

NYS GIS State Agency Advisory Group

Meeting Agenda

at NYS Thruway Authority, Building 10 & WebEx

May 20, 2025

9:30 a.m. Intro/Roundtable Discussion –

Thoughts on GISP certification: do you have your GISP? Have you considered obtaining your GISP? What prevents you from obtaining your GISP?

Christina Croll - State Parks; has GISP, obtained before exam; exam is intimidating; sees value in having it; encourages staff to obtain it

Lis - ITS GIO - GISCI board/GISP - GISP exam is rigorous, has learned a lot from being part of it, science behind the exam; obtained GISP in pre-exam days; highest pass rate last exam 70%; job value - in industry - useful designation, especially engineering and consulting - salaries are higher with certification; higher level filter for ITS title; hoping to get GISP-E as part of the certification

Rebecca Newell - State Parks GIS Section Lead; do not have GISP, was in process of exploring to see if she needed classes because of background but stopped pursuing it

Tim Daly - ITS Geospatial Services, Client Services; used to be GISP, let expire; fully support and recommend, will likely not pursue again for self

John Marino - NY NHP; don't have GISP, neutral; like how it supports GIS as a profession

Mike Saliani - OGS design and construction; does not have GISP, started to compile experience to eventually obtain; consultant work to incentivize obtaining

Gursimran Sahota - OGS design and construction; does not have GISP; background in biology and data analytics; using spatial analysis more, will be taking classes

Hilary Land - ORES; do not have GISP yet; studying for exam, likes updated study guide; early enough in career to obtain to be beneficial

Brent Kinal - ORES; do not have GISP; was collecting information to obtain but haven't pursued; appreciate exam based version for status; likely don't need at this point in job but haven't ruled out; encouraging Hilary/staff to obtain

Jenny Smith - ITS Geo - do not have cert; when she was in the consulting world - close but other priorities; fell of radar when joined state

Jeff Langella - ITS Geo - do not have GISP; regret not getting when there was no test; not pursue at this point in career; might do it if he pursues GIS after he retires; when hiring - benefit to having it for ITS

Anyee Fields – Thruway Authority - do not have GISP, considered it a while ago; likely won't get it now, not needed for career

Jordan Garrison – Thruway Authority - GIS developer; do not have GISP; looked into it, considering it; not sure if having it will be beneficial in government sector for career progression; sees value in private sector

Gwen LaSelva - DOH - do not have GISP; uses GIS as tool rather than end, not needed; part of job but not main focus

Akaash Kapoor - ITS Geospatial Services; do not have GISP; early in career, started 4 weeks ago; thought about obtaining it, not sure what direction career is heading

Bobby Sayers - DEC - working on GISP, took exam in Dec, passed, organizing portfolio portion to finish application

Jen Pendleton - DEC Ecosystem health; don't have GISP; may consider it; may not need it for career

Joe Lasch - ITS Geo - do not have GISP; not get at this point in career

Justin Przepasnack - Canals - work with Ryan and Stephanie - used to work for DOT in Frank Winters days; do not have GISP; have moved around in career

Matt Carey - ITS Geo - do not have GISP, colleague told to do before exam, wish he had; mid/late career - might be interested - if it was encouraged by higher ups, he would be open

Melissa Hegeman - OGS - data analytics office - has GISP, helped changing titles, from a natural resources/bio background; having credential made tech skills more legit

Mike Formichelli - AGM - plants - GIS lead; do not have GISP; recently accepted supervisory position so prob not part of job; would like to know more about it, ever increasing role in division, would like to talk to admin about for staff working in GIS and future hires

Nick Hepler - ITS Geo - do not have GISP; looked at in the past, haven't made decision to obtain

Mid to late career GIS Professionals see less value in obtaining GISP; encourage early career professionals to obtain GISP

10:00 a.m. Discussion topic

DEC-wide GIS survey - John Marino

The survey was requested by Director of Innovation and Automation. Assess the investment in GIS/ESRI, to maximize the investment. Worked with ITS on survey questions, approved by ITS. Started as a training survey, changed to more general thoughts. Training/resources, topics, tools, meetings, peer support

There is a DEC GIS Team, created as a space for GIS support, collaboration. 550+ members of the team; ~1000 staff with GIS footprint

Responses – analysis ranked fairly high, comments – discussion on Pro, migrating; pair with training and standards

Next steps – Tim, John, Gaurav met to discuss results; information on training has been provided; up to DEC on how to implement

Reach out to volunteers; open more channels for focused discussion

Surprises – a lot of interest in ArcGIS Online

Interested in training tailored to DEC

ArcGIS Pro transition – rollout will include training; ITS Client Services will be involved. Hub site that Jenny will demo later in the meeting.

Good peer-to-peer support – ITS staff are members of team and has seen peers answer questions that prevents an ITSM ticket

Comments – Jordan from Thruway Authority – great to ask users; TA has GIS coordinators; they are seeing an increase in use of AGOL and Field Maps. Staff are requesting AGOL accounts. For their Pro transition, held a meeting on how to use Pro and where functionality correlates to ArcMap. They set a deadline for use. They provided a link to the meeting recording on their intranet page.

