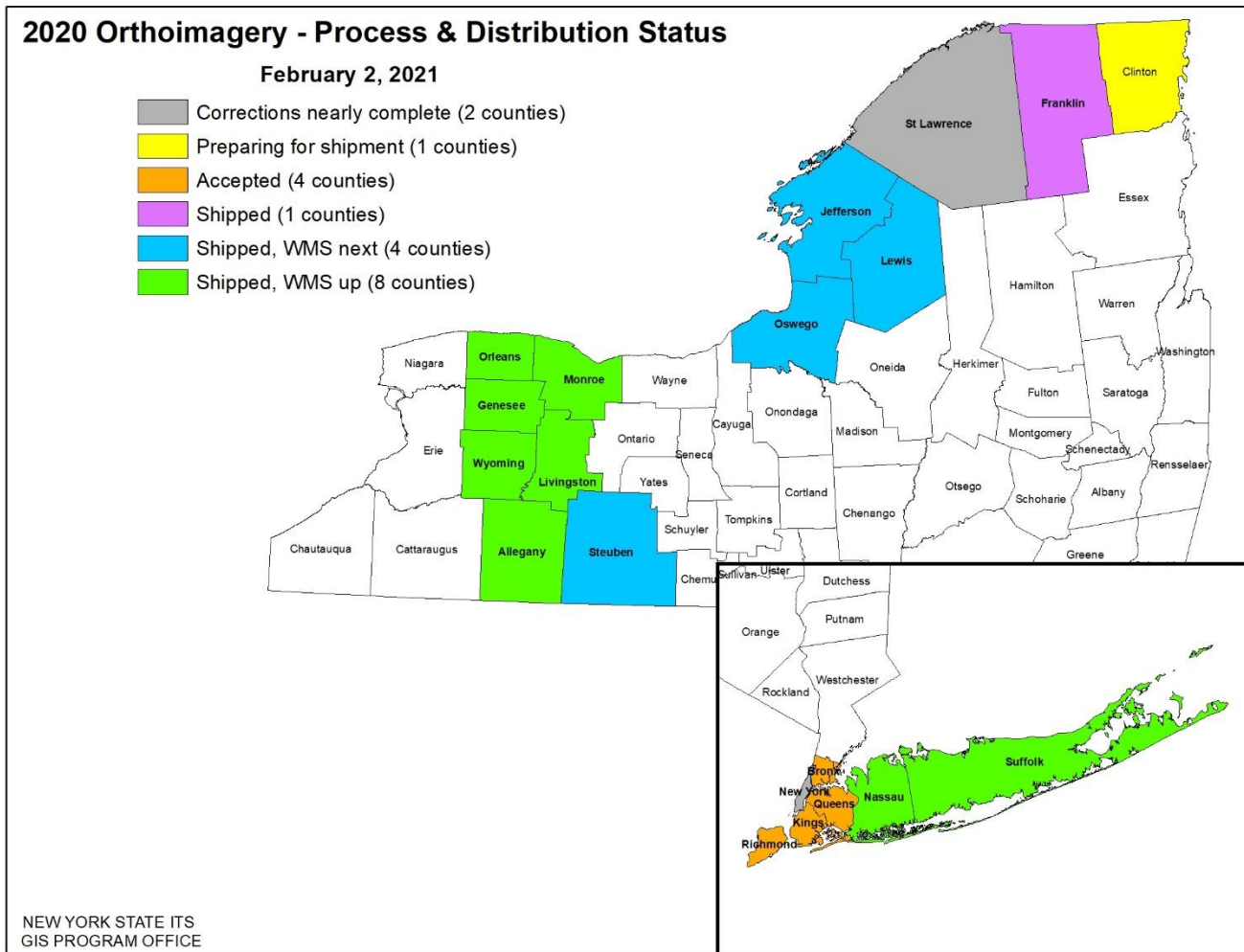# NYS GIS State Agency Advisory Group
Meeting Agenda
Virtual WebEx
February 2, 2021

Welcome/Roundtable Discussion of Active Projects in the Agencies. The attendees were called on to introduce themselves, and discuss any active projects going on in their agencies that they wished to note:

