CIRIS application, with most advanced users (12) using ArcGIS Desktop; Use Pitney Bowes geocoding at Department of Labor, OCFS for daycare, and the 24/7 abuse call center
- **Mike Schifferli – OPRHP (Historic Preservation):** Use ArcGIS 10.2.2 and Trimble TerraFlex for field applications; Finding some limitations with software and looking at Survey 123, a new product from Esri
- **Christina Croll – ITS/ORPHP:** Also using ArcGIS Server for the CRIS; ArcGIS Desktop 10.2.2.; Use Trimble Pathfinder Office & TerraSync, and Terrain Navigator in the field; Use PDF maps for the public
- **Gwen LaSelva – DOH:** In Environmental Health, primarily using ArcGIS, with a few holdouts using MapInfo
- **Katherine Barnes – DEC:** Mostly using ArcGIS 10.3 software
- **Nick Mezzadonna – OTDA:** A few users of ArcGIS Desktop 10.2.1 in agency
- **Mark Giddings – DOH Nutrition:** Office is using ArcGIS for Desktop 10.3

- **Kevin Hunt – ITS/DOT:** DOT will be all using ArcGIS 10.3.1 by end of year; Some ArcPad and ArcGIS Server 10.1; Also using Latitude Geographics' GeoCortex Essentials software to build web applications
- **Frank Winters – GPO:** *Came after this session ended*

Priorities Areas for LIDAR Collection. Ray provided an overview of the LiDAR data collection status in the state, and asked the group about any specific priority areas. USGS is requesting areas of interest for the 3DEP program for 2017, so Ray reviewed the issues. There was also discussion about LAS data requests (it's easier to provide DEMs). There was some discussion about removal of bridges in various models.

County Tax Parcel Data. Bob reviewed the latest information about collecting statewide county tax parcels. The goal is to build a seamless geodatabase of statewide parcels and share it as widely as possible. All 62 counties (at a variety of vintages) have been collected, and are in the limited access CIRIS application. The office is in the process of bringing all of the counties up to 2015. 14 of the counties are willing to share their data publically. The office is no longer using the ftp site that they were to provide data downloads. They have started using OneDrive, but plan to move to Microsoft's SharePoint. Paul Fasano is working with Beth Nolan for the creation of a web service to host parcel data, which would use authentication, to provide access to governmental entities. The initial image service should be available by July, with a feature service by the end of the year. There are currently six counties that currently restrict sharing parcel data with state agencies.

ShareGIS. Frank discussed the ShareGIS platform, which is working to consolidate 14 agencies and servers. The office has an internal approval for a plan, and is in the process of building the system. Other servers should be decommissioned within the next 4 years. Phase 1 will be to stand up servers for the NY Responds Common Operating Picture with GPO data and emergency data. Phase 2 will be to expand the system to everyone with a gateway to manage and limit data access as appropriate. A 7-person Core Services Team has been approved for the project, and 3 members of the team have been hired.

Data and Web Services. Frank then noted that at the OGS Esri contract has been signed and approved, and is now active. It includes provisions for ArcGIS Online. He also mentioned that the state's Streets network (which has mixed licensed content) is being actively worked on with HERE (who owns the licensing for routing and addressing), to lift provisions, and allow for public release of the full data set. This is in final sign-off stages. The GPO is also actively working with InfoGroup, to obtain a statewide license to the company's vast household and employer business datasets.

The group then reviewed state-provided web services. There is a new format for displaying web services hosted by agencies on gis.ny.gov (rebranded from "The GIS Clearinghouse"). The group was reminded to update this list, if their agencies have new services available. This will eventually transition to ShareGIS.

CIRIS Training Classes. John Fox provided a presentation about the CIRIS training classes that he has been offering at OCFS, which are open to anyone interested. He offers a class each month, and detailed the benefits of this easy-to-understand interface, which uses the NY.Gov ID login. It includes hundreds of high quality data layers, and sophisticated analyses. Contact John

at John.Fox@its.ny.gov if interested in the class, and Dean Caskey at Dean.Caskey@its.ny.gov for access to the application.

Open Forum/Notable Events & Projects.

- Eric noted that the Thruway Authority is exploring Portal for ArcGIS software.
- It was also noted that local GIS consulting firm Fountains Spatial was acquired, and is now VHB.

Quick Tips/Mapping in Emergencies. Per request from the previous meeting, the group finished the meeting by sharing various tips and tricks in GIS software that could come in handy during emergencies, when quick results are needed.

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for August 23, 2016 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.