



*Draft Plan proposed for Coordinating Committee review.  
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# MetroGIS 2024 Work Plan

## Contents

<a href="#">What is MetroGIS?</a> .....	3
<a href="#">MetroGIS' Mission Statement</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Sponsorship Statement</a> .....	3
<a href="#">Introduction</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Revision Procedure</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Mid-Year Adjustments</a> .....	4
<a href="#">Publication and Availability of the Work Plan</a> .....	5
<a href="#">MetroGIS Sustaining Activities</a> .....	5
<a href="#">Maintenance Actions</a> .....	5
<a href="#">MetroGIS Projects for 2024</a> .....	7
<a href="#">Project Prioritization Brief</a> .....	7
<a href="#">Priority #1 – Regional GIS Data Provisioning</a> .....	9
<a href="#">Priority #2 – Lidar Acquisition</a> .....	10
<a href="#">Priority #3 – External Platform Publishing</a> .....	11
<a href="#">Priority #4 – MLCCS Update</a> .....	12
<a href="#">Maintenance – Metro Regional Data Viewer</a> .....	13
<a href="#">Not Prioritized – Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)</a> .....	14
<a href="#">Not Prioritized – Addressing Resource Guide</a> .....	15
<a href="#">On Hold – Metro Park and Trail Dataset and Data Standard</a> .....	16
<a href="#">On Hold – Parcel Data Best Practices Guide</a> .....	17
<a href="#">MetroGIS 2024 Budget</a> .....	18

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## What is MetroGIS?

MetroGIS is voluntary collaborative of government, private sector, non-profit and academic interests working to serve the on-going need for geospatial information in the Twin Cities metropolitan region. MetroGIS was formed in 1996 in response to the articulated need for maximizing the benefits of sharing geospatial data in the metro region.

The goal of MetroGIS is *to expand stakeholders' capacity to address shared geographic information technology needs through a collaboration of organizations that serve the Twin Cities metropolitan area.*

Relying entirely upon voluntary participation, MetroGIS realizes this mission by:

- *Identifying and defining shared geospatial information data and project needs;*
- *Implementing collaborative regional solutions to address shared needs;*
- *Fostering widespread access and sharing of geospatial data;*
- *Fostering recognition of the value of GIS as a core business tool;*
- *Facilitating knowledge sharing relevant to the advancement of GIS technology;*

## MetroGIS' Mission Statement



*"To provide an ongoing, stakeholder-governed, metro-wide mechanism through which participants easily and equitably share geographically referenced data that are accurate, current, secure, of common benefit and readily usable." (Adopted February 8, 1996)*

## Sponsorship Statement

The work of MetroGIS is made possible and strengthened by the range of resources offered by its entire stakeholder community. Since MetroGIS' inception in February of 1996, the Metropolitan Council has provided the financial resources and administrative oversight to the collaborative, while other agencies, organizations and governments provide data, research, expertise, guidance, in-kind contributions, and governance. This blend of diverse resources is vital to the continuance of the MetroGIS collaborative to represent and serve the broad geospatial stakeholder community of the Twin Cities metropolitan region.

*"MetroGIS" and "Sharing Information Across Boundaries" as well as the MetroGIS logo are registered service marks of the Metropolitan Council.*

## Introduction

The purpose of the MetroGIS Work Plan document is to provide a concise summary of the projects and activities to be undertaken in calendar year 2024 by the participants of the collaborative. The Work Plan is intended to be a living document and is subject to revisions and changes as recommended and approved by the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee.

## Revision Procedure

The MetroGIS Coordinating Committee will formally revisit and edit the Work Plan once per year (*generally at the Fall Committee meeting*) to chart the progress of existing projects and include new projects which rise in priority and interest. The Annual Work Plan is then formally adopted by vote of the Coordinating Committee at its following meeting. The Work Plan is used as the primary instrument to direct activities and to program the annual MetroGIS budget.

