

GAC Opt-In Statewide Data Sharing Public Meeting

November 17, 2026

MINNESOTA IT SERVICES
GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION OFFICE
GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

ECN
EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION NETWORKS

MINNESOTA COUNTY GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS ASSOCIATION
EST. 2007

Before we get started…

Logistics

- Questions:
  - **Post a question or comment** to the Q & A panel at any time
  - **Raise your hand** if you'd like to come off mute
  - **Upvote questions** that you'd like to see answered
  - **We'll answer questions** throughout the meeting and during open discussion
  - **Share your feedback and support** in the Q & A panel or verbally
- Captions are available for this event – to activate the captions:
  - Select the **"…"** (More) button in the webinar window within the Teams toolbar
  - Choose **Language** and **speech** from the dropdown menu
  - Click **Show live captions**

Transcribing

This meeting **will be transcribed** for note-taking purposes, however it will not be recorded.

Starting transcription now

Welcome!

Host Introductions

Christy Christensen
President, MN County GIS Association (MCGISA)

Tanya Mayer
Chair, MN Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC)

Stacey Stark
Chair, GAC Open Data Subcommittee

Alison Slaats
Geospatial Information Officer, State of Minnesota
Director, MN Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo), MNIT

Katie Pauk
Deputy General Counsel, Legal Office
Minnesota IT Services (MNIT)

Leah Palmer
Director, Emergency Communication Networks (ECN)
Division of the MN Dept. of Public Safety

Agenda

Time	Topic	Time	Topic
1:00	**Welcome and introductions** (Co-hosts)	1:35	**Actions taken and recommended next steps** (Slaats)
1:05	**Opt-in process background** (Slaats, Pauk)	1:45	**Open discussion** (All)
1:20	**Status of opt-in datasets** (Stark)	2:25	**Resources** (Slaats)
1:25	**MCGISA proposed changes** (Christensen)	2:30	**Adjourn**



Background Information

Alison Slaats

Terminology

- **NG911:** Next Generation 911
- **RCL:** Road Centerline
- **ADP:** Address Point
- **ESZ:** Emergency Service Zone
- **PSAP:** Public Safety Answering Point
- **NENA:** National Emergency Number Association
- **GAC**: Geospatial Advisory Council

Roles (related to this conversation)

- **ECN:** Leads NG911 GIS data collection and implementation for 911 purposes
- **MnGeo:**
  - Collects, aggregates, and shares statewide parcel data in GAC standard format
  - Creates and shares multi-use GAC standard ADP, RCL, and ESZ data sourced from NG911 database
- **GAC:**
  - Identifies priorities of the geospatial community and works towards meeting priorities in coordination with MnGeo
  - Advocates for multipurpose statewide public datasets on behalf of the geospatial community
  - Coordinates with counties about opting in to public statewide datasets
  - Informs MnGeo which counties have opted in to be part of public statewide datasets
  - Council membership include a Greater MN & Twin Cities metro region representatives
- **MCGISA:**
  - Supports county GIS staff needs
  - Facilitates discussion across counties to represent their needs
- **Counties:** Produce authoritative parcel, ADP, RCL, and ESZ data
- **PSAPs:** Coordinate with county GIS staff or vendor to prepare ADP, RCL, and ESZ data for NG911

“Opt-in” Process Background

- Initially developed to support the **GAC priority of “Statewide publicly available parcel data”**
- Since 2019, MnGeo has been **collecting and sharing the parcel data with state agencies**.
- Recognizing the significant value of parcel data beyond state government, a priority identified by the GAC, MnGeo developed a process to **share this data in the public domain**; while **some counties were supportive** of sharing more broadly, others were not.
- To respect county preferences, the **GAC Parcels and Land Records Committee** (PLRC) proposed a **peer-to-peer outreach process** to coordinate inclusion in the public statewide dataset – this process (the opt-in process) is **now managed by the GAC Open Data Subcommittee** which informs MnGeo about which counties to include.
- As time went on and (more counties abandoned data processing fees) **the public dataset grew** – to date, nearly 70% of Minnesota counties make their data publicly available via this process.

