



MetroGIS Coordinating Committee

Wednesday, November 12, 2025



MetroGIS Coordinating Committee

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- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Approve Today's Meeting Agenda (motion item)
- 3) Minutes from last meeting (motion item)
- 4) Introductions
- 5) Future of MetroGIS Discussion
- 6) Lightning Round Update
- 7) Adjourn

Happy Hour: Lake Monster Brewing



3) Minutes from last meeting on June 4, 2025 *(motion item)*

metrogis.org

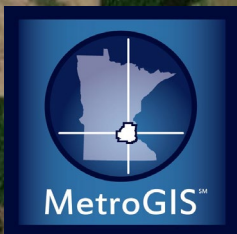
Review of action items from last meeting (Mayer)

- ✓ **ACTION:** Change the Metro County GIS Managers scheduled November meeting. (Brandt)
- ✓ **ACTION:** Add Koukol to leadership meetings (Mayer)
- ✓ **ACTION:** Remind Brandt to put out descriptions about work required of volunteers for MetroGIS Projects. (Mayer)



4) Introductions

Name	Representative Category	Organization	Seat
Kirk Stueve	Educational Sector	Saint Paul College	Education/Academia
Pete Wiringa	Educational Sector	University of Minnesota/U-Spatial	Education/Academia
(vacant)	Government - City		City/Municipal
Molly McDonald	Government - City	City of Bloomington	Metro Cities (Assoc. of Metro Cities)
Tami Maddio	Government - City	City of Eagan	Metro Cities (Assoc. of Metro Cities)
Jonathan Mortensen	Government - City	City of Shoreview	Metro Cities (Assoc. of Metro Cities)
Jessica Fendos	Government - City	LOGIS	LOGIS
John Slusarczyk	Government - County	Anoka County	Anoka County
Chad Riley	Government - County	Carver County	Carver County
Joe Sapletal	Government - County	Dakota County	Dakota County
Jesse Reinhardt	Government - County	Hennepin County	Hennepin County
Matt Koukol	Government - County	Ramsey County	Ramsey County
Tony Monsour	Government - County	Scott County	Scott County
David Brandt	Government - County	Washington County	Washington County
Shelby Sterner	Government - Federal	USGS	Federal Government
Pamela Oslin	Government - Regional	Metro Emergency Services Board	Metro Emergency Services Board
Matt Baker	Government - Regional	Metropolitan Airports Commission	Metropolitan Airports Commission
Mary Mortensen	Government - Regional	Metropolitan Council	Metropolitan Council
Nancy Read	Government - Regional	Metropolitan Mosquito Control District	Metropolitan Mosquito Control District
Aaron Goemann	Government - Regional	Mississippi Watershed Management Organization	Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Catherine Hansen	Government - State	MN Department of Natural Resources	MN Department of Natural Resources
Galen Sjostrom	Government - State	MN Department of Transportation	MN Department of Transportation
Alison Slaats	Government - State	MN Geospatial Information Office	MN Geospatial Information Office
(vacant)	Non-Profit		Non-Profit Sector
Jeff Matson	Non-Profit	MN Council of Nonprofits/CURA	Non-Profit Sector
(vacant)	Private Sector		Private Sector/Business Geographics
(vacant)	Private Sector		Private Sector/Business Geographics
Dan Tinklenberg	Private Sector	SRF Consulting Group, Inc.	Private Sector/Business Geographics
Anthony (Tony) Grossman	Private Sector	Xcel Energy	Utilities
Audrey Robeson	Special Expertise	Metro Conservation Network (MCNet)	Special Expertise
Brad Henry	Special Expertise	University of Minnesota	Special Expertise



5) **Future of MetroGIS Discussion**

a guided discussion of purpose and continuance

- Introduction to the discussion (*Brandt*)
- Survey Summary (*Kotz*)
- MetroGIS 2025 Work Plan and Project Needs (*Kotz*)
- 3 Scenarios (*Mortensen*)
- Pros, Cons and Requirements of each Scenario (*Kotz*)
- *Break*
- Reactions (*Kotz*)
- Next Steps (*Brandt*)



Metropolitan Council

The Metropolitan Council is the regional policy-making body, planning agency, and provider of essential services in the seven-county Twin Cities metro area. Our mission is to foster efficient and economic growth for a prosperous region.