## Mid-Year Adjustments

Revisions and modifications to this Work Plan can be suggested by any member of the Coordinating Committee and be approved by vote at any quarterly meeting of the Committee. For a new project recommendation, a Coordinating Committee member may propose the project at a quarterly meeting. Committee members are encouraged to indicate the following regarding their proposed project:

- A project **owner**: *A person who would serve in a leadership role for the project, to act as its spokesperson and steward;*
- A project **champion**: *A person at senior management or policy-maker level who can advocate for the benefits of the project and its outcomes;*
- A project **work team**: *A group of individuals committed to the work tasks, review, course correction and implementation of the project;*
- A business case summary or similar document outlining the need(s) for the project and an indication of the anticipated **benefit** of the proposed project;
- A recommendation as to **budget requirements** and possible **funding source(s)**;

Upon receiving project proposals, the Coordinating Committee may then decide to:

- Accept the project to be worked on in the current year and prioritize it relative to the other projects scheduled for the current year;
- Table, or 'put on hold' the proposal and request additional information be gathered or research to support the project be conducted.

- Direct the Committee members, other staff or duly appointed party to conduct further research on behalf of the project and bring their findings to the Committee.
- Create a work group to begin work, research or other activities;
- Postpone the project until the next annual planning cycle;

## Publication and Availability of the Work Plan

Revision and re-publication of the Work Plan document is the responsibility of the MetroGIS Coordinator or a duly appointed designee by the Coordinating Committee. A copy of the most current approved MetroGIS Work Plan will be made available to any member of the stakeholder community and public via [metrogis.org](http://metrogis.org) or upon request submitted to [metrogis-contacts@metc.state.mn.us](mailto:metrogis-contacts@metc.state.mn.us).

## MetroGIS Sustaining Activities



### Maintenance Actions

*MetroGIS assumes a core maintenance role for a variety of activities serving the geospatial community of the metropolitan region.*

### (1) Maintenance of Regionally Federated Datasets

The top priority of the MetroGIS collaborative is the maintenance and perpetuation of the Metro Regional Datasets, these being the Regional Parcel Dataset, Metro Regional Road Centerlines Dataset and Metro Regional Address Point Datasets. MetroGIS provides on-going support and maintenance activities to ensure these datasets are up-to-date, accurate and continually available including the following activities:

- The maintenance of the Memorandum of Agreement and its supporting Contract between the Seven Metropolitan Counties and the Metropolitan Council;
- The quarterly collection and review of the parcel data produced by the Seven Metropolitan Counties;
- Providing and editing of validation scripts and other tools for both the data producer and data consumer community to make use of.

- Documentation of questions, and responses back to the input from the data user community regarding the dataset;
- Publishing updated datasets and accompanying metadata to the Minnesota Geospatial Commons.

## **Regional Datasets supported and maintained by the MetroGIS collaborative include:**

### **Metro Regional Parcel Dataset**

The regional parcel dataset has been continuously published since 2002. Parcel data is collected and assembled quarterly (January, April, July, October) from authoritative county sources.

### **Metro Regional Address Point Dataset**

The first regional address point dataset was published in August 2018. The dataset now includes Sherburne, Isanti, and Chisago Counties. It is a key dataset for NextGen9-1-1 deployment. It will be published to ESRI's Community Basemap for use in ESRI's World Geocoder.

### **Metro Regional Road Centerline Dataset**

Available since April 2017, the metro centerlines dataset completed its transition from the MRCC format to the GAC-approved Road Centerline Standard format. It is a key dataset for NextGen9-1-1 deployment. It is published to ESRI's Community Basemap.

### **Metro Regional Park Dataset**

Available with attributes since early 2018, this dataset represents an ongoing process of federating local, county and state parks, and related data into a regional dataset.

### **Metro Regional Trail Dataset**

Available with attributes since early 2018, this dataset represents an ongoing process of federating local, county and state trails, on-street cycling routes, and related data into a regional dataset.

## **(2) Maintenance of the 'metrogis.org' website**

MetroGIS staff maintains the 'metrogis.org' website as a resource for a variety of audiences including MetroGIS stakeholders, private sector stakeholders, non-profit and academic stakeholders; local, county, regional, state, and federal government participants, and researchers looking for data, standards, and related information.

### **(3) MetroGIS governance**

MetroGIS main governing body is its Coordinating Committee comprised of lead technical and management-level professionals from various agencies around the metropolitan region. The MetroGIS Coordinating Committee has the option to create and activate task-specific work groups as it sees fit. MetroGIS staff, from the Metropolitan Council, provides the support functions for these bodies to convene and act efficiently.