NG911 Program Data Development

- Concurrently, **another important project was underway!**
- Since 2017, Minnesota counties have been **developing ADP, RCL, and ESZ data for their own needs, *and* to support modernizing emergency response systems** across the state, specifically PSAP transition to NG911.
- The NG911 data effort is led by ECN with the support of MnGeo and has required **extensive participation and contributions** by Minnesota counties, specifically **GIS data stewards**.
- At the program's inception it was recognized early that while this data is needed to support emerging NG911 systems, it also has **broad use beyond emergency management and response.**
- As such, early advocates were forward thinking about **creating a version of the data for use beyond NG911**, including additional attributes to conform to the GAC-established Address Point and Road Centerline data standards for Minnesota.

“Opt-In” Extended to NG911

- Like the parcels, **publicly available statewide ADP and RCL data** became top GAC priorities based on feedback from the community.
- GAC volunteers **added these datasets** to their "opt-in" outreach to data stewards.
- Now, MnGeo extracts the NG911 datasets from ECN and saves them in GAC format for internal state agency use and **publishing on the Geospatial Commons**.
- **All county data producers have submitted their NG911 data** to the ECN-hosted statewide NG911 system and MnGeo has the capacity to extract statewide data, both in NG911 and GAC-compliant formats.
- **Most counties have opted in** for their NG911 data to be included in the publicly available statewide datasets.

Legal Considerations
Katie Pauk, Deputy General Counsel Minnesota IT Services

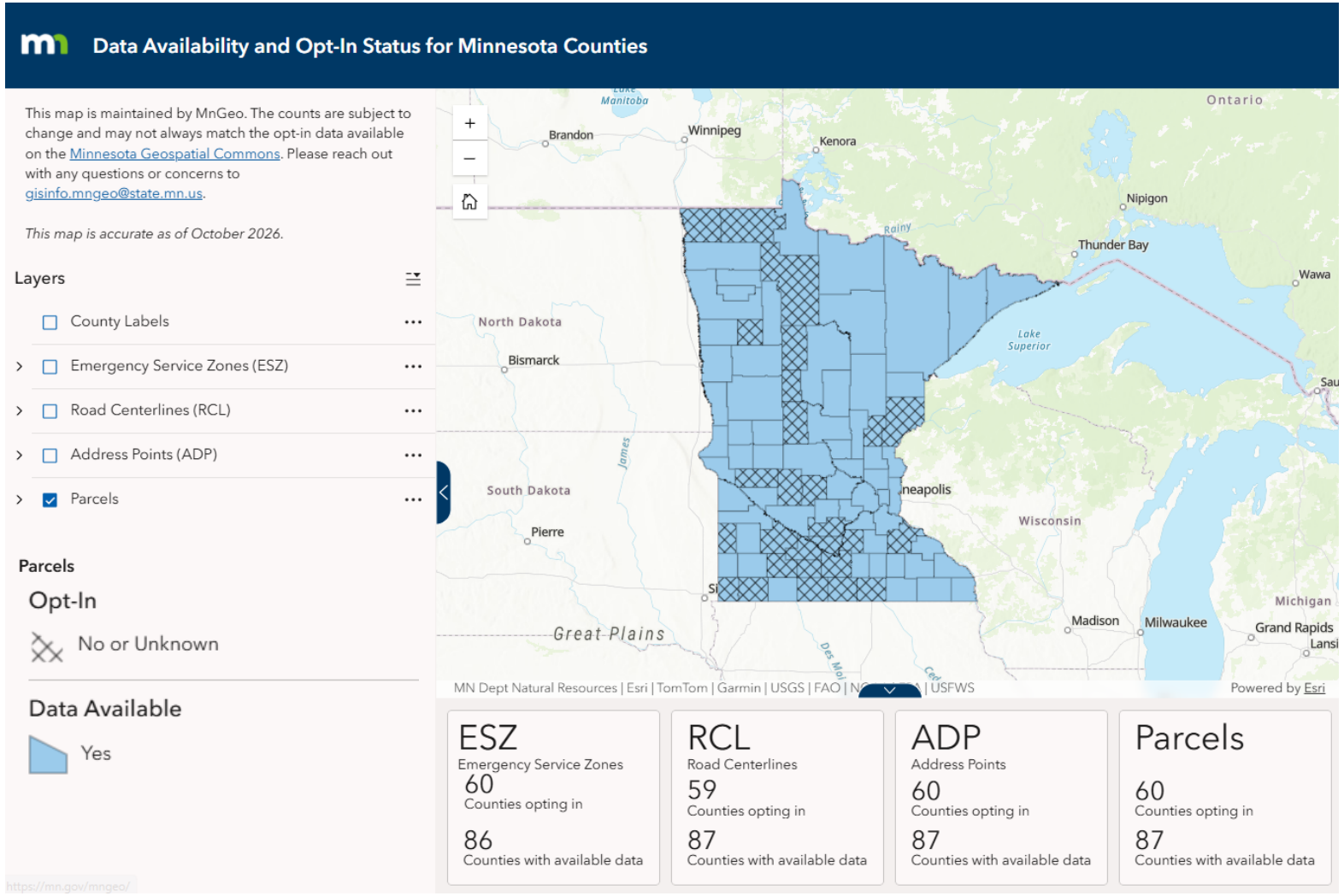
- GIS information under discussion is **presumed public**.
- **Potential security exception:** Certain security-related access points may qualify under Minn. Stat. § 13.37, requiring case-by-case evaluation (consider school door sub addresses).
- **Public doesn't mean automatic publication:** Data producers can choose not to proactively publish otherwise public information (MnGeo already allows for exclusion of data on a feature-by-feature basis by indicating “Not Public”).
- **Data requests still matter:** The responsible custodian must evaluate requests and disclose public data subject to applicable exceptions.