Essential Services

The Met Council provides essential services and infrastructure that support communities and businesses and ensure a high quality of life for residents.

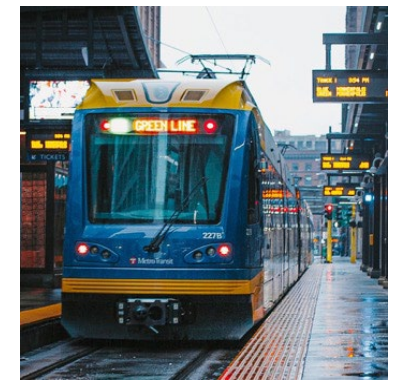
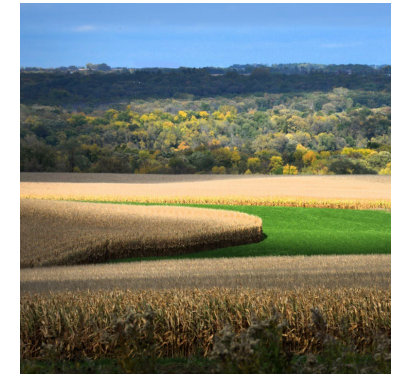
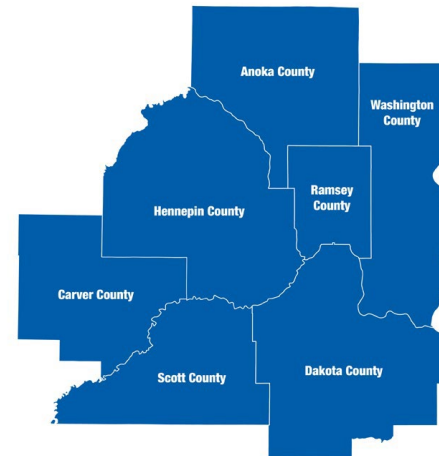
- Wastewater treatment services
- Metro Transit's bus and rail system
- Metro Mobility
- Transit Link and Metro Micro
- Regional Parks
- Regional Long-range Planning
- Local Comprehensive Planning Support
- Affordable Housing
- ...and more

Organization

The Met Council is comprised of 5 divisions

- Metro Transit
- Metro Transportation Services
- Environmental Services
- Community Development
- Regional Administration

Includes both Operations and Strategic Planning responsibilities



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Governed

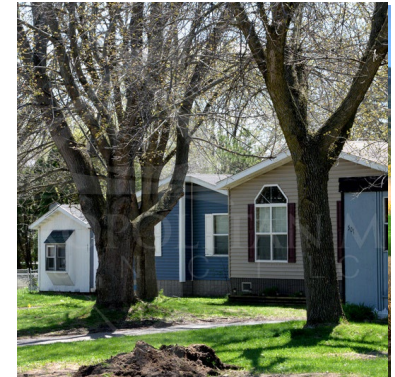
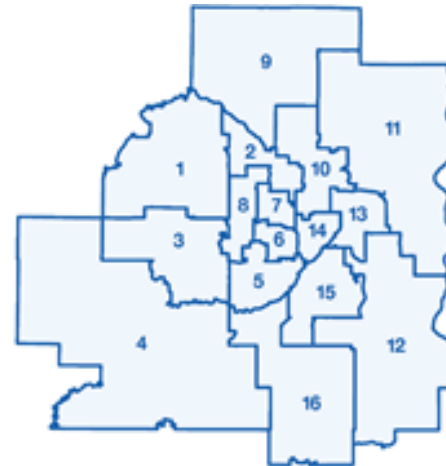
The 17-member Metropolitan Council is a policy-making board that guides the strategic growth of the metro area.

We partner with 181 cities and townships, 7 counties, other government entities, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and others.

Elected officials, local government staff, and residents share their expertise with the Met Council by serving on key advisory committees.

Funding

The Metropolitan Council relies on several funding sources, including user-fees for wastewater treatment and transit services, state and federal funds, and a seven-county property tax.



Metropolitan Council

History

By the 1960s, the twin cities metropolitan area faced major challenges

- inadequately treated wastewater
- failing privately owned bus company
- development on sensitive natural areas
- fiscal disparities that left some communities unable to provide essential services and intensified competition for development.