- **Eric Herman – NYSTA:** Gantries all mapped for cashless tolling, which went live in November; This mapping is on gis.ny.gov & ArcGIS Online; Working to get this posted to the NYS Open Data site; Toll plazas are coming down; Also expecting to start migration from older Esri platform soon
- **Brent Kinal – DEC (Lands & Forests):** Gearing up for the upcoming field season; Working on an agency-wide field inspection tool with a proof of concept for Esri mobile tools
- **Frank Winters – GIO:** Had an abstract accepted for second part of working with wayfinding and GPS companies–focus on a work zone meeting; Had a great kick off – new plan is conveyance of address data, highway information, and licensing with a good line-up to discuss
- **John Marino – NYNHP (iMapInvasives):** Collaboration with Ag & Markets, DEC, ITS for a 1 km US National Grid square map for identifying Spotted Lanternfly, an invasive confirmed in NY in 2020
- **Rui Li – U Albany (Geography & Planning Dept):** New Director of Master of Science in GIS; Encouraging students to check website for opportunities for internships – contact him if looking for interns; Looking at minority health disparities in NY – NYC versus Bay Area in California
- **Anyée Fields – NYSTA:** Updated Highway Advisory Radio is no longer broadcasting; Also making updates to rest areas
- **Anthony Calabrese – NYS Senate:** Work on SAGE (Senate Address Geocoding Engine) app, which maps constituents to districts and is available to public on the Senate's website at [Find My Senator](#).
- **Barb Cruden – ITS:** GIS Manager supporting several agencies represented here
- **Carol Hockeson – ITS (Health Portfolio):** Big focus on COVID work now – testing applications, vaccine distribution
- **Chelsea Towers – NYSHPO:** Will talk about Trekker suite of applications on ArcGIS Online today
- **Christina Croll – NYS Parks:** Summer launch of [Parks Explorer app](#) using Mobile Map Packages for mobile use online & offline
- **David Ettere – NYPA:** COVID mapping for employees and utility operations projects; Looking at the Esri Field Map application; Prepping data for 2020 inventory of vegetation, and pollinators & upcoming new construction projects
- **Katherine Barnes – DEC (Wildlife):** Working on mapping effort for newly acquired property
- **Douglas Done – DOH:** GIS support and geocoding
- **Gwen LaSelva – DOH:** Improving [Environmental Public Health Tracking website's](#) choropleth maps
- **Jason Baum – ITS (GPO):** Manage platforms of ShareGIS & CIRIS; Most recently, supporting the Chamber and DOH with COVID response, including micro-cluster zone mapping & vaccine distribution
- **Kate Kiyanitsa – ITS (GPO):** Manage civil boundaries & parcel maps (will discuss later)
- **Matt Carey – ITS (CTO):** Work in support of Ag & Markets and Public Service; Spotted Lanternfly control efforts, working with Esri mobile tools; DPS regulation of electric companies – Utility Event Dashboard for outage tracking and regulation on a tight schedule
- **Peter Lauridsen – DOS (Planning & Dev):** Helping with data development for [Gateway](#) & other public outreach materials; Strong grant process
- **Rebecca Newell – DOS (Planning & Dev):** See Peter's comment, above

- **Rob Rizzo – ITS (support DOT):** System of Engagement - collection of applications for program areas at DOT; Also support field data collection & inspection apps; CLEAR project will replace ALIS, SIMS and AIS – Phase 1 release expected in May
- **Rob Zitowsky – DOT (Traffic & Safety):** Also work on CLEAR (Crash Location and Engineering Analysis Repository) project
- **Ken Zalewski – NYS Senate:** Like Anthony, above, working on SAGE (since 2010) to help people identify their senators; Big advocates of open source software
- **Arjita Rai – DOH:** GIS/geocoding support
- **Tim Daly – ITS (DEC support):** Brent already covered field inspection project that's getting off ground with Survey 123 pilot & will look at Field Maps with focus on petroleum bulk storage; Continuing refinements to [DECinfo Locator](#)
- **Tim Ruhren – GPO:** Data programs & COVID; Vaccination site mapping; OEM support of ice jam management with an Esri Collector app

Data and Services from the GPO. Tim discussed the latest data collections for statewide orthoimagery and LiDAR. They are wrapping up last spring's collected. This 2020 collection included 20 counties (leaf off, as typical). Here is a map of the status:

Tim went on to note that for elevation data collection, they are working on the central Finger Lakes region's LiDAR collection, which should be wrapped up in a few weeks. USGS reviews could take a few more months. USGS awarded a 3DEP grant to Harris to collect parts of the Hudson River area. FEMA

flights were also done in 2019. For 2021, the Lower Hudson and western part of the state are currently being planned at 1-foot sampling, while Albany & Greene counties should be collected at half-foot; Rockland & Westchester will do their own collections.