Current Opt-In Status

Stacey Stark

Current Opt-In Status by Dataset



How many of the 87 counties have opted in:

- **Parcels:** 60 counties | 69%
- **ADP:** 60 counties | 69%
- **RCL:** 59 counties | 68%
- **ESZ:** 60 counties | 69%

Data Availability and Opt-In Status map and dashboard

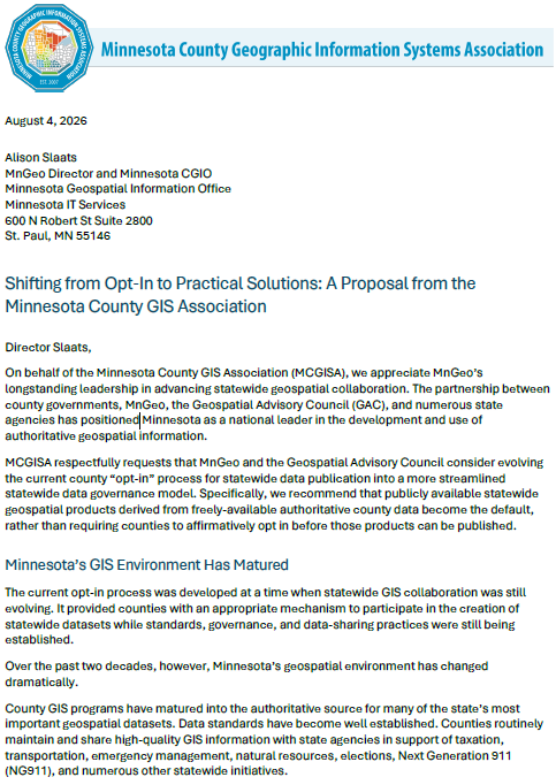


MCGISA Proposal

Christy Christensen

MCGISA Letter to MnGeo

MCGISA sent a formal request to MnGeo on 8/4/2026 proposing that the GAC **discontinue the opt-in process**.



Minnesota County Geographic Information Systems Association

August 4, 2026

Alison Slaats
MnGeo Director and Minnesota CGIO
Minnesota Geospatial Information Office
Minnesota IT Services
600 N Robert St Suite 2800
St. Paul, MN 55146

Shifting from Opt-In to Practical Solutions: A Proposal from the Minnesota County GIS Association

Director Slaats,

On behalf of the Minnesota County GIS Association (MCGISA), we appreciate MnGeo's longstanding leadership in advancing statewide geospatial collaboration. The partnership between county governments, MnGeo, the Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC), and numerous state agencies has positioned Minnesota as a national leader in the development and use of authoritative geospatial information.