10:20 a.m. Topics from the Geospatial Services

Geospatial Services - moved to ITS digital transformation office; entire team moved to same office space; ground floor of building 5; nice to have everyone in same physical location

Developing 3 products - ITS has a product focus

NYSMAPS - working name - curated viewer, lightweight GIS; may take place of viewer licenses in AGOL; more to come as it's worked on; curated to agencies so you can host your own datasets

Still working on - governance; implementing EA; GeoHub/architecture modernization, extended to 2028; NYSMAPS and other sites will be hosted here; finalizing geospatial strategy; developing service catalog for agencies

Update items - Esri advantage program planning meeting in April - governance engagement in portal and AGOL, ITS will be developing guidelines for Geospatial Services, providing to agencies as best practices, metadata; bureau planning/schedule development; ITS - working on AI inventory - tasked with looking at GIS software, see where AI is, vetting process with ITS for guidance; NSGIC GMA - peer agencies throughout US; geospatial maturity assessment (GMA) report card for foundational data programs - survey period is open right now, ITS providing information on data programs, ranked with states; Esri UC (week of 7/14) sign up for virtual UC, have in person registrations; GAC 6/18; GIS Computers – developing specs for GIS computers – low, mid and high performance versions

HR news - new employee in CS - Akaash; new interns; hiring 5 hourly positions - ITS2; support data creation; support product development; project positions for GeoHub

GIS coordination - current graphic; SAAG in bottom right; new graphic - within NYS gov, SAAG, state agency council, ITS/non-ITS; GAC; NYS GIS Association; graphic will be posted on clearinghouse

ESRI EA update - Amendment - added new license types, unlimited licenses; meeting with agencies - planning for transition named users and transition to pro, including training, ESRI is providing some tools for user management, work group for NSGIC to figure out management, impact on costs still up in the air - cost recovery model based on concurrent use model; working with agency and ITS finance people; EA deployment report; can use AP credits for agency specific training, develop training plans, can offer outside of enterprise agencies if there are extra seats available; AGOL guidance and best practices

Data Update -

Orthos; green download and web services; 3 WNY being cached right now, updating hopefully Friday; NYC in the next few weeks; statewide 2024 cache within next few weeks; last Sunday, finished flights - challenging year - 3-4 weeks with no flights; NYC DEP a partner HV coverage 6" resolution; summer leaf on flights as well - within watershed and aqueducts

Elevation Status - same since September; Lk Ontario shoreline - final stages; red - USGS (ADK) 2024 - should be in June - once that's accepted statewide 3DP level 2 quality data; 1.3 million in funding from NYC DEP, submitted to USGS to get into national map, completed last Sunday, passed initial QC; LI 2024

Parcels - 2024 data released; 36 publicly available; 2025 outreach begins after July 1st; Civil boundaries updated last Friday

Streets and Addresses - 51+million hits in 2025; new pro address locators published in GeoHub dev; working with DHSES next gen 911

Questions about how QA/QC is done for ortho/elevation program- short demo on how they do this - perhaps at a future meeting

10:55 a.m. Break/Networking

11:05 a.m. NHD/3DHP - NYS Hydrography Open Discussion

Short presentation on difference between NHD and 3DHP

See attached document for brief background and questions to consider

Survey for group, and possibly listserve for who is using the dataset.

Hydro break lines are a product of 3DHP; 2 acres or greater, more than 100' wide

Deprecated NHD in 2023, 3DHP was coming

3DHP is based on existing Lidar, which doesn't follow HUCs. 3DHP handled through a data collaboration agreement likely on Geospatial products and services contract

Hydro break lines from DEMs done through looking at bare earth where there's no ground classified and you vectorize to have a pretty decent water feature. 3dhp doesn't detect under 2

acres. So does 3DHP satisfy needs? We could potentially change parameters for breakline specifications but cost increases significantly.

California is working with USGS to create their own and they will eventually make those tools available.

State has to pay to submit to USGS for 3DHP compliant data.

Discussion and consideration re: potential paths moving forward. Open discussion for use cases - what data source are you using, do you use nys hydrography data, should NYS have a hydrography program, need for updated hydrography,

General consensus – agencies just want to know what data source to use and what is accurate.

11:35 a.m. ITS Hub pages for state agencies

Geospatial Services Hub for EA Administration

GIS Resources for NYS Agencies

Has resources for ArcPro transition, ArcMap retirement, training information, product guides, esri updates, EA specific documents, recent ESRI updates.

Agency GIS drop down in one the next change windows for clearinghouse

Self-paced training courses will be highlighted

Will publish monthly updates from ESRI

Tab- migration to Pro

11:50 a.m. Open Forum/Announcements

NEARC: North Falmouth, MA – October 26 – 29, 2025

NY GeoCon: Lake Placid, NY – October 8 – 10, 2025

12:00 p.m. Adjourn