

NYS GIS State Agency Advisory Group
Meeting Agenda
at NYS Thruway Authority, Building 10
January 14, 2020

Welcome/Roundtable Discussion of Activities in Agencies. The group went around the room, introduced themselves, and discussed the major projects of note within their agencies:

- **Eric Herman – NYSTA:** Closing out the technology components of the new Mario Cuomo Bridge which includes a detailed modeling component; Mapping locations of new toll gantries for cashless tolling
- **Kevin Hunt – ITS (DOT):** Enterprise Asset Management ongoing for several years (Agile Assets) – upgrading platform; Roadside asset collection; Highway work permits granting; Crash location system to replace ALIS; RFP planned for next year for right-of-way mapping
- **Gerry Farrell – OPWDD:** One-man shop, developing GIS
- **Scott Geis – ITS (GPO):** Focus on open source development at the GPO
- **Gwen LaSelva – DOH:** Maintaining existing environmental health data
- **Melissa Albino Hegeman – DEC:** Commercial fisheries; Modeling species
- **Rebecca Newell – DOS:** Expanding risk area coverage to look at flood risk areas; NOAA grant for mapping and modeling nature-based protocols
- **Peter Lauridsen – DOS:** See Rebecca's comments
- **Michele Golden – DEC (Water):** ArcGIS Online & Survey 123 for collecting data in the field, then analyzing it
- **Rob Zitowsky – DOT:** Work with ALIS application for accidents & Survey 123
- **Molly Jordon – APA:** Discussions and mapping for municipal water & sewer for small communities within the park; Redeveloping web applications from Esri's Flex to JavaScript
- **Brent Kinal – DEC (Forests):** Survey 123 ArcGIS Workforce; Aerial Surveying for forest health flights, flying whole state at about 1000'-3500'
- **Christina Croll – OPRHP:** Cleaning up data formats – lots of trail maps that needs to be updated; Survey 123 and Collector; Assessing trails for accessibility; Noted that Mike Schifferli passes along that CRIS has a new version of field collection, moved from Trimble TerraFlex to Survey 123
- **Tim Daly – ITS (DEC):** Additions to DECinfo Locator web app (lots of enhancements based on feedback); Using nForm software (by Windsor Solutions) & Survey 123 for field collection
- **Joe Beaulieu – ITS (GPO):** Since Dan O'Brien retired from OEM, Joe has been helping there; Looking at flooding projects along Lake Ontario, and related elevation studies; Ongoing elevation, LiDAR, and orthoimagery program work
- **Rodger Coryell – GPO:** Streets and points (discussed later in meeting); Geocoder continues to improve and gets millions of hits per day (reports indicate about 150 users); Highway exit renumbering (I-84 & Taconic done) is a big item recently
- **Anyée Fields – NYSTA:** Supporting cashless tolling mapping and requests to find various items for Cuomo Bridge
- **Frank Winters – ITS (GIO):** 2019 ShareGIS platform served 400 million requests; Looking to expand capacity tenfold & only pay at peak levels (open source & cloud investigations);

Named users & number of cores greatly increase costs, so looking at options; OEM Director asked for help from GPO (with OEM funding)—ITS2 to be filled longer term, but using rotating shifts for now; NextGen 911 calls will use GIS (working on this); NYSP support

- **Katherine Barnes – DEC:** Big GIS user at DEC

There was a short discussion about licensing of Esri products. Frank noted that the Dept of Labor has also approved use of QGIS. Esri will eventually retire ArcMap; Licensing for concurrent model stays for now, but the model for named users is being pushed significantly, and will be very difficult for some.

Update on NYSDOT’s System of Engagement. Kevin provided an update on this project that DOT has been doing with Esri. The SOE’s purpose is to access authoritative data, use apps, and share information on any device at any time. ArcGIS Enterprise is used at the NYS Data Center, providing access to apps via NYSDOT’s Active Directory and ny.gov. The Geospatial Data Warehouse is a key component, as the source for authoritative geospatial business data, with data organized by geodatabases. Oracle’s data integrator provides nightly updates from the System of Record to GIS. The portal is internally branded as “DOT Maps & Apps”. Kevin demoed several applications available on the site including aviation facility queries, locating suppliers for various materials, winter operations, and generating reports of sensitive waters in project areas surface water viewer.

Clearinghouse Webpage Redesign Discussions. Eric then gave a presentation about the current discussions underway for redesigning the Clearinghouse website (www.gis.gov). The Geospatial Advisory Council has a working group that is discussing these issues. At the December 11 Council meeting, initial recommendations were presented. These included items such as re-branding of the name; expanding the audience; providing simple access via maps, search tools, and data categories; and providing a focus on web services. He noted that the work group has been looking at several other sites, and culling the best aspects from each. Feedback from this meeting included providing an elegant user interface to connect to data from state agencies; the importance of coordination with other agencies, to ensure there are no discrepancies between datasets on other sites; providing guidelines to agencies to start to move towards web services; and providing a means to streamline handling of FOIL requests.

New Release of NYS Streets and Address Points. Rodger than provided a presentation about the newest release of the NYS Streets and Addresses datasets. Nearly 100 partners contribute to this product, producing hundreds of thousands of additions and changes. He noted various partners, showing a map of county participation. He then discussed the large variety of source materials that are available for updates, ranging from detailed plans to vehicle tracking data. Maintaining this high-quality product involves constantly keeping on top of the enormous number of changes that regularly occur.

Coordination of Street Data with Commercial Providers. Following up on Rodger’s presentation, Frank discussed how, through the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), he’s working on efforts to coordinate street data updates with commercial providers. This is becoming much more urgent, as the prevalence of wayfinding and vehicle

navigation applications now means that the quality of street data (including alignments, exit numbers, and bridge clearances) has a direct impact on safety. The goal is to have all states commit to a similar structure & format, which all vendors can then easily ingest. Frank has been highly involved in this process and is working to get the commercial providers involved in work groups and active discussions.

Research into NY Open Data & Mapping. Scott then discussed his efforts to take advantage of the enormous wealth of data stored on [NY Open Data](#) (in a Socrata API), and bring this data into the GIS world. Much of the data on the website already has geographic components. Scott noted how the site allows you to use the Export tool to access the SODA API endpoint, which can then be used to connect to these datasets through ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, QGIS, and Leaflet. He demonstrated the steps for doing this in the various platforms. This concept opens tremendous opportunities, and considerations for pulling GIS data directly from this data rich Socrata resource. Scott is working up some documentation. For more details, please contact him at Scott.Geis@its.ny.gov.

Other News Items.

- Frank discussed several other relevant items:
 - Boundary data is now being coordinated with NJ.
 - FIPS values are being maintained on boundaries (since they were never retired, as once expected)
 - The exam series for Information Technology titles has tentatively been announced for April 25. More details regarding applying for the exams are expected in February.
 - ITS has received a waiver to fill the Deputy GIO position to head the GIS Program Office.
- Joe mentioned that the orthoimagery and LiDAR contract for 2020 has been executed with Sanborn. The Contract allows for 3-5 years of data collection.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 5, 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.