MCGISA respectfully requests that MnGeo and the Geospatial Advisory Council consider evolving the current county "opt-in" process for statewide data publication into a more streamlined statewide data governance model. Specifically, we recommend that publicly available statewide geospatial products derived from freely-available authoritative county data become the default, rather than requiring counties to affirmatively opt in before those products can be published.

Minnesota's GIS Environment Has Matured

The current opt-in process was developed at a time when statewide GIS collaboration was still evolving. It provided counties with an appropriate mechanism to participate in the creation of statewide datasets while standards, governance, and data-sharing practices were still being established.

Over the past two decades, however, Minnesota's geospatial environment has changed dramatically.

County GIS programs have matured into the authoritative source for many of the state's most important geospatial datasets. Data standards have become well established. Counties routinely maintain and share high-quality GIS information with state agencies in support of taxation, transportation, emergency management, natural resources, elections, Next Generation 911 (NG911), and numerous other statewide initiatives.

MCGISA Request

MCGISA is advocating for a streamlined statewide data governance model where **publicly available statewide geospatial products derived from freely-available authoritative county data become the default.**

Key points in the letter:

- Minnesota has reached a point where statewide public geospatial products should be viewed as a **natural extension of the long-standing partnership** between counties and the State.
- When counties already make their GIS data publicly available without restriction, **statewide aggregation and republication should be understood** as an extension of that public availability.
- Statewide public datasets supporting NG911 should be published as a matter of statewide stewardship.
- **For other county datasets, MnGeo should work with counties** that maintain county board-approved fee schedules or other public distribution restrictions to determine whether those datasets should be excluded from statewide public products.

Benefits of publicly available statewide datasets

- Maximized use of public funds
- Reduced data requests from the public to counties
- Reduce confusion about opt-in process and time spent on topic
- Inclusion in the National Address Database, used by multiple government and private sectors (e.g., US Census, Esri, TomTom, Google, Apple, HERE, AWS Marketplace, Smarty, etc.)
- Public service enhancement and expansion (e.g., broadband, emergency response, geo-enabled elections, delivery of goods and services, etc.)



Actions Taken & Next Steps

Alison Slaats

The Role of the GAC

The opt-in process was **developed and approved by the GAC**, so proposed changes need to be considered by the GAC.



Actions taken to date after MCGISA letter received

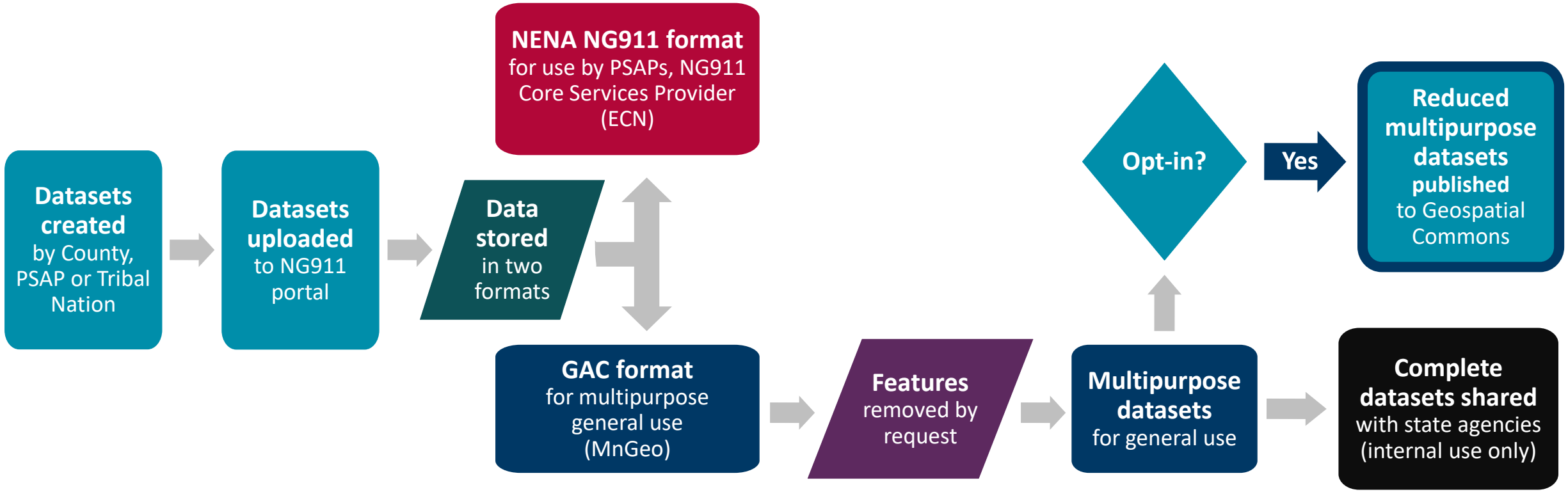
- MCGISA letter shared and discussed at:
  - GAC Open Data Subcommittee meeting (8/26)
  - GAC Outreach Committee meeting (9/8)
  - Most recent GAC public quarterly meeting (9/16)
- MnGeo, the GAC, ECN, and MCGISA co-host a meeting with all counties invited to attend and discuss the proposed changes *(now!)*