Tim also noted that recent issues with crashes of the FTP server have been resolved. However, Google has deprecated FTP support in its Chrome browser so this is still an issue, and it may also soon be an issue with the Edge browser. Anyone having trouble should contact Tim at Tim.Ruhren@its.ny.gov.

He then discussed some of the changes to web services for legislative districts – Assembly, Senate, and Congressional representatives have all been updated. Both feature services and map services are available; Eric noted that only representatives have changed, and the boundaries will not change for a few years. He also mentioned that NYSTA has found that ArcGIS web applications, services cannot be nested within another web services. The data is also available for download. John suggested that there may be a suggestion for doing this on GeoNet.

Ken noted that the Senate's SAGE module aggregates data and shows these districts. They have an API to allow users send in an address and report back the corresponding districts. He also noted that they use an additional street file from the Board of Elections to identify districts, matching to a database, which goes much faster than matching based on geolocation. He may be able to show this at a future meeting. Eric noted that this would help where boundaries don't match up well with roads. Frank suggested that there may be funding opportunities available through NSGIC's Geo-Enabled Election Project through the Democracy Fund Voice.

Parcel Program. Kate then talked about the state's parcel program. She showed a map of GIS tax parcels received by the GPO. 2020 polygons are in for 52 counties, while 7 counties have 2019 data and 3 (Franklin, Fulton, & Monroe) are 2018 vintage. The data will be standardized soon. All counties are now allowing access to state agencies. The current efforts are focused on sharing of data publicly. She's shared a presentation that highlights the economic benefits of sharing the data. She noted that Steuben county recently agreed to openly share the data and she showed a map of the 26 counties that now have publicly shareable data. She's refining a PowerPoint, based on feedback, and will do a webinar for NYSGISA.

Kate then noted that data access for state agencies is now available through a secure web service, in addition to the secure download location. The office is looking to eventually be able to make this available as a feature service in the future. Some counties are concerned about the level of understanding of the level of use and access by state agencies. ITS's legal counsel has developed an agreement detailing the terms of use. State agency users would have to agree to this to have access to the data. Expect this around March. There was some discussion about why access needs to be revoked & reinstated, and possibly just disabling access to agencies that do not sign. Frank also noted that it would be up to the agencies to determine how internal controls are managed, much like the GIS Data Sharing Cooperative has functioned. Users must be responsible for being good stewards of the data. Public data is also available through Discover GIS Data NY.

GIO Updates. Frank covered several topics related to activities in his office. He started by talking about the organizational changes at ITS. The agency groupings have been significantly shrunken, and the teams that do development work have been centralized (there are now several thousand people under the CTO). Frank now reports to Joe Marshall (who reports to CTO Rajiv Rao). Joe is well-positioned to advocate for technology changes. Chris O'Connor now also reports to Joe Marshall as does John Rager (Chief Data Officer). Frank has not yet had much communication with the new state CIO, Tony Riddick. There is currently a hard hiring freeze. 10% of GPO has retired in last 3 months, and it's

unlikely to be able to fill these any time soon. Frank is working on enhancing opportunities within the organization.

Frank then discussed the renegotiated ELA with Esri. Parts of a plan were put in place with Chris O'Connor. ITS needed to find agencies that would contribute to this and renewed with the same 20 agencies as before. The ELA runs the calendar year and will expire at the end of 2023. Funding is in place for 2021 and will need to be identified for the next fiscal year. If agencies are interested in joining this ELA, they should let Frank know. Agencies can expand licensing of software without additional purchases (just make good on the maintenance in the next renewal). Some products are limited, but it includes most of Esri's software platforms. The NYS Active Directory has a 5-year security certificate that expires on Feb 19, 2021. If a user's ArcGIS Online access is provisioned through this, there will be an administrative change required. Frank also noted that ITS is on a pilot program using the Google Suite, starting this week.

