

Greetings MetroGIS Policy Board Members and Alternates,

This notice serves as a brief 'end of year' update on the current work of MetroGIS and to wish you all a lovely holiday season.

Free and Open Geospatial Data Progress

I am pleased to report that—as of this October—all Seven Metropolitan Counties have adopted Free and Open Geospatial Data policies.

Additionally, numerous counties in Greater Minnesota are following suit, by either adopting policies or freely publishing their data. The most recent of which is Itasca County, having adopted a policy on December 9, 2015. All data consumers in Minnesota are tremendously grateful for the continued advancement of freely available geospatial data; this of course gained tremendous momentum from your collective support in October 2013.

Additionally, Hennepin County will be sponsoring another community 'Geo.Code' event on March 5-6, 2016. This code-a-thon event will be held on the campus of the University of Minnesota and has been expanded to invite the contributions of entire metro region GIS community. We anticipate many innovative uses and explorations of the wealth of open data now available.

Minnesota Geospatial Commons (gisdata.mn.gov)

There is now a fully-functioning 'one-stop-shop' website for all state agency GIS data, the **Minnesota Geospatial Commons**. This data clearinghouse was formally launched in July 2015, and is offering over 500 data resources (and counting). This represents the excellent work of many state agencies 'pulling together' to create something of tremendous value.

The MetroGIS DataFinder data clearinghouse (launched in 1998) was formally retired on December 15, 2015; all its former data holdings now being available from the Commons.

Metro Road Centerlines Collaborative

The GIS Departments of Seven Metropolitan Counties have been working incredibly hard—both internally and with one another—to bring together their road centerline data into the new draft standard and dataset. This data will be of immense benefit to the entire data consumer community, particularly for 911 Emergency Response users. We are working closely with MnGeo for the aggregation and publication of this data. We anticipate the first version of the data to be in full production by March 2016. ***Our gratitude to the County GIS professionals of the region for their continued dedication and hard work on this vitally important data resource!***

2016 MetroGIS Budget and Work Plan

The Coordinating Committee adopted its work plan for 2016 on December 3rd. In addition to the continued advance of address point data development, inter-jurisdictional data aggregation and joint purchase of aerial imagery, we have begun working—in partnership with the DNR—on

the development of a park and trail dataset and data standard, as well as working with the Borchert Map Library at the University of Minnesota to archive and publish (in web viewable format) seamless aerial imagery of the entire metro region as far back as the 1950s.

2016 Annual Policy Board Meeting

As you know, we now convene the Policy Board only once per calendar year.

Our annual meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 27** at the Metro County Government Center in St Paul. Meeting details and agenda will be provided as we draw nearer to that date in the spring.

Again, my sincerest thanks for your continued support of MetroGIS.

We as geospatial practitioners are grateful for your attention to our work in GIS and the value we endeavor to bring to all levels of government in Minnesota.

As always, please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Respectfully,
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