Key Impacts for NG911-related data (ADP, RCL, ESZ)

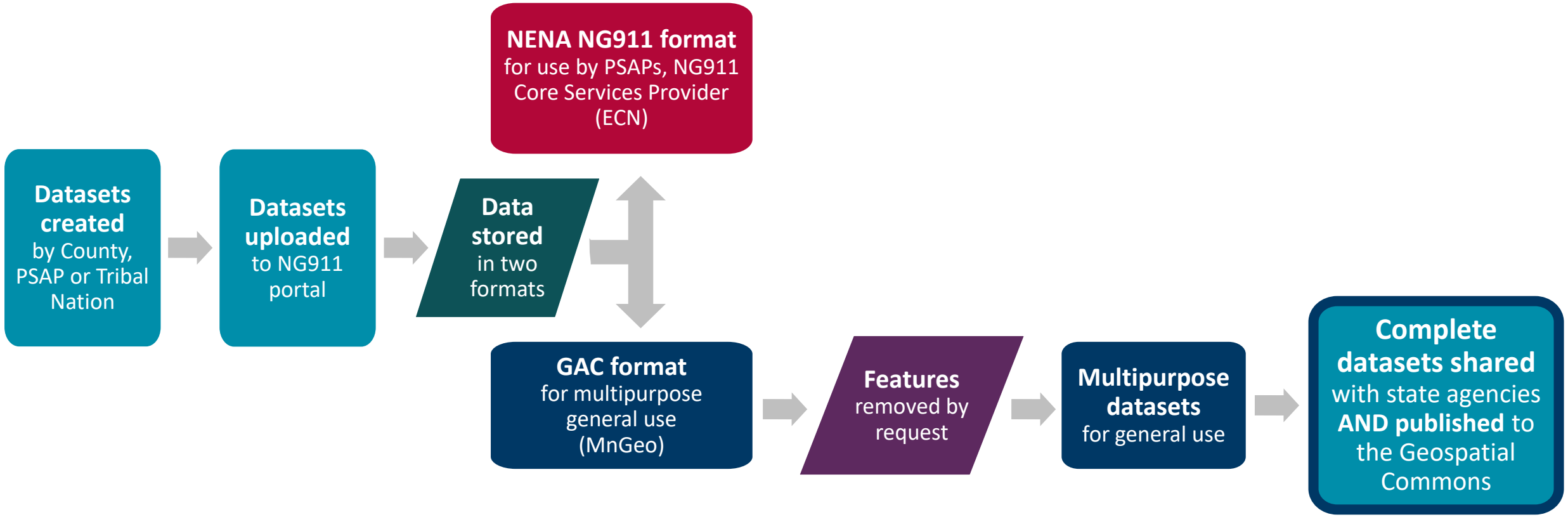
For Address Points, Road Centerlines, Emergency Service Zone datasets:

- Counties would no longer be contacted to “opt-in" for their data being included in the public statewide datasets
- All county ADP, RCL, and ESZ data uploaded to the ECN statewide NG911 system will be published in GAC standard format on the Geospatial Commons (publicly)
- Features that have been identified as “Not Public” will be excluded from the public statewide datasets, but will be included in dataset used for NG911 purposes (for example sub-address points that provide location of school doors)
- Anticipated change to public statewide datasets:
  - **ADP:** From 60 counties (69%) to 87 counties (100%)
  - **RCL:** From 59 counties (68%) to 87 counties (100%)
  - **ESZ:** From 60 counties (69%) to 87 counties (100%)