A regional solution for regional problem

- In 1967, the Minnesota Legislature created the Metropolitan Council
to deal with regional issues that transcended boundaries.

Evolved to meet the needs of a growing and changing region over time

- 7 counties
- 181 cities and townships
- More than 3 million residents
- Native people from 11 federally recognized Minnesota tribes and many other tribal communities
- Growing diversity representing wide-ranging racial and ethnic people, with about 300 languages spoken at home



Metropolitan Council and GIS

to “deal with Regional issues that transcended boundaries”

- Transportation, Water, Housing, Parks & Trails, and Planning
- Includes both Operations and Strategic Planning responsibilities
- Dependent upon geospatial information and solutions at a region-wide scale
- Cross-jurisdictional in scope
- Requires best available local sources of information - aggregated to the region

GIS and the Metropolitan Council

- Pre-GIS technology - Maps and aerial photos used for geospatial analysis since the beginning
- Mid-late 1980s, Met Council began using digital mapping and GIS to support the 1990 U.S. Census
- Seeing broader value, the Met Council GIS Team was formed
- Over 30 years ago, the first GIS Coordinator was hired to form that initial GIS Team
- Limited GIS data layers available, and not shared for free
- Imperative to identify and create region-wide foundational GIS layers to support the work of the Council – roads, county and municipal boundaries, parcels, and address points.
- 1996 *Met Council* became the *primary sponsor* of the *MetroGIS collaborative* to promote and facilitate widespread sharing of commonly needed geospatial data among organizations

Origins of MetroGIS

- The regional scope of Metropolitan Council helped to kick off the need for MetroGIS
- Address the need for better data at a regional level
- Each metro county was creating and maintaining GIS data for their internal needs



One of many input sessions held in Fall 1995-Winter 1996 to define the needs and shape the work of the MetroGIS collaborative.



MetroGIS Coordinator

The **MetroGIS coordinator position** was created in August 1995, when the Metropolitan Council Randy Johnson was hired to begin the groundwork for region-wide data sharing.

- Randy Johnson, AICP: 1995-2012
- Geoffrey Maas, AICP GISP: 2012-2019
- Vacant: 2020-present
hiring process stopped as resources switched to the pandemic

This role was instrumental in initiating the collaborative effort, which officially launched with a strategic planning forum in December 1995.

The MetroGIS Coordinating Committee, the main operational body, first convened shortly after, in January 1996.

