MetroGIS 2025 Work Plan

Approved by the **MetroGIS Coordinating Committee on 11/14/2024**

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Contents

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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 2025 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 is 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** or upon request submitted to 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 and Trail Datasets
Available as basic geometry with limited attributes since early 2018, this dataset represents an ongoing process of federating local, county and state parks, local, county and state trails, on-street cycling routes and related data into a regional dataset. Renewed work on this began in fall 2024 to improve quality, usability, and availability.

(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 2025

The following pages provide a one-page synopsis of each anticipated MetroGIS 2025 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 **2025 Work Plan** work cycle are identified in the table below. This ranking and prioritization reflect the discussion and decision of the Coordinating Committee.

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.

MetroGIS Project/Activity Name	Status	Do in 2025	CC Priority
Regional GIS Data Provisioning	Active	On-going	1(Maint.)
Metro Park and Trail Data Standard	Active	Yes	2
New Regional Data Sharing Agreements	Active	Yes	3
Revamp MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures	New	Yes	4
External Platform Publishing	New	Yes	5
Metro Regional Data Viewer	Active	On-going	6 (Maint.)
Metro Food Resources Map and Dataset	Active	Yes	Not Prioritized
Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)	Draft standard is available for use/review	No	On Hold
LIDAR Acquisition (Acquired in 2022-23, data delivered 2024)	Data available	No	Completed
MLCCS Update Project (Tool published 2024)	Data/project materials available	No	Completed

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	**1st**
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 as 'highest/most detailed' use case.
Project Owners	MetroGIS Coordinating Committee MetroGIS Data Producers Workgroup (data maintenance) Metropolitan Council Staff (schema validation/data aggregation) Metropolitan Emergency Services Board (9-1-1 validation)
Policy Level Champion	Jill Rohret, Executive Director (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 – Metro Park and Trail Data Standard

Project Brief	Convene interested stakeholder organizations and individuals to revisit the prior standard and develop a modified or new data standard for park and trail geospatial data that can be used to integrate data across jurisdictions, including municipal, park district, county, region, and state.
Critical Stakeholders	All agencies and interests who produce and consume park and trail geospatial data.
Priority Level	**2nd**
Budget	No budget current dedicated to this project. In-kind contributions (participation time, access to meeting spaces, refreshments) will be contributed by members who are willing to do so.
Benefit to Stakeholders	Stakeholders collaboratively developing a park and trail data schema that is mutually agreed upon as meeting their collective need. This results in a park and trail data standard that meets the needs of multiple agencies and can ultimately be used by agencies federating data.
Project Owners	Geoff Maas (Ramsey County)
Project Champion	At this time, there is no policy or executive level champion of the effort. Leadership at most organizations seems to think that standardized GIS data magically falls from the sky fully formed and ready to use, so let's not wake them and let them continue their inaccurate fever dream.
Project Team	Whoever makes time to show up and participate in the sessions. They would contribute their experience and ideally provide and describe their specific needs for standardized park and trail data.
Expected Timeline	New in 2024, undefined
Key Steps & Milestones	Identifying a stable set of participants who will agree to participate over the course of the project. At the first meeting, we will establish a fixed number of work sessions (assumed to be 3 or 4) to document the business needs and develop the draft schema, we do not want the project to drag on forever. If we can successfully document the business needs and develop a draft schema that participating agencies can lay hands on, test, comment on and approve, the project will have achieved its main aim. The adoption and use of the schema by agencies to produce data is another thing entirely.
Policy Implications	It does not appear to, other than the Metropolitan Council is now asking for regional park and trail data to be provided in a specific format for access to regional funds. This is new as of 2024.
Notes:	None.

Priority #3 – New Regional Data Sharing Agreements

Project Brief	Regional data sharing agreements between Met Council and each of the 7-counties in the metro area are implemented every 3-5 years. The current set of agreements are coming to the end of their 5th year and require brand new agreements. This project will engage the 7-county GIS managers and Met Council GIS in reviewing and renewing the scope and expectations for the new agreements.
Critical Stakeholders	Stakeholders involved in the creation, aggregation, and validation of multi-use regional geospatial datasets. Beneficiaries include Metropolitan Council; 7 counties in the metro area; local, regional and state organizations; MN Geospatial Information Office
Priority Level	**3rd**
Budget	No budget current dedicated to this project
Benefit to Stakeholders	Ongoing maintenance and perpetuation of Regionally Federated Datasets. MetroGIS provides on-going support and maintenance activities to ensure these datasets are up-to-date, accurate and continually available. Met Council supports this effort with agreements and funding to each county for that work.
Project Owners	Tanya Mayer (Metropolitan Council)
Project Champion	Mary Mortensen (Metropolitan Council)
Project Team	Tanya Mayer, Senior GIS Coordinator, Metropolitan Council All or a portion of the 7-county metro GIS Managers
Expected Timeline	September 30, 2025 – agreement to scope of work/expectations December 31, 2025 – 7 individual data sharing agreement contracts between the Met Council and each of the Metro Counties.
Key Steps & Milestones	Review current Regional Data Sharing Agreement Itemize changes to current expectations. Document desired new expectations. Confirm Met Council budget for Data Sharing Agreements Finalize scope of work to be used for each county data sharing agreement. Complete 7 county contracts
Policy Implications	Formalizes the development and maintenance of regional datasets. Documents to help inform leadership on importance of regional dataset maintenance for geospatial projects.
Notes:	None.