Current Process: NG911 Data



Proposed Process: NG911 Data

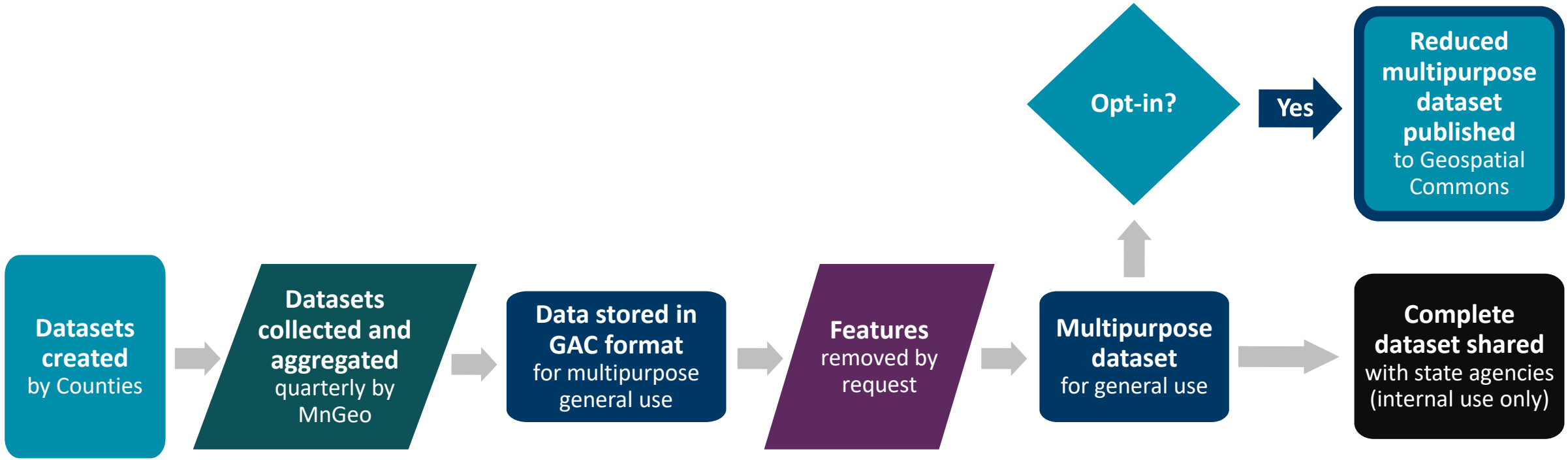


Key Impacts for Parcel data

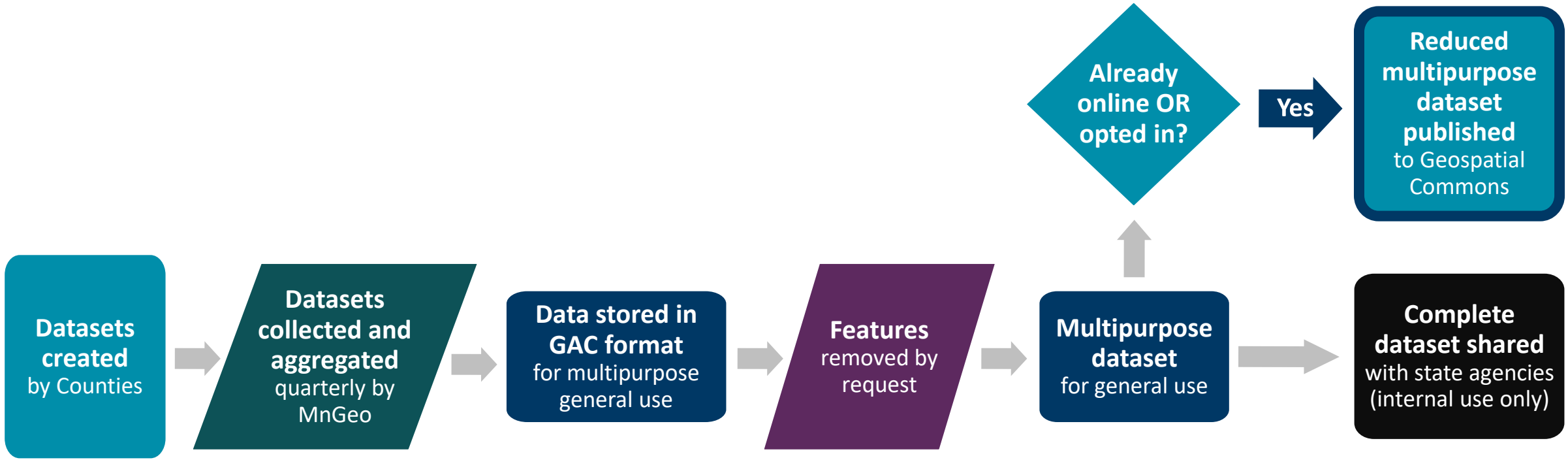
For parcels:

