

**NYS GIS State Agency Advisory Group  
Meeting Agenda**

at NYS Thruway Authority, Building 10  
September 17, 2019

**Welcome/Roundtable Discussion of Basemaps Used by Agencies.** The group went around the room, introduced themselves, and discussed the agencies' experience with using ArcGIS Pro (AGP) software:

- **Eric Herman – NYSTA:** PCs are now using a 64-bit operating system and GIS Team is hoping to start learning AGP soon; Wondering if others have built customizations
- **Anyée Fields – NYSTA:** See Eric's comments; Have played with AGP
- **John Marino – NYNHP:** Not part of the standard build; Has tried shifting to AGP—it works better with web functionality & is faster; Not a lot of customizations so far, limiting further progress
- **Melissa Albino – DEC:** Has AGP installed; Some functions easier; Often resorts to ArcMap
- **Leah Feldman – DOS:** Coastal Fellow – new to GIS
- **Peter Lauridsen – DOS:** Have used AGP; It's faster, with some good functions; NOAA tools being used that only work with AGP
- **Rebecca Newell – DOS:** Do a lot of map graphics and found it's easier to export to Illustrator in ArcMap; Had problems with ArcMap stitching together but it's very fast in AGP; Project folder packages things nicer than ArcMap
- **Christina Croll – Parks:** Doesn't use personally, but some staff do; Cartography & representations not migrated to this platform yet
- **Jenny Smith – ITS (DEC):** Using AGP lately to manage services
- **Adam Wattles – Parks:** Use AGP sporadically, but more familiar with ArcMap; AGP is faster and works better with web content
- **Tim Daly – ITS (DEC):** DEC offers AGP informally to more advanced users; Forest Health group has integrated it into work flows; Many to fall back to ArcMap; Customization is an issue, as lots of staff rely on older existing tools
- **Gwen LaSelva – DOH:** Environmental Health has one user for the software, but will transition as licenses expire; Plan to convert half of the licenses over & coordinate with School of Public Health, which is focusing on using AGP
- **Stephen McGrail – NYSCC:** Canals doesn't use AGP; Desktop GIS access is provided via Citrix through contractor Gomez & Sullivan
- **Mike O'Neill – ITS (for DOT):** AGP is on the horizon; Have a handful of users in the Photogrammetry group; It is in the future for a release across the agency; Used for geoprocessing and hosted feature services; Have Python scripts for DOT (Esri is on site building these)
- **Dan Martin – National Geodetic Survey:** Also use Citrix; Using a lot of GIS for outreach for the "GPS on Bench Marks" campaign – nice online products
- **Tim Ruhren – ITS (GPO):** Arrived after this discussion
- **Frank Winters – ITS (GPO):** Arrived after this discussion

**New Datums in 2022.** Dan Martin, from the National Geodetic Survey (NGS), gave a presentation that provided an in-depth description of the history of geodetic datums that coordinate systems are based on, as well as an explanation of what's coming up. He noted the importance of recording the specific realization for datums (e.g., NAD 83(CORS 96), instead of just NAD83), as this can make a difference of a couple of meters. Detailed coordinate system and datum information should be well documented in metadata, and verified from the source. The method of data collection should also be clarified. The current, just-released "gold standard" is ITRF2014. He then went on to describe vertical datums, and how they have changed. Currently, the NGS is trying to get ahead of the curve, anticipating simple GPS collectors providing sub-foot accuracy within the next decade. Clearly, future coordinate measurements will primarily be obtained by satellites rather than terrestrial leveling based on benchmarks. The NGS has a plan to prepare for high accuracy coordinates with a new datum to be released in 2022 called NATRF2022. This will replace the NAD83 horizontal and NAVD88 vertical datums. In the interim, he recommends using NAD83 (2011), Epoch 201.00, and being aware of the upcoming changes. Dan also described new State Plane coordinate systems being developed. These will include new zones that cover each state in its entirety (currently, NY uses four State Plane zones). The plans for New York's statewide zone will be based on a Lambert Conformal Conic projection, centered on the 42°45' parallel. States are welcome to provide input via their survey organizations, GIS organizations, geospatial universities, and Departments of Transportation.

**Orthoimagery/LIDAR Contract & Anticipated Collections.** Tim Ruhren discussed the status of the state's orthoimagery and LiDAR program. Unfortunately, no contract was in place to collect orthoimagery in 2019, so this was the first year to be missed since 2001. LiDAR data was collected in Erie, Livingston & Genesee Counties, however. FEMA also collected LiDAR for about a third of the state. In early summer, a new RFP was released, and a preliminary vendor has been selected. Tim then reviewed the ages of the imagery for all 62 counties, and plans for collection in 2020 and 2021, which will be re-evaluated for the most efficient data collections. He also reviewed the plans for LiDAR over the next two years. NAIP's leaf-on imagery was flown this year. It is 4-band imagery at 60 cm resolution, with very good spatial control.

**Clearinghouse and Cooperative.** Frank discussed upcoming revisions to [gis.ny.gov](http://gis.ny.gov), and how he's interested in refocusing it to web services, and completely overhauling the website. This would be a transition away from a clearinghouse for downloading data, and more towards the ShareGIS concept. A workgroup of the NYS Geospatial Advisory Council will be looking onto redesign concepts.

Frank then went on to discuss the Data Sharing Cooperative. Although earlier discussions had considered that this may be obsolete, it does provide an easy mechanism for sharing, and details clear and simple rules in an era when most data requests are required to go through a formal FOIL process. Working with legal staff, this will be moved into a more modern, digital "click-through" agreement, which will allow for more flexibility in adjusting the text as things evolve, and reminding users of their obligations.

**Google Maps Contracting.** Eric discussed recent issues regarding the purchase of Google Maps cloud subscriptions. Google changed their billing mechanism, and all users must establish a billing account, which is charged when usage levels go beyond a point. This new plan is now provided through the state's Umbrella contract as a subscription to a Lot 3 Cloud Service. There are 5 resellers for the product on contract. There is a large suite of tools available so that customers can monitor the level of use that is associated with their organization.

**Demo of the DECinfo Locator.** Tim Daly gave the group a nice overview of the *DECinfo Locator* application, released by DEC in July at: <https://gisservices.dec.ny.gov/gis/dil/>. Two years of development have resulted in a clean, easy-to-use interface and user experience for exploring and accessing a wealth of DEC's geographic data. The application has two primary areas of focus – Environmental Quality (with data such as permits, remediation sites, SPDES sites, etc.) and Outdoor Activity (with data like public lands, campgrounds, trails, boating, etc.). It includes a "Near Me" tool to find nearby features, and a wealth of data on many of the items featured on the map. Users can drill down to see data as varied as specific permit details, or campsite photos. It provides a great self-service mechanism for finding a good deal of the data that DEC has often been asked to provide via FOIL request.

**Announcements.** Eric mentioned the upcoming NYGeoCon conference, scheduled for September 9/23-25, at the Syracuse Marriott.

*The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, January 14, 2020 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](mailto:eric.herman@thruway.ny.gov).*