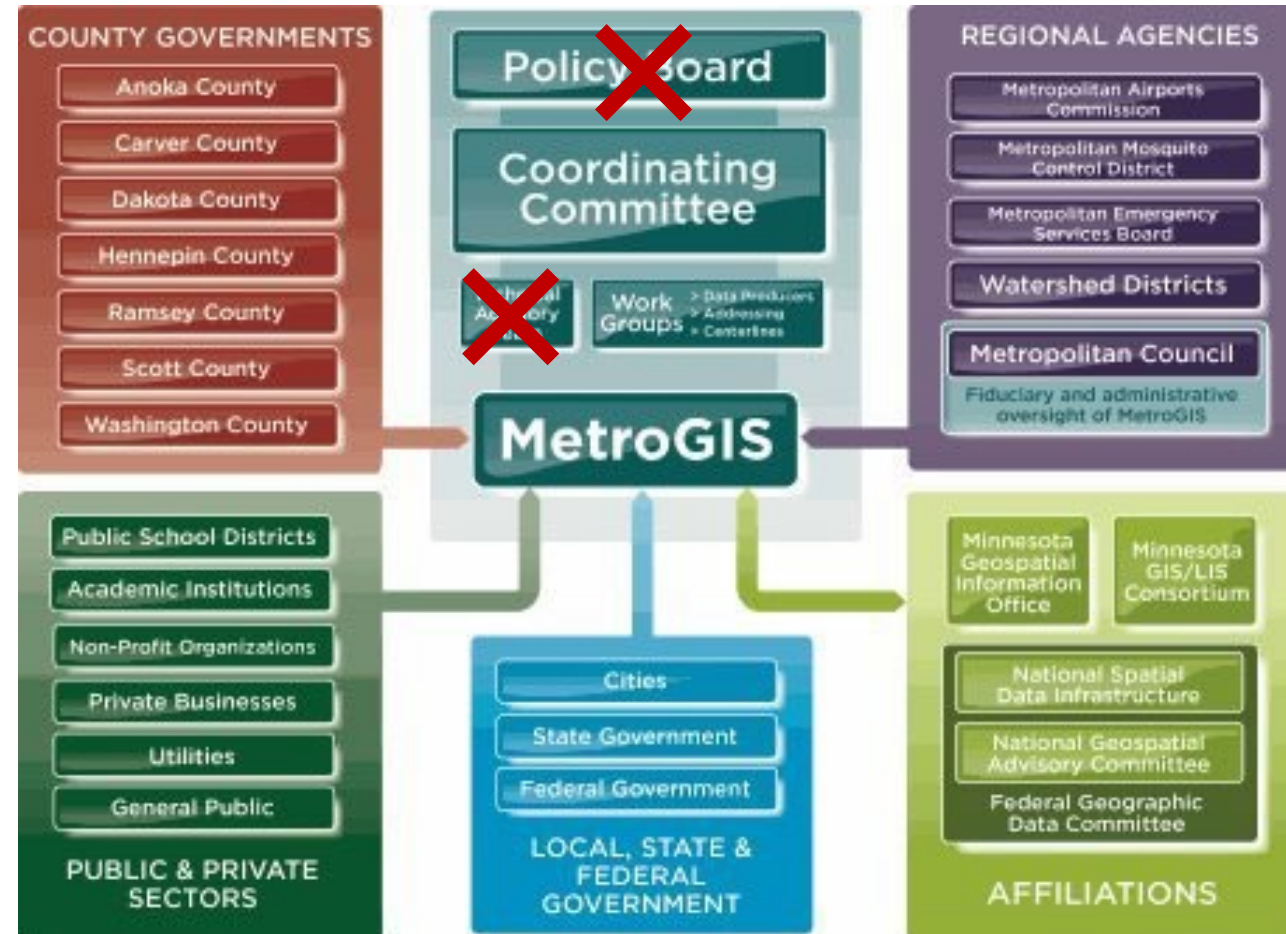


The Metropolitan Council formally adopted a support role on February 8, 1996

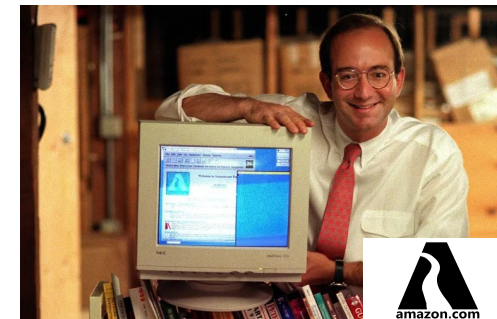
- Support the MetroGIS Policy Board, the Coordinating Committee, and each of committee's affiliate advisory teams
- Support the initiative's mass media communication needs
- Develop and maintain data bases with regional significance
- Finance pilot projects
- Facilitate the execution of data sharing agreement among stakeholders.



WE are MetroGIS



Some other things from 1995



Metropolitan Council and MetroGIS



Since 1996, the Metropolitan Council has provided to MetroGIS:

- Financial backing for the collaborative (annual budget)
- Administrative oversight of its operation
- Staff and resources



MetroGIS - Role of Metropolitan Council

- Assumes fiduciary and administrative responsibilities
- Provides dedicated staff time
- Provides dedicated funding for geospatial projects with regional significance
- Provides contract management for MetroGIS projects
- Provides regional dataset management



The Council is a primary stakeholder and direct beneficiary of the collaborative effort.

- Met Council holds 1 seat on the Coordinating Committee
- MetroGIS members guide data development and projects that benefit its regional partners
- MetroGIS members participate in regional dataset development and maintenance

5) **Future of MetroGIS Discussion** **a guided discussion of purpose and continuance**

Background: Quick Summary of January survey

- **Because it speaks to this topic**
- **About half of CC responded**
- **Original results MS Forms issue**



January Survey Results Summary

CC Meetings:

- Most are regular attendees
- Most want 3 meetings per year
- Most want 1 in-person meeting per year

How are you participating?:

- Most are users of regional datasets



January Survey Results Summary

How does MetroGIS meet the needs of your organization?

How satisfied are you with MetroGIS?

