

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council

September 16, 2026

MINNESOTA
GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Information Sharing

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Starting transcription now

Agenda Item 1

Call to order

- Roll call
- Approve agenda
- Approve last meeting minutes
  (May 20)

Krueger



Roll Call: FY2026-27 Members

- **City, Twin Cities Metro**
  - Dennis Tumberg, *City of Chanhassen*
- **City, Greater Minnesota**
  - Michael Krueger, *City of Moorhead*
- **County, Twin Cities Metro**
  - Michelle Clasen, *Washington County*
- **County, Greater Minnesota**
  - Ryan Stovern, *St. Louis County*
- **Regional Government, Twin Cities Metro**
  - Mary Mortensen, *Met Council*
- **Regional Government, Greater Minnesota**
  - Karissa Beierle Pavek, *Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments*
- **State Government**
  - Amy Harrigan, *MnDOT*
  - Kari Geurts, *MNIT DNR*
- **Federal Government**
  - Mitch Bergeson, *US Geological Survey*
- **Tribal Government**
  - Ryan Bonney, *Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community*
- **Nonprofit Organization**
  - Jessica Fendos, *LOGIS*
- **Business**
  - Gerry Sjerven, *Minnesota Power*
  - Kendis Scharenbroich, *Pro-West & Associates*
- **K-12 Education**
  - Shana Crosson, *Education Consultant/Mapping Together*
- **Higher Education**
  - Rama Mohapatra, *Minnesota State University, Mankato*
  - Stacey Stark, *U-Spatial / UMN Duluth*
- **Surveyor**
  - Pat Veraguth, *Douglas County*
- **MetroGIS**
  - David Brandt, *MetroGIS | Washington County*
- **MN GIS/LIS Consortium**
  - Carla Coates, *Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium | MN DPS*
- **At-Large**
  - Britta Maddox, *Anoka County*
  - Heather Albrecht, *Hennepin County*
  - Matt Goodman, *St. Louis County Sheriff's Office*
  - Quentin Ikuta, *National Indian Carbon Coalition*
  - Rick Schute, *City of St. Paul*
  - Tanya Mayer, *Metropolitan Council*
- **Chief Geospatial Information Officer (ex-officio)**
  - Alison Slaats, *MNIT MnGeo*

Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council Meeting Poll

MnGeo Staff Support



Megan Sisko
MNIT MnGeo



Sally Wakefield
MNIT MnGeo

Non-Member Guests

First and last name

Name of your organization

In-Room Attendees: Please announce verbally

Virtual Attendees: Place in the chat

Live Polling



Agenda

Time	Topic	Time	Topic
11:00	Call to order	12:25	Imagery Committee request
11:10	Review and receive Committee Reports	12:30	Committee presentations
11:15	Approve modified Committee Work Plans	1:15	Sector reports
11:20	National Address Database presentation	1:35	MnGeo updates
11:40	NSGIC Geospatial Maturity Assessment	1:40	Executive Team updates
11:50	MCGISA opt-in process proposal	1:50	Round Robin / Announcements
12:10	*Break and networking*	2:00	Adjourn

Agenda Approval

Approve agenda*

*Motion required

Approve last meeting minutes*

(May 20, 2026)

**Motion required*

Agenda Item 2

Review and receive Committee Reports

Krueger



GAC Committee Report Highlights

K-12 Education Committee

- Geofest! is Saturday, October 10 at the University of MN – Twin Cities.
- Send to teachers you know who are interested in GIS.

PLSS Preservation Committee

- In need of 5 letters of support from every Minnesota Legislative District requesting permanent PLSS Monument Grant Funding.

Standards Committee

- Public review a new attribute to the Address Point Data and Road Centerline Data standards ends 9/23.

Outreach Committee

- The Open Data Subcommittee, with MnGeo, deployed an application to visualize county data opt-in statuses.