### **(4) Center of excellence for inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional collaboration, data development and data sharing**

MetroGIS serves as a 'living laboratory' and resource to both the academic and government community in the operation, funding, management, and governance of a voluntary, inter-agency geospatial collaborative.

MetroGIS takes an active interest in the legal and legislative aspects of data development, data sharing and public data availability of geospatial and participates in research and advocacy efforts which facilitate the wider availability of geospatial data.



### **MetroGIS Projects for 2024**

*The following pages provide a one-page synopsis of each anticipated MetroGIS 2024 project; a short summary of the inactive projects is also provided.*

### **Project Prioritization Brief**

As a volunteer collaborative with limited fiscal and human resources, MetroGIS needs to be judicious when selecting the projects and initiatives it will proceed with. Project priorities identified for the **2024 Work Plan** work cycle are identified in the table below. This ranking and prioritization reflect the discussion and decision of the Coordinating Committee. There are currently four (4) active projects, one project in maintenance mode and four others that are not prioritized currently or on hold.

After initial preferential rankings are complete, the Coordinating Committee may discuss the projects and manually re-order them as per their relevance to known business needs, likelihood of success and relevance to stakeholder interests. In such case, the order of projects would reflect this discussion and not match the numerical Priority Score assigned.

<b>Project/Activity Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Do in '24</b>	<b>CC Priority</b>
Regional GIS Data Provisioning	Active	On-going	1
Lidar Acquisition	Active	Yes	2
External Platform Publishing	Active	On-going	3
MLCCS Update	Active	Yes	4
Metro Regional Data Viewer	Maintenance	Maintenance	Maintenance
Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)	Draft standard is available for use and is being tested	On-going testing by volunteers	Not prioritized
Addressing Best Practices Guide	Ramsey County is in development of a draft for eventual review by the community	Yes	Not prioritized
Metro Park and Trail Dataset and Data Standard	On hold	No	Not prioritized
Parcel Best Practices Guide	On hold	No	Not prioritized

Detailed descriptions of projects and role of those involved are outlined in the following pages.



## Priority #1 – Regional GIS Data Provisioning

Project Brief	This on-going effort aims to document data lifecycle/flow from address and road creation through the regional datasets into the statewide datasets, including those used for NG9-1-1
Critical Stakeholders	Stakeholders involved in the creation, aggregation, and validation of multi-use address and road geospatial datasets
Priority Level	<b>1st</b>
Budget	No budget current dedicated to this project
Benefit to Stakeholders	Create clarity of ongoing lifecycles for addresses and roads, leading to their inclusion in regional and statewide datasets for consumption in multiple uses, including Next Generation 9-1-1
Project Owners	Marcia Broman (MESB) Geoff Maas (Ramsey County)
Project Champion	Jill Rohret (MESB)
Project Team	On-going outreach to GIS staff at each participating county as needed for input in the development/review of lifecycle models, agreements, and any other documents created; Participation welcome from any interested party
Expected Timeline	On-going
Key Steps & Milestones	Develop and refine documentation about the details, agreements and technical requirements for maintaining the various metro regional datasets. Develop lifecycle models/frameworks Identify any underpinning agreements/documents Develop supporting materials Share with counties as a framework for county use in aligning at their discretion with internal processes
Policy Implications	Documents to help inform leadership on importance of regional dataset maintenance for 9-1-1 and other geospatial projects
Notes:	This project effort is not exclusive to the requirements of NG9-1-1 and is proposed to address the lifecycles of address and road data supported by metro county GIS organizations and intended for multiple use cases.