- 37% Very well/satisfied
- 43% Somewhat well/satisfied
- 18% Neutral

Opportunity... how to make it better? ... "foreshadowing"



January Survey Results Summary

In addition to the 3 regional datasets (Parcels, Address Points, Streets), what other regional core datasets are important for your organization?

- 69% Regional Trails
- 63% Regional Parks
- 63% Building Footprints
- 50% Stormwater

What other projects would benefit your org?

- 69% Presentation materials that can be used to present GIS to non-GIS partners, and elected officials.
- 50% Guide on “what it takes” to create and support a regional dataset



January Survey Results Summary

Would you have time to lead or participate in any current or new project/effort?

- 50% Noish
- 31% Yesish

What would help enable you to dedicate more time to MetroGIS?

- 88% Specific effort that can be directly tied to my organization's business need.

Opportunity: "My organization's business needs"



Mini Business Needs Assessment

1. Regional GIS Data Provisioning
2. Metro Park and Trail Data and Standard
3. New Regional Data Sharing Agreements
4. Revamp MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures
5. External Platform Publishing
6. Metro Regional Data Viewer
7. Metro Food Resources Map and Dataset
8. Metro Stormwater Geodata Project
9. Regional Building Footprint Dataset
10. Presentation materials that can be used to present GIS to non-GIS partners, and elected officials



Mini Business Needs Assessment

Responses

1. My organization has a defined business need for this
2. My organization would benefit from this (but not a defined business need)

If not sure, go with gut reaction



MetroGIS 2025 Work Plan Projects (Informational)

1. Regional Data Provisioning (*needs volunteer*)
2. Metro Park and Trail Data Standard (Slusarczyk/Koch)
3. New Regional Data Sharing Agreements (Mayer)
4. MetroGIS Operational Guidelines + Procedures (*needs volunteer*)
5. External Platform Publishing (Brandt, Metro GIS Managers)
6. Metro Regional Data Viewer (maintenance) (Met Council/MESB)
7. Metro Stormwater Geodata Project (on hold) (Goemann)
8. Metro Food Resources Web Map and Dataset (pilot) (Ramsey County)

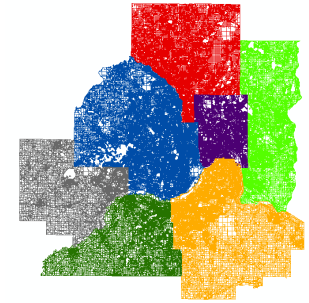


1. Regional Data Provisioning

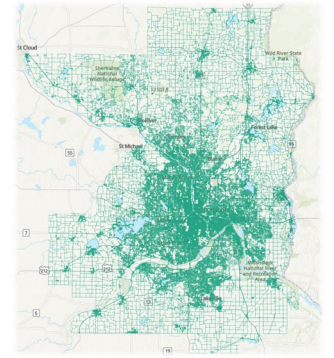
Status: Maintenance

This on-going effort aims to document data lifecycle/flow from parcels, address and road creation through the regional datasets into the statewide datasets, including those used for NG9-1-1.

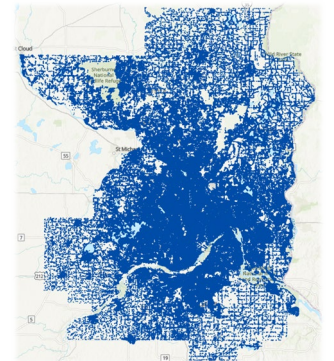
- Central function of the MetroGIS collaborative
- Ensure the continuity of the Metro Counties / Metropolitan Council / MESB working relationships
- Error Reporting, Troubleshooting, Communication, etc.
- Updated agreement language in 2025-26 (in process)
- Upgrades needed
 - Addition of CARTOCLASS attribute to Road Centerlines by Counties
 - Updates to upload, validation, completeness, publishing scripts



Parcels



Road Centerlines



Address Points



2. Metro Park & Trail Data Standard / Dataset

Status: Paused

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.

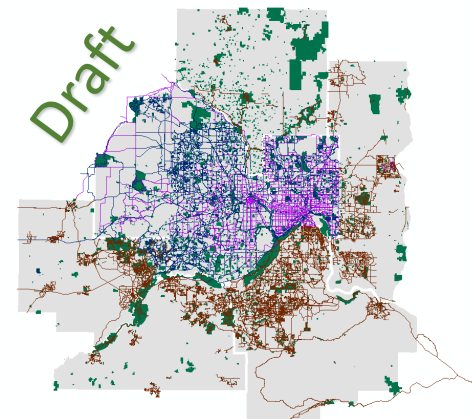
- Virtual Session on 12/18/2024 with good turnout to review and refine the initial standard
- Goal is to develop a revised schema to meet multiple needs
- Either fully document the needs to be met and/or develop a limited number of shared attributes

Challenges:

- Municipal needs vs. County needs vs. Regional needs vs. State needs
- Every agency has different methods of managing their data and priorities/purposes for their data

Next Steps:

- Revise existing draft
- Complete and publish the 'needs' documentation
- Hold another work session
- Sample Area/Draft dataset for testing
- Update Parks/Trails info on metrogis.org (out of date)



3. New Regional Sharing Agreements

Status: Nearly complete

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.

- Builds on existing documents and practices
- Ensures continuity of the data and workflows
- Discussions with and review by County GIS Managers group
- MetroGIS Executive Team works on revised language
- Present to MetroGIS Coord. Com. at June 2025 meeting
- Work through legal/contract process at County/Met Council
- Implement for 2026 onward



4. MetroGIS Operational Guidelines + Procedures

Status: Paused

MetroGIS Operational Guidelines and Procedures (OG+P) 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.

- Existing OG+P language dates are from 2016
- Needs a full-on refresh
- Goals for revamping the OG+P:
 - Expanded membership potential
 - Ease path to membership and participation
 - Align OG+P with current actions (operations/maintenance)
 - Emphasis on membership's ownership of the collaborative



5. External Platform Publishing

Status: Active through the MN Geospatial Advisory Council –
Contributing to Nationwide & Commercial Data Assets Committee

As parcels, address points, centerlines and park and trail datasets transition from creation to maintenance and their availability is consistent, it is the goal of the Metro County GIS managers to have larger platforms consume this data as authoritative.

Recent Successes

- Apple, Google and Esri currently pull address data from the National Address Dataset.
- Several MN counties are participating in the Esri Community maps program sharing centerlines and other data.
- Discussions with Google and Esri representatives continue to identify preferred methods for statewide data sharing.

Next

- Continue communication and data sharing with Apple, Google and Esri
- Explore data sharing opportunities, such as Open Street Maps for example
- Continue advocating for open licensing of data sets to be shared

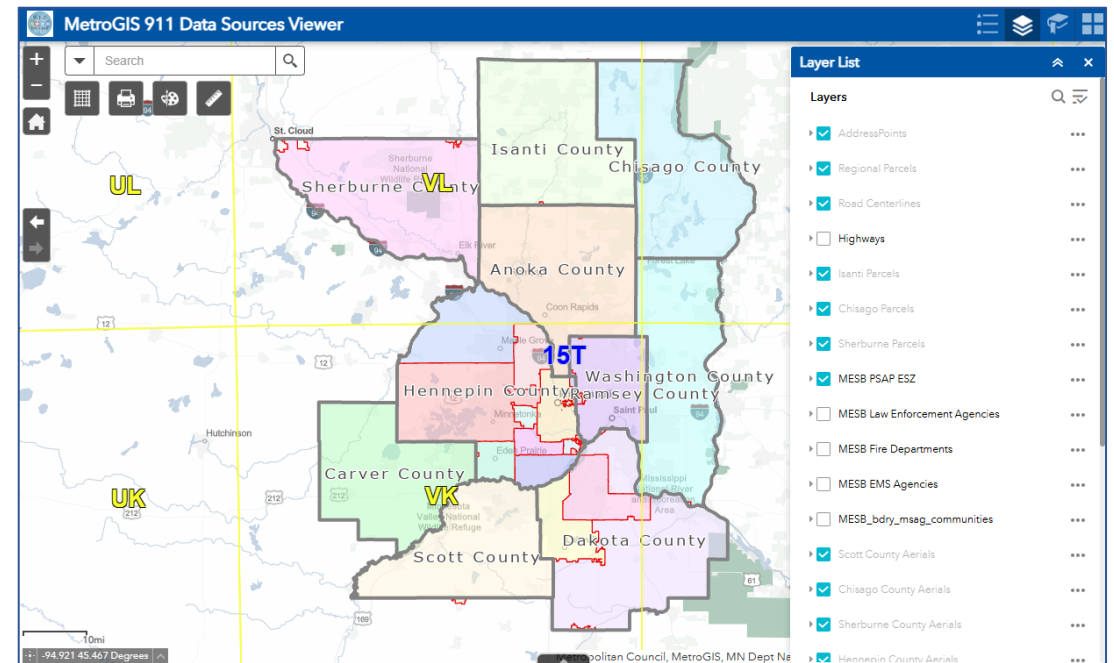


6. Regional Data Viewer

Status: Maintenance

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.

- Initial purpose: Non-GIS 9-1-1 staff could view the most current road centerline, service boundaries and address points.
- Define ongoing needs and uses
- Define and make updates
- Plan expansion for the Viewer



7. Metro Stormwater Geodata Project

Status: On hold

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.

Complete

- Draft standard was published (v 0.6) in 2021
- Minnehaha Creek Watershed District completed a multi-city stormwater data assembly using the draft MSWGP schema. Presented results to MetroGIS in 2023.

Needs

- Continued testing and revision of the data standard with metro stakeholders
- Work with the MN GAC Standards Committee to publish as a State Standard

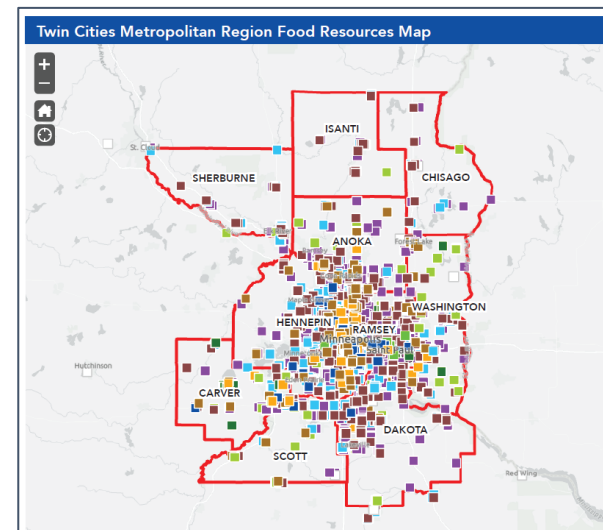


8. Metro Food Resources Map

Status: Active through Ramsey County. Pilot in progress.

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 to the public.

- Resource for *public users* and for *nutrition staff/public health staff* to assist residents.
- Data assembled from participating counties
- First metro-wide prototype to be launched in 2025
- Calendar 2025 was a pilot to 'test it in the public sphere'.
- Refine its content and functions based on community input.
- Data available to download



-  Food Shelf
-  Free Groceries
-  Free Meals
-  Grocery Store
-  Convenience Store
-  Specialty Store
-  Farmers Market
-  Fare For All
-  Twin Cities Mobile Market



9. Regional Building Footprint Dataset

10. Presentation materials that can be used to present GIS to non-GIS partners, and elected officials



3 Scenarios

Full MetroGIS

- Continue MetroGIS and ramp up to 2019 support levels – Met Council leadership, MetroGIS CC member participation, continued Met Council responsibilities and Met Council to help lead new projects/support volunteers.

Maintenance Mode MetroGIS

- Scaled-back MetroGIS – meetings, data sharing agreements, current regional dataset support, website, no new projects

MetroGIS Ends

- Dissolve MetroGIS – Met Council retain some responsibilities, State (MnGeo) assume some responsibilities, disband support of remaining efforts, communications, etc.



3 Scenarios: Pros, Cons, Requirements

	Pros	Cons	Requirements
Full MetroGIS			
Maintenance Mode MetroGIS			
MetroGIS Ends			



Break



Reactions



Next Steps





Agenda Item 6: Lightning Round



2026 Coordinating Committee Meeting Calendar

February 18, 2026

June 3, 2026

November 4, 2026 (in-person)



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a wooden gavel, poised to strike a wooden block. The gavel has a multi-tiered head and a smooth handle. The background is blurred, showing a wooden surface and a person's arm in a dark sleeve.

Join us for Happy Hour
Lake Monster Brewing
550 Vandalia St #160, St. Paul 55114

Adjourn