Priority #4 – Revamp MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures

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	MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures were originally adopted in 1998 and revised in April 2016. There have been recent changes to staffing, focus and purpose, and a revision to the Policy Board status. Therefore, there is a need to revamp these guidelines and procedures to provide enough structure and guidance for voting, creating work groups, approving the work plan and more. At the same time, encouraging wider participation through reduced rigidity.
Priority Level	**4th**
Budget	No budget current dedicated to this project
Benefit to Stakeholders	Create clarity of current operational guidelines and procedures.
Project Owners	Dave Brandt, Washington County and MetroGIS Vice-chair
Project Champion	Geoff Maas, Ramsey County and MetroGIS Chair Dave Brandt, Washington County and MetroGIS Vice-chair Mary Mortensen, GIS Manager, Metropolitan Council
Project Team	***Need a volunteer(s)*** from the MetroGIS Coordinating Committee to be the **Project Manager** of this a project to lead it forward. Need volunteers for the Project Team.
Expected Timeline	2025
Key Steps & Milestones	Review current MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures Discuss changes and propose revisions Revise document Present draft to Coordinating Committee members for review and approval
Policy Implications	Provides documentation to help inform leadership on history, purpose, and importance of collaborative geospatial data and project work across the region.
Notes:	**This project needs a volunteer to lead the effort.**

Priority #5 – 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	**5th**
Budget	None required
Benefit to Stakeholders	Authoritatively sourced, standardized geospatial datasets from the Seven Metropolitan Counties being readily available in larger external platforms
Project Owners	GIS Managers and staff from the Seven Metro Counties
Project Champion	Alison Slaats (Minnesota Geospatial Information Office)
Project Team	GIS Managers and staff from the Seven Metro Counties
Expected Timeline	Project participants will be examining methods and approaches as time permits, this is an on-going effort
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	Authoritative data being available to external platforms and data consumers.
Notes:	On-going effort to get metro datasets consumed by external platforms

Priority #6 - Metro Regional Data Viewer

Project Brief	The development and maintenance of a freely available *data viewer* 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	**(Maintenance)**
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	Metro Emergency Services Board Metropolitan Council Metro County GIS Staff
Project Champion	Jill Rohret, Executive Director (MESB)
Project Team	MESB Staff (P. Oslin, et. al.) 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 Food Resources Map and Dataset

Project Brief	The Metro Food Resources Map and Dataset Project is an attempt to create and maintain a standardized food resource dataset and web map for public health and nutrition staff at counties to use and have available as both a downloadable dataset and a
Critical Stakeholders	County Public Health/Nutrition Staff User Community seeking online help to acquire food resources
Priority Level	**In progress as a pilot effort, not Prioritized for 2025**
Budget	In kind contributions from participating agencies.
Benefit to Stakeholders	Better food resources data available to all who need it.
Project Owners	Geoff Maas (Ramsey County)
Project Champion	Francis Clary-Leiferman (Ramsey County Public Health
Project Team	Participating County GIS And Public Health Staff
Expected Timeline	Began as Ramsey County only in 2020. Interest from other county Public Health staff emerged in 2022-2023. Expanded to potential region-wide pilot in 2024 Calendar 2025 will test the viability and process
Key Steps & Milestones	Draft Data Schema for testing agreed upon in 2024 by SMEs Draft Dataset in progress (Oct-Nov 2024) with goal of first prototype web map available in January 2025.
Policy Implications	Better food resources data available to all who need it.
Notes:	<none>

On Hold - 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	**A draft was completed in 2020 and is available for use and testing by the professional community.**
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
Project Champion	There is no policy level person championing this effort.
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 were actively engaged in translating their constituent city's data into the draft standard and providing feedback on how well it meets their needs during 2022-2023.

MetroGIS 2025 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. For 2025, 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 2025 Metro GIS Budget

RANK	Category	2025	2024	2023	2022
Budget	MetroGIS Regional Data Sharing Agreements (Counties)	32,000	32,000	32,000	32,000
Budget	MetroGIS Regional GIS Projects	25,000	25,000	26,500	25,000
Budget	MetroGIS Total IS Budget Allotment	57,000	57,000	58,500	57,000
Funding	Grant Funds	0	0	0	0
Expense	County Data Sharing Agreements	28,000	28,000	28,000	28,000
1 (M)	Regional GIS Data Provisioning	0	0	0	0
2	Metro Park and Trail Data Standard	0	0	0	0
3	New Regional Data Sharing Agreements	0	0	0	0
4	Revamp MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures	0	0	0	0
5	External Platform Publishing	0	0	0	0
6 (M)	Metro Regional Data Viewer	0	0	0	0
NP	Metro Food Resources Map and Dataset	0	0	0	0
H	Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (MSWGP)	0	0	0	0
C	LIDAR Acquisition (Acquired in 2022, data delivered 2024)	0	0	0	22,000
C	MLCCS Update Project (Tool published 2024)	0	0	26,500	0
	Committed and/or Already Spent	28,000	28,000	54,500	50,000
	Remaining: Unspent/Unused	29,000	29,000	4,000	7,000
	MetroGIS Misc. Expenses - Earmarked	*2,000*	*2,000*	*2,000*	*2,000*
	MetroGIS Misc. Expenses - Total Spent	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*

M = Maintenance mode
NP = Not prioritized, work taking place informally
H = On hold, prior project not actively being worked on
C = Completed project

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.