- Counties that **already opted in with their parcel data** would continue to have their parcel data included in the public statewide parcel dataset published in GAC format on the Geospatial Commons.
- New based on MCGISA advice: Counties **with parcel data already publicly available** would no longer be contacted to “opt-in" and parcel data **will be** included in the public statewide parcel dataset published in GAC format on the Geospatial Commons.
  - Anticipated change to public Parcel statewide dataset:
    - from 60 counties to 65 of 87 counties (69% to 75%)
- New based on MCGISA advice: Counties that have **parcel data processing fee schedules or other concerns** would be contacted by MCGISA and/or MnGeo to discuss and encourage inclusion of their data in the statewide public GAC format parcel dataset on the Geospatial Commons.

Current Process: Parcel Data



Proposed Process: Parcel Data



Key impacts for other datasets moving forward

- **The opt-in process would not be used on any other datasets moving forward.**
- **Any authoritative GIS data that the county creates, and that is considered public data,** could also be included in any publicly available aggregated statewide dataset, and schema changes could be made.
- The **GAC would no longer be involved** in data aggregation processes and the responsibility for negotiations for including county data that is currently "not public" would be left to MnGeo.

Recommended next steps

- Bring MCGISA's proposal (to remove the opt-in process) **to the GAC for a vote** at the GAC's public quarterly meeting on Dec. 16
- If the opt-in process is removed, work on a communications and roll-out plan **before implementing the change**.
- **Coordination with legal teams to:**
  - Support sharing of complete datasets (without exclusions) with PSAPs for emergency response
  - Accommodate incoming requests for data redaction per the Data Practices Act
- Method for exclusion of features will be possible through use of the **"Feature Publishing Classification" attribute**, if approved by the GAC, to support restriction of sensitive features in the public datasets.





Open Discussion

Megan Sisko

Open Discussion Logistics

- All are welcome to speak!
- To ask a question or provide feedback:
  - **Post a question/comment** to the Q & A panel

    - or -

  - **Raise your hand** if you'd like to come off mute
- Upvote questions in the Q & A panel that you'd like to see answered
- To get us started, I'd like to invite MCGISA and counties to kick off the discussion



Closing

Alison Slaats

Resources

- Minnesota's Geospatial Standards
- MCGISA, GAC, MnGeo, and ECN websites
- Opt-In Status Map
  (on the Open Data Subcommittee webpage)
- ADP, RCL, ESZ, and Parcel statewide datasets
  (on the Minnesota Geospatial Commons)
- MN NG911 GIS Hub
- Data Practices Office (of the MN Dept. of Admin.)
  - Data Practices resource page

- **16E.30 Geospatial Information Office**
  - § 16E.30 Subd. 11.Government sharing of electronic geospatial data
- **Chapter 13 Minnesota Government Data Practices Act**
  - § 13.991 Judicial Official Data; Personal Information
- **Chapter 480 Judiciary Statutes**
  - § 480.40 Personal Information; Dissemination
  - § 480.45 Removal of Personal Information
  - § 480.50 Personal Information in Real Property Records

Thank You!



MCGISA
Christy.Christensen@McLeodCountyMN.gov

GAC & MnGeo
gisinfo.mngeo@state.mn.us

ECN
ecn@state.mn.us