## Priority #2 – Lidar Acquisition

Project Brief	This project demonstrates the importance of updated elevation data to the metro region. MetroGIS is contributing funds to the State of Minnesota to acquire newer and higher-resolution Lidar elevation data in partnership with the Federal collection (USGS 3DEP).
Critical Stakeholders	All MetroGIS participants and constituent partners who use elevation data in the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan region of Minnesota.
Priority Level	<b>2nd</b>
Budget	\$22,000 (Spent in 2022)
Benefit to Stakeholders	Benefits of more accurate and current elevation data for a wide variety of geospatial projects ranging from NextGen9-1-1 support, infrastructure development and management, water resources management and erosion control to name just a few.
Project Owners	Mary Mortensen (Metropolitan Council) Geoff Maas (Ramsey County)
Project Champion	N/A
Project Team	Tanya Mayer and the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee
Expected Timeline	Collection of imagery by vendor: during calendar 2022 Delivery of imagery by vendor by December 2023
Key Steps & Milestones	MetroGIS Project Funding approval (Sep 2021) USGS Funding Partner Form (Sep 2021) Metropolitan Council Inter-Agency Agreement with MNIT (Nov 2021) MNIT JFA with USGS for Central Mississippi River Lidar Collection Area Lidar collection (Spring 2022) 3DEP Standard Deliverables production (Point Cloud, DEM, Lidar Swath Polygon, Hydro-break lines, Metadata & Reports) Foundational Derived product development (1-ft Contours, Hill-shaded DEM, Canopy Height Model)
Policy Implications	There are no known policy implications to the request for funding.
Notes:	As of this writing Sept/October 2023, project partners are still waiting for the new LIDAR Data to be delivered from Woolpert/USGS

### Priority #3 – External Platform Publishing

Project Brief	As parcels, address points, centerlines and park and trail datasets transition from create to maintenance and their availability is consistent, it is the goal of the Metro County managers to have larger platforms consume this data as authoritative.
Critical Stakeholders	The data producer and data consumer community; Large platform hosts such as Google, ESRI Community Basemap and Open Street Map
Priority Level	<b>3rd</b>
Budget	None required
Benefit to Stakeholders	Authoritatively sourced, standardized geospatial datasets from the Seven Metropolitan Counties being readily available in larger platforms
Project Owners	GIS Managers and staff from the Seven Metro Counties
Project Champion	Randy Knippel (Dakota County)
Project Team	Joe Sapletal (Dakota County)
Expected Timeline	Project participants will be examining methods and approaches as time permits
Key Steps & Milestones	Metro Counties began contacting and encouraging external platforms to consume the metro datasets in 2019 Metropolitan Council ESRI Community Basemap account in 2019 Uploaded Parcel Data 2020 Uploaded Street Centerline Data 2020 and quarterly Uploaded Address Point Data 2022
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	On-going effort to get metro datasets consumed by external platforms

## Priority #4 – MLCCS Update

Project Brief	Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data is widely used by county and city planners in the metro area. Due to the high cost of creating the data, a majority of the metro area has outdated MLCCS data. The goal of this project is to identify new GIS technologies that would lower the cost of creating Minnesota Land Cover Classification System data.
Critical Stakeholders	County and local governments and commercial developers
Priority Level	<b>4th</b>
Budget	\$26,500 in 2023
Benefit to Stakeholders	Support comprehensive planning efforts and natural resource protection with a process to create current and accurate land cover data.
Project Owners	David Brandt, Geospatial Systems Architect, Washington County
Project Champion	Chris Lord, Anoka County Conservation District
Project Team	Bart Richardson, MNIT @ DNR Catherine Hansen, MNIT @ DNR Jason Husveth, Critical Connections Len Kne, U of M Kristine Mauer, Hennepin County Jim Drake, NatureServe Paul Bockenstedt, Stantec Jay Riggs, Washington County Dave Holmen, Dakota County
Expected Timeline	Project progress on-going through calendar 2023
Key Steps & Milestones	Development of first model anticipated in late 2023
Policy Implications	This tool and technique will help keep the MLCCS data updated in the metropolitan region.
Notes:	\$5,500 through in-kind (DNR and other agencies)

## In Maintenance - Metro Regional Data Viewer

Project Brief	The development and maintenance of a freely available <a href="#">data viewer</a> resource that facilitates viewing of regionally federated datasets needed by the 9-1-1 community to may lack access to GIS software or expertise.
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders needing authoritative address points Addressing Authorities (primarily cities) Data aggregators (County Governments, Metropolitan Council, MnGeo)
Priority Level	<b>(Maintenance)</b>
Budget	No funding necessary Staff time and In-kind services of participating agencies will conduct the initial stages of work of the project
Benefit to Stakeholders	Availability to geospatially enabled and non-geospatially enabled staff of stakeholder organizations of regionally federated datasets in an easy-to-use data viewer. While being tailored specifically to the needs of the NextGen9-1-1 user community, the viewer will be available to the public.
Project Owner	Marcia Broman, 9-1-1 Data Coordinator Metro Emergency Services Board
Project Champion	Jill Rohret, Executive Director Metro Emergency Services Board
Project Team	MESB Staff (Broman, Oslin) Metro County GIS Staff (Representatives from each Metro County) Metropolitan Council Staff (Murphy)
Expected Timeline	Maintenance Mode
Key Steps & Milestones	The site is maintained by the Metropolitan Council and has been consistently available since 2020. The site is subject to the edits and refinements of the MetroGIS community.
Policy Implications	County GIS Offices developing and maintaining good relationships and to execute contracts (as needed) with their constituent cities to ensure the continuous flow of authoritatively created address point data; Ensuring the aggregated data meets the needs of NextGen9-1-1 use cases;
Notes:	Project has been in maintenance mode since 2020.

## Not Prioritized - Metro Stormwater Geodata Project

Project Brief	The MSWGP is focused on the creation of a stormwater geodata transfer standard to meet the various needs of the mapping, modeling, water quality, regulatory and engineering community including a pilot project of sample data to enable the community to test the standard in context, and refinements to accommodate and document input from the stakeholder community.
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders who create, use, consume or need stormwater system data in the Twin Cities metro region; these include city, county, regional, state, federal data creators and users as well as academic interests, engineering and modeling professionals and the water quality and regulatory community
Priority Level	<b>Draft available for use and testing by the professional community</b>
Budget	None needed
Benefit to Stakeholders	Availability of a draft stormwater geodata transfer standard for the entire geospatial community to make use of for creating, maintaining, and assembling stormwater system data in GIS;
Project Owners	Geoff Maas, Ramsey County Information Services Carrie Magnuson, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
Project Champion	None
Project Team	30-plus member MSWGP Steering Committee (Formed in April 2018, met last in early 2021 on-line to discuss revisions)
Expected Timeline	Draft version of stormwater data will be available indefinitely. As agencies begin to utilize the standard, they can propose additional revisions and changes as they see fit. Maas to continue to serve as point of contact and document custodian for the effort
Key Steps & Milestones	Draft version of the standard proffered to the GAC Standards Committee. GAC Standards Committee in 2021.
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	The University of Minnesota Stormwater Research Council remains interested in promoting the standard as a resource to the professional stormwater community.  Staff at the Minnehaha Watershed District are actively engaged in translating their city's data into the draft standard and providing feedback on how well it meets their needs.

## Not Prioritized – Addressing Resource Guide

Project Brief	The creation of a resource document that draws together technical, legal, policy and procedural information for the creation, maintenance and use of address point data
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders creating, maintaining or using address point data
Priority Level	<b>In progress</b>
Budget	In-kind (staff time) resources will provide the work;
Benefit to Stakeholders	A centralized document resource which contains detailed information germane to the creation, maintenance and use of address point data and how that data is used and consumed in various systems.
Project Owners	Geoff Maas (Ramsey County, IS-GIS) Vic Barnett (Ramsey County, ECC)
Project Champion	None
Project Team	Ramsey County GIS staff
Expected Timeline	First draft anticipated to be available in mid-2024
Key Steps & Milestones	Ramsey County is presently meeting with its constituent cities on the details of address data maintenance and is developing a draft addressing resource guide based on those interactions
Policy Implications	Better information available to all involved in addressing work
Notes:	Ramsey County staff is developing an initial draft and will publish that out to the wider community when ready for review, comment, critique and editing.

## On Hold - Metro Park and Trail Dataset and Data Standard

Project Brief	The creation and adoption of a park and trail data standard and the creation and maintenance of a metro wide park and trail dataset that is freely and openly available and updated periodically to reflect the presence of park and trail assets of the region.
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders creating, needing or using park and trail data interjurisdictionally in the metropolitan region.
Priority Level	<b>On hold</b>
Budget	No funds are allotted from MetroGIS to advance this initiative;
Benefit to Stakeholders	Access to authoritatively sourced, standardized park and trail data for the Seven County Metropolitan region
Project Owners	Alex Blenkush, Hennepin County Tanya Mayer, Metropolitan Council Geoff Maas, Ramsey County
Project Champion	
Project Team	GIS staff at each participating county working on preparing and submitting data for inclusion.
Expected Timeline	An updated version of the dataset in Version 1.2 was published to the Minnesota Geospatial Commons in February 2020, this represents the best version of the data available at this time.
Key Steps & Milestones	January 2019 project team meeting created v. 1.2 of the data schema, agreed upon which fields would need validation.  Validation script based on these decisions and provided it to the county partners for running on their data prior to submittal.  A Best Practices Document to support the dataset.
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	On-going through 2020 and beyond



## On Hold - Parcel Data Best Practices Guide

Project Brief	The creation of a document/resource that draws together technical, legal, policy and procedural information for the creation, maintenance and use of parcel data.
Critical Stakeholders	All stakeholders creating, needing, or using parcel data
Priority Level	<b>(ON HOLD)</b>
Budget	None needed
Benefit to Stakeholders	A centralized document or resource which contains information germane to the creation, maintenance and use of parcel data.
Project Owners	None
Project Champion	None
Project Team	None
Expected Timeline	No timeline
Key Steps & Milestones	None
Policy Implications	None
Notes:	There is no one currently available to perform this work.

# MetroGIS 2024 Budget

MetroGIS' core financial support is provided by the Metropolitan Council in the form of an annual budget allotment. Until 2018, MetroGIS budget was \$86,000/year. In 2018, MetroGIS' budget was reduced to \$50,000/year by the Metropolitan Council Information Services Department. In 2024, MetroGIS' budget is \$57,000. Formal programming and direction of the collaborative's available funds are decided upon by the Coordinating Committee. This budget can be amended by actions of either the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee, MetroGIS Policy Board or the Information Services Department of the Metropolitan Council as is needed to meet the project aims of the collaborative.

## Summary 2024 Metro GIS Budget

RANK	Category	2024	2023	2022	2021
Budget	MetroGIS Regional Data Sharing Agreements (Counties)	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Budget	MetroGIS Regional GIS Projects*	25,000	26,500	25,000	22,000
Budget	<b>MetroGIS Total IS Budget Allotment</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>58,500</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>54,000</b>
Funding	Grant Funds	0	0	0	0
Expense	County Data Sharing Agreements	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
1	Regional GIS Data Provisioning	0	0	0	0
2	LIDAR Acquisition (Acquired in 2022)	0	0	22,000	0
3	External Platform Publishing	0	0	0	0
4	MLCCS Update Project	0	26,500	0	0
M	Metro Regional Data Viewer	0	0	0	0
NP	Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)	0	0	0	0
NP	Addressing Best Practices Guide	0	0	0	0
H	Metro Park and Trail Dataset and Data Standard	0	0	0	0
H	Parcel Best Practices Guide	0	0	0	0
<b>Committed and/or Already Spent</b>		<b>28,000</b>	<b>54,500</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>28,000</b>
<b>Remaining: Unspent/Unused</b>		<b>29,000</b>	<b>4,000</b>	<b>7,000</b>	<b>26,000</b>
	<i>MetroGIS Misc. Expenses - Earmarked</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>2,000</i>	<i>2,000</i>
	MetroGIS Misc. Expenses - Total Spent	0	0	0	0

- M** = Maintenance mode
- NP** = Not prioritized, work taking place informally
- H** = On hold

## **MetroGIS Project Prioritization Process Steps**

Member of the professional community proposes a project using the MetroGIS project template: <https://metrogis.org/projects/Project-Templates.aspx> and submits the project to the MetroGIS executive team for review.

Executive Team brings proposal to the Coordinating Committee members for discussion. Project proposer is encouraged to present on their project, request funding, etc.

Committee members have a week to review project proposal can make recommendations to the proposer.

Coordinating Committee reviews and discusses the project, identifies any gaps or errors, makes recommendations and approves/revises/denies the project.

Preferences are tallied, and each project gets a priority score.

Committee can change priority during an agenda item at a future meeting, if the Committee so chooses.