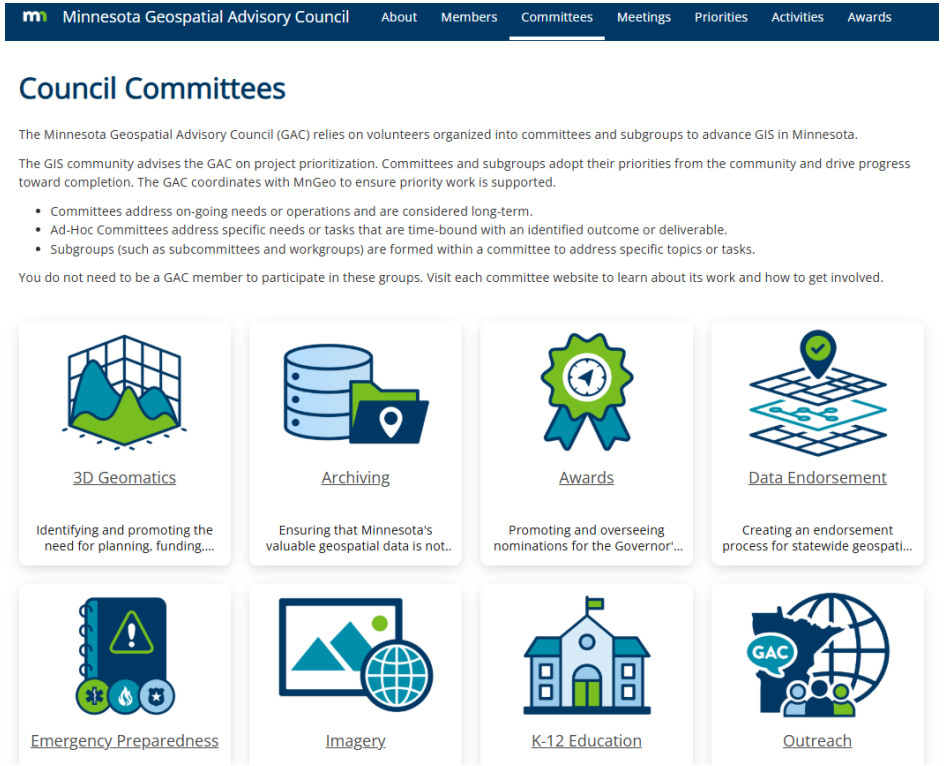
GAC Committee Report Highlights

Outreach Committee continued

- GAC and Committee Hub sites are live! All 12 GAC Hub sites were officially launched on August 31, 2026.

New!





GAC Committee Reports Acknowledgement

Acknowledge receipt of committee reports

Agenda Item 3

Approve modified Committee Work Plans*

Krueger



Motion required

GAC Committee Work Plan Updates

6 Committees were assigned new Priorities this term

- 3D Geomatics
- Emergency Preparedness
- K-12 Education
- Outreach
- Parcel and Land records
- Standards

Committee	Priority Project Name	Priority Owner
3D Geomatics	Lidar Data	Gerry Sjerven
3D Geomatics	Lidar-derived Hydrography	Sean Vaughn, Jamie Schulz
3D Geomatics	Hydro-modified DEMs	Sean Vaughn
3D Geomatics	Culvert Data Standard	Rick Moore
Archiving	Geodata Archive Implementation	Ryan Mattke
CANDO	Publication of Open Foundational Datasets	David Brandt
Emergency Preparedness	Critical Infrastructure Data Workflow	Stacey Stark
Emergency Preparedness	US National Grid Map Availability	Britta Maddox
Emergency Preparedness	Options for a Fire Risk Assessment Tool	Britta Maddox
K-12 Education	K-12 Curated Geospatial Datasets	Shana Crosson
K-12 Education	K-12 Minnesota Digital Atlas	Shana Crosson
K-12 Education	Statewide Educator Dataset	Shana Crosson
Outreach	Statewide Parcel Data	Stacey Stark, Norman Anderson
Outreach	Statewide Road Centerline Data	Stacey Stark, Norman Anderson
Outreach	Statewide Address Points Data	Stacey Stark, Norman Anderson
Outreach	More Fully Attributed Statewide Parcel Data	Stacey Stark
Outreach	Success Stories for Geospatial Technology	Jessica Fendos
Outreach (with help from MnGeo)	GIS Advocacy Resources	Jessica Fendos
Parcel and Land Records	Updated & Aligned Boundary Data	Preston Dowell
Parcel and Land Records	Statewide County Boundary Dataset	Kory Thurnau
Parcel and Land Records	Statewide Right-of-Way Data	
Parcel and Land Records	Cadastral Mapping Guidelines	
PLSS Preservation	Remonumentation of all original federal Section Corners	Pat Veraguth
PLSS Preservation	Statewide Survey Records Inventory	Pat Veraguth
Standards	Public Land Survey System Data Standard	Curt Carlson, Mark Kotz
Standards	Transportation Asset Standard	Amy Harrigan
Standards	Bikeways Data Standard Expansion for Trails	

GAC Committee Work Plan Updates

Work Plan Updates approved in March and May 2026

- Emergency Preparedness
- K-12 Education
- Standards
- 3D Geomatics
- Outreach

Work Plan Updates in Process

- Parcel and Land Records

Work Plan Updates for Review Today

- *None*

Agenda Item 4

National Address Database presentation

Kaminowitz





National Address Database Program

September 16, 2026

Technical Credentials







What is the NAD?

The National Address Database is the only authoritative, public domain, nationwide address data set in the country.

- DOT-created and maintained GIS dataset of addressable locations nationwide
- Includes buildings, public facilities, and landmarks when available
- Participation is voluntary: state, local, and tribal governments contribute data
- The NAD is not yet complete

Definition of an Address

- Location of every "place" in the country
- Not attached to personal information

"Everything happens somewhere."

- Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)

Who Uses the NAD?

Emergency Managers

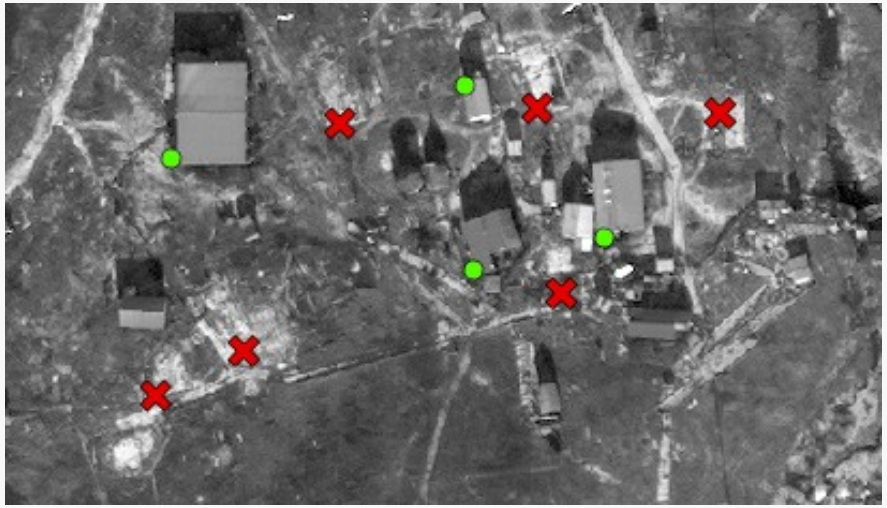
- Location data helps emergency managers when responding across state or county lines
- Redundant system for local governments during emergencies

State and Local Government

- Organizations which deliver essential supplies can reach more people in need
- A single address format everyone can read reduces the cost of integrating data from different jurisdictions

Address Case Studies

- Flooding in Kwigillingok, Alaska
- Internet sales in Arkansas
- Geo-enabled elections in Utah, Montana



Who Uses the NAD?

Corporations and Industry

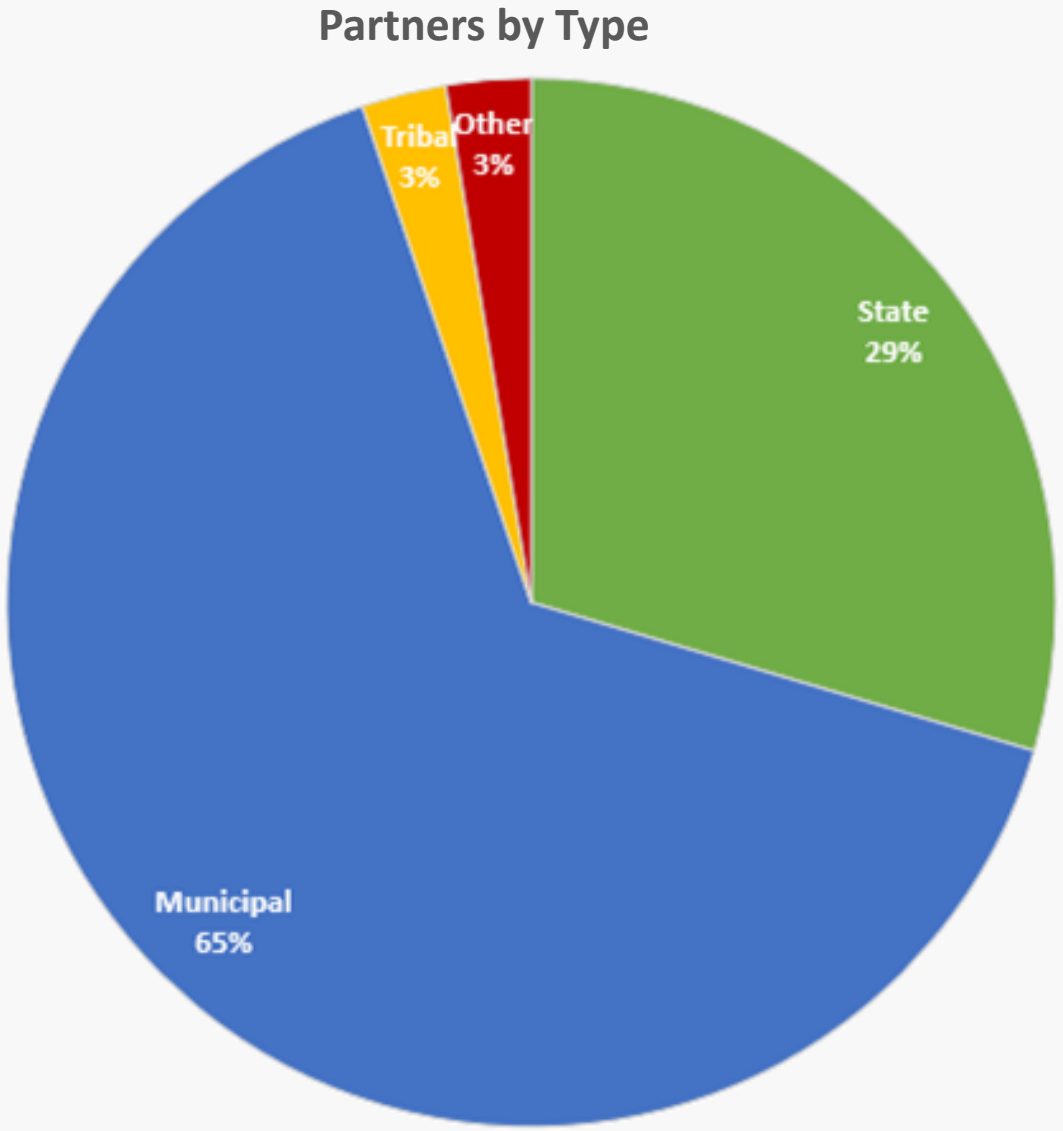
- Improved private sector location services
- Commercial law enforcement solutions
- No-cost location data for small businesses
- Support for strategic business expansion decisions
- Necessary for the seamless delivery of goods and services
- NAD expansion into rural and remote areas expands market for shipping services

Companies that Use the NAD

- Google
- TomTom
- HERE
- Smarty
- AWS Marketplace
- DataBricks Marketplace
- GeoPostcodes
- PlaceKey
- Fulcrum
- Overture
- Dronesense

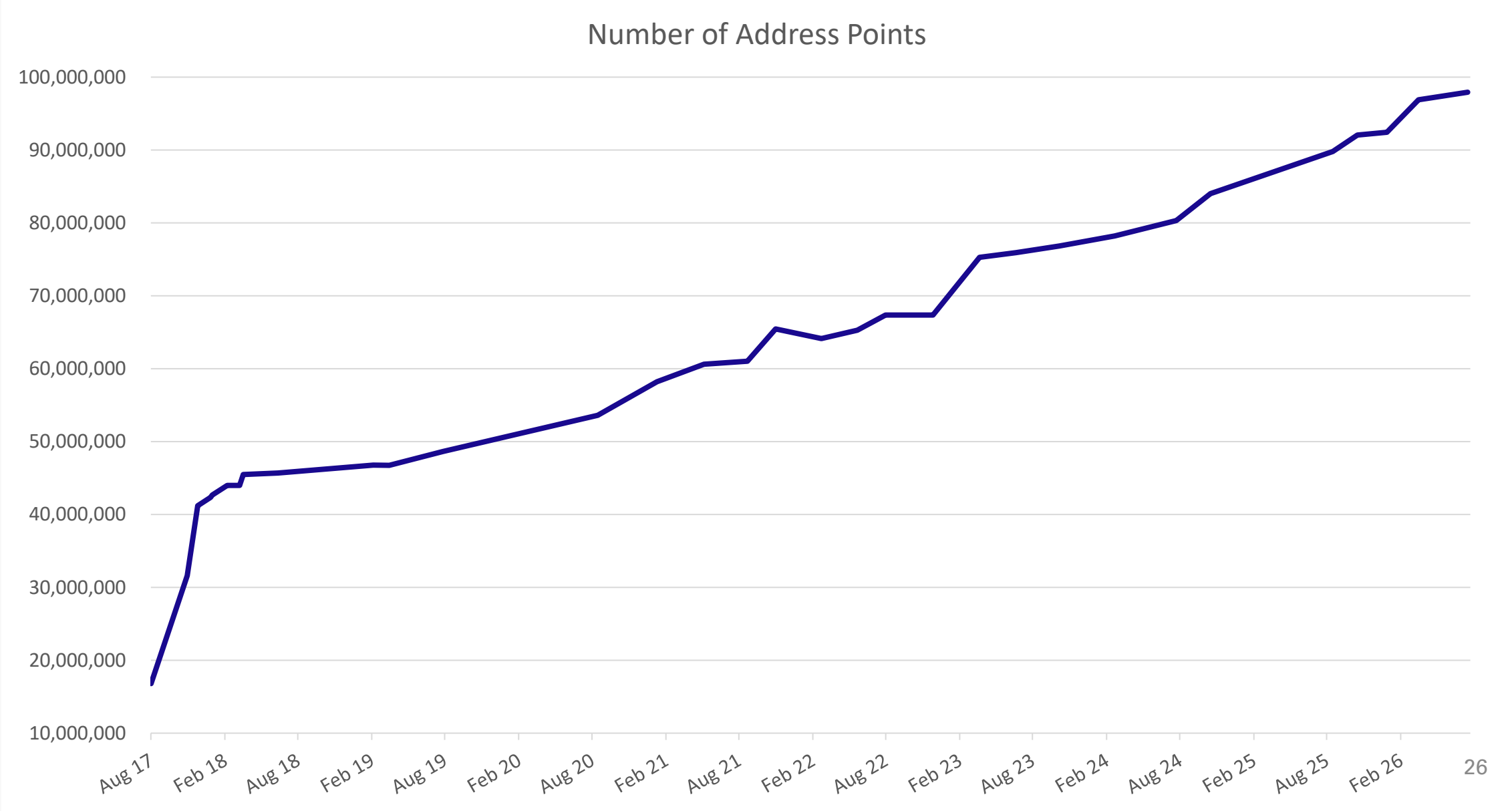
Our Partners

24%
from public safety agencies

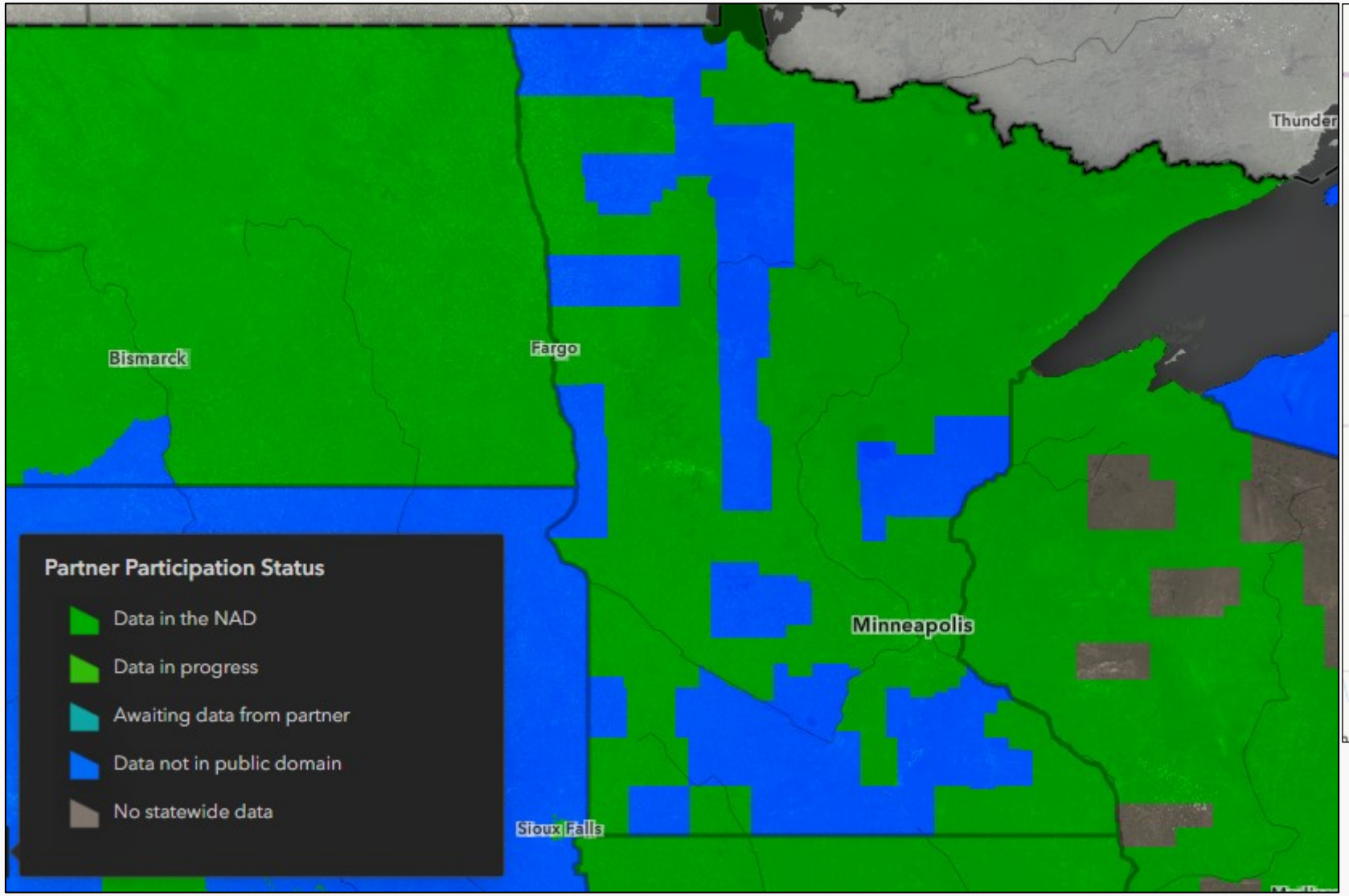


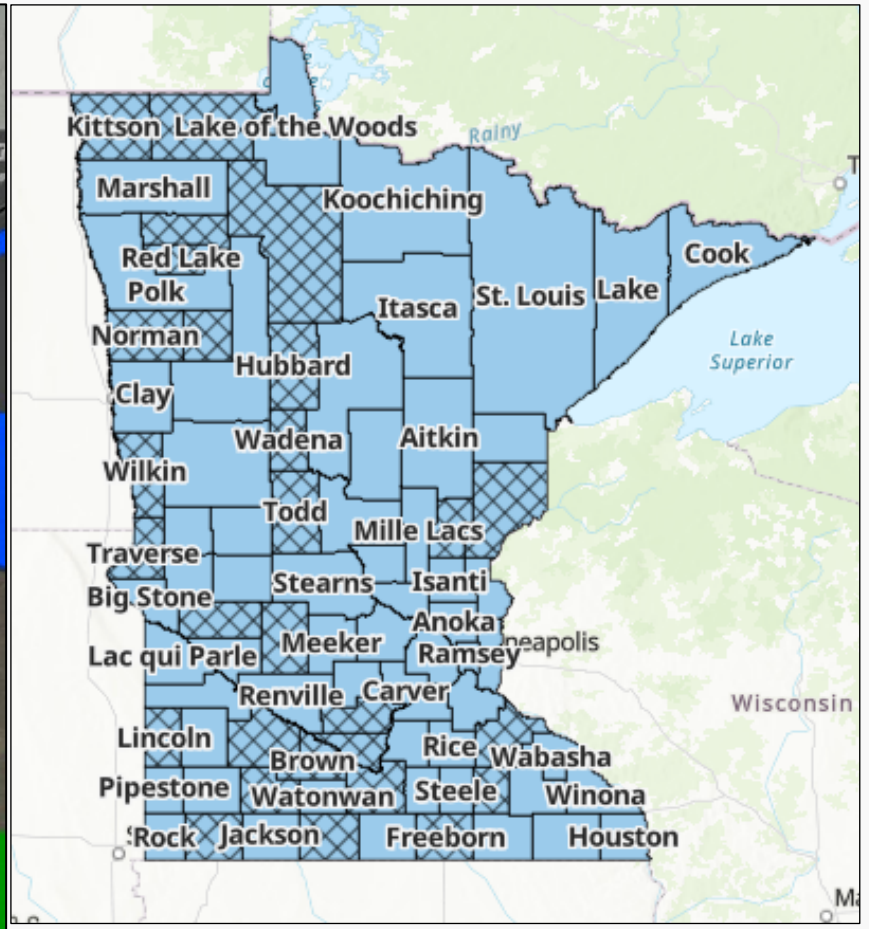
- **State**
- **Municipal**
  - County
  - City
  - U.S. island territories
- **Tribal**
- **Other**
  - Regional

NAD Program Growth



Minnesota NAD Participation





Source: [NAD Participation Interactive Map]

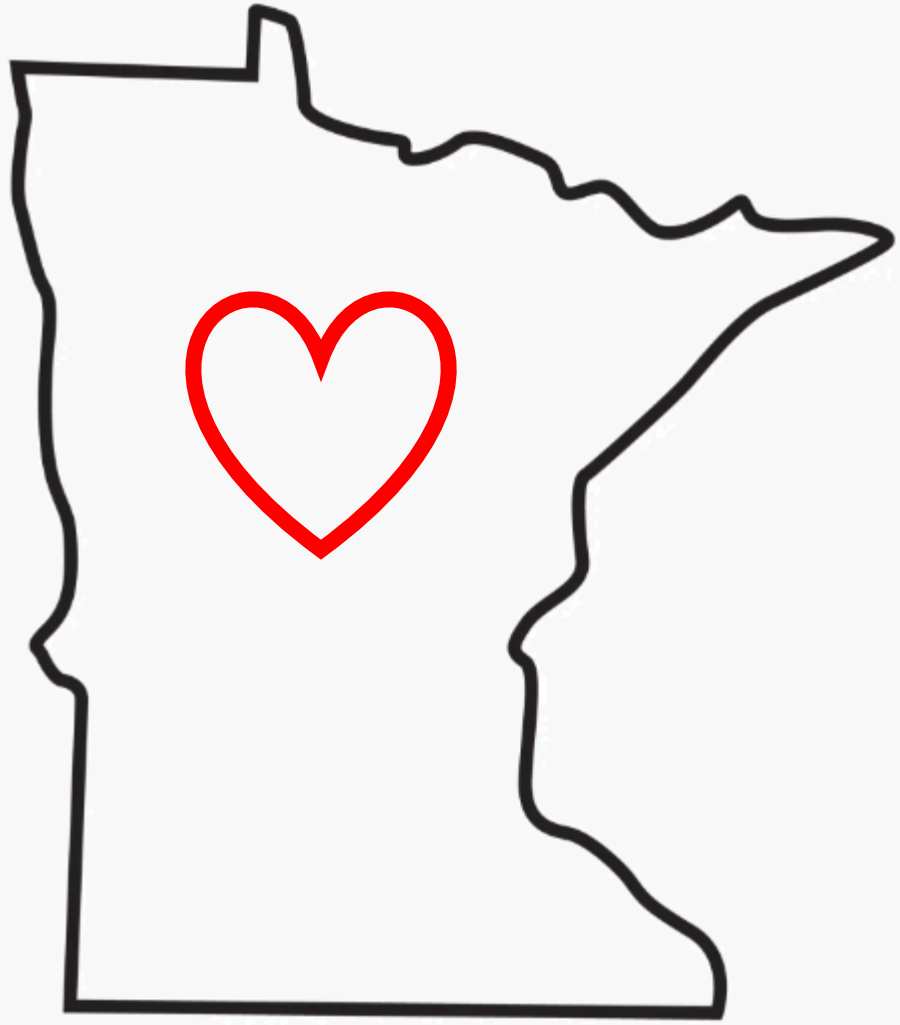
Benefits

- QA/QC report
- USPS zip code validation
- Low/No cost to participate
- Single nationwide schema for everyone to use
- Redundant data
- Civic location only
- Voluntary

How to Participate in the NAD

1. **Opt-in to sharing address data online in the Minnesota Geospatial Commons**
2. **You are now a data partner**

- State partners preferred
- Will accept local data
- Technical support available
- Simple schema
- DOT does field mapping and standardization



NAD Minimum Schema

Address	Metadata
☐ Address Number	☐ Unique ID
☐ Street Name	☐ Address authority
☐ Street Suffix Type	
☐ Street Directional	
☐ Subaddress	
☐ Municipality	

NAD Full Schema

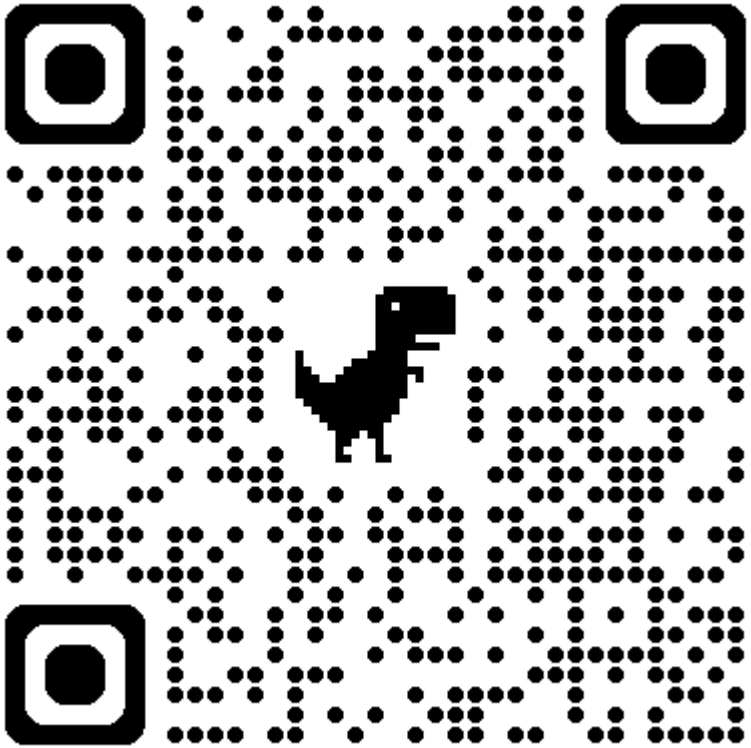
Address number prefix
Address number
Address number suffix
Complete Address number
Street Name Pre Modifier
Street Name Pre Directional
Street Name Pre Type
Street Name Pre Type Separator
Street Name
Street Name Post Type
Street Name Post Directional
Street Name Post Modifier
Complete Street Name
Building
Floor
Unit
Room
Seat
Additional Location Information
Complete Subaddress
Landmark Name
County
Incorporated Municipality
Postal Community Name
Census Designated Place
Unincorporated Community
Neighborhood Community
Native American Area
Native American Tribal Subdivision Area
Urbanization Name (PR)
Other Place Name
Other Place Name Type
State
ZIP Code
Zip Plus 4 Addition
Address UUID
Address Authority
Address Reference System Name
Address Longitude
Address Latitude
National Grid Coordinates
Address Elevation
Address Placement
Address Point Well Known Text
Related Address Identifier
Address Relation Type
Address Parcel Identifier Source
Address Parcel Identifier
Address Classification
Address Lifecycle Status
Start Date
End Date
Last Revision Date
Address Anomaly Status
Location Description
Address Use Type
Delivery Address Type
NAD Data Provider
Data Set Identifier

Full schema: https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2023-07/NAD_Schema_202304.pdf

Where to Find the NAD

Main Website

StoryMap
Status Map & Address Point Viewer
Download Page
Web Service
GovDelivery Sign-up
NAD E-mail: nad@dot.gov



Questions?

Mara Kaminowitz
Deputy Geospatial Information Officer
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Chief Digital & Information Officer

202-913-0640
mara.kaminowitz@dot.gov

Agenda Item 5

NSGIC Geospatial Maturity Assessment Report

Slaats



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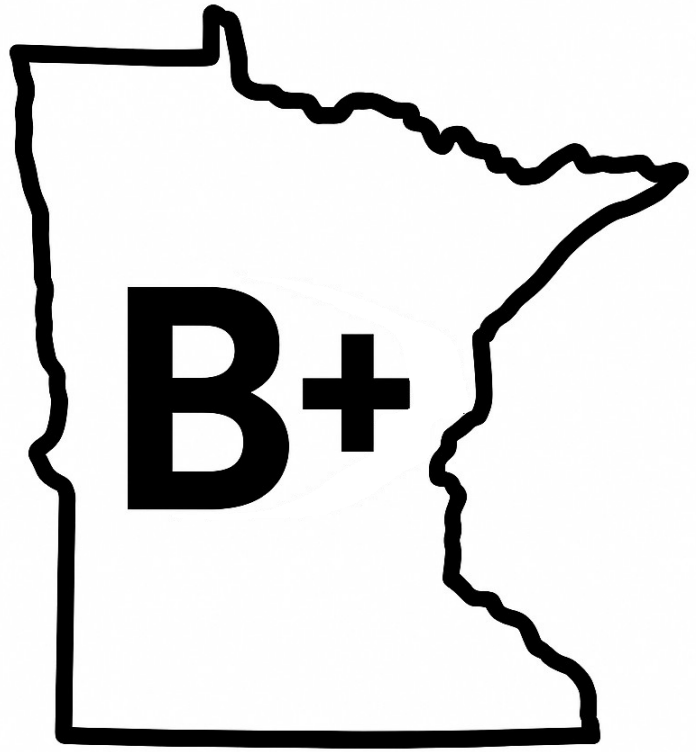
NSGIC Geospatial Maturity Assessment Report

Alison Slaats | Geospatial Information Officer

NSGIC GMA Executive Summary

- Every two years, the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) conducts a Geospatial Maturity Assessment (GMA)
- The 2025 NSGIC GMA evaluated state geospatial maturity across ten core data themes and coordination practices.
- Nationally, most states scored B/B+, indicating established GIS coordination and core geospatial programs with some remaining maturity gaps.
- **Minnesota earned an overall grade of B+**



Executive Summary – National Patterns

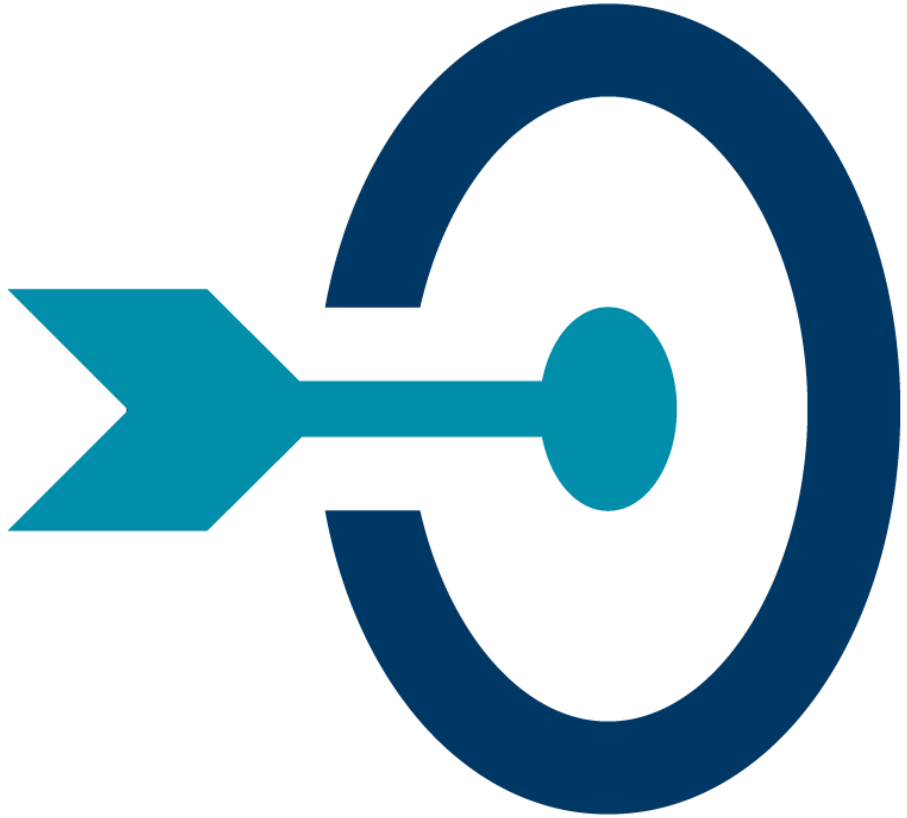
Common National Patterns:

- Governance Matters
- Open Statewide Data is Emphasized
- NG9-1-1 is a Catalyst for Data Development
- Funding and Acquisition Cycles Remain as Biggest Barriers