Frank then talked about US Census issues. The differential privacy ("noise" introduced to the data to protect personal identification) formula has improved, but users should still be aware of error in counts due to this algorithm, when dealing with values at smaller levels of geography. The Census required descriptions of household situations on April 1. The pandemic dramatically impacted the answers, and numbers are low due to migrations out of cities, higher death rates, and people not at their typical April 1 locations. There was also concern regarding the potential for enumerators in the field spreading the virus. There were also major impacts on college student locations and urban areas were negatively affected. The Census Bureau alerted states that the apportionment counts will be delivered to the President by the end of April (several months behind), with redistricting data to be delivered to official state recipients after July 31. The Census continues to work on the redistricting data schedule and will provide more precise delivery dates within the coming weeks. Frank has a meeting tomorrow with Liz Burakowski on the Governor's Complete Count Commission.

COVID-19 Efforts. Eric noted that he expected Kevin Buettner from HRI/DOH to be able to attend the next meeting, and present on his activities during this global pandemic. Frank then went on to describe a variety of efforts around COVID-19.

Frank noted that his office is working with the Governor's Chamber's Vaccination Steering Committee, supporting them on the location of potential vaccine sites. This is an internal planning activity and has been put into ArcGIS Online for the Steering Committee to use. There is no plan yet on whether a dashboard would go public. Frank also spoke with the Department of Budget that Google is adding vaccinate sites to Google Maps, and encouraged supporting this effort rather than have the state try to play a role that the private sector may be better positioned to handle. His office is also working in coordination with DOH, assisting with mapping new micro-cluster zones last week. Most zones were rescinded last week since the characteristics of the spread no longer warrant this approach for control. The are just two yellow zones now remaining.

OGC is working on Health in Spatial Data Infrastructure request for information. Recommendations were submitted by the NYSGIS Association based on input from local and county reps. He discussed similar efforts with groups on the national level. The Pandemic GIS Task Force has added two new organizations: NACCHO and ASTHO. These will help to coordinate and amplify the message.

Historic Preservation's CRIS and Trekker Application Suite. Chelsea then gave a presentation on the Cultural Resource Information System (CRIS) Trekker 2.0 application from the State Historic Preservation Office. The first version was implemented in 2016 and had difficulty editing from mobile and bringing in pre-existing data. There was also a need to process data in a more efficient manner. Trekker 2.0 was built on ArcGIS Online and consists of 4 applications: 1) Survey123 to collect data in

forms, which feed 2) CRIS Mobile Pro, which shows the inventory and allows for population with pre-existing data, 3) Trekker Manager allows for the office people to edit data from the field, and 4) Trekker Reviewer is a duplicate of Manger for internal users at SHPO to process data collected by field consultants. Users have accounts with limited access to the projects that they are assigned. CRIS Mobile Pro is a lightweight version of full CRIS, allowing consultants to prepopulate Survey123 forms, and pull up data in the field. Chelsea then demonstrated the way the Survey123 data looks and the customized interface. It includes a communication piece to see previous notes on a site and is focused on consultant use. Once filled out, data appears in CRIS Trekker Manager tool, back in the office, through a browser application, which she demonstrated. She noted that the application is mostly used for grant survey projects, wind turbines, solar installations, and the National Register program for consultants to use when they are in a historic district. The Manager application can run a large variety of reports (inventory, historic districts, photos, etc.). If a point falls within a district, that's noted. The application calculates the size and information about these historic districts. The Reviewer application allows for processing if not done by consultant, and export into the public-facing CRIS application. The suite has been in production since December of 2019. It currently has about 60 users and thousands of inventory items and is being widely used.

Open Forum.
- Eric noted that the COVID case rates are now being shown in the Google Maps web platform, and not only on the mobile platform, as it was previously.
- Rob Zitowsky asked if there's a repository for agency GIS training materials. Frank noted that there was at one point, but the funding for this was dropped. Some material is being assembled to help with the ingestion of web services. Barb noted that agencies under the ELA have access to Esri's online training materials. Rob was more specifically interested in agency-specific training materials, and possibly share these.

A recording of the meeting is here: NYS GIS State Agency Advisory Group Meeting-20210202 1433-1 *Contact Eric (email listed below) for the password.*

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for May 18, 2021 from 9:30am-12:00pm at the Thruway Authority, or held virtually, as appropriate at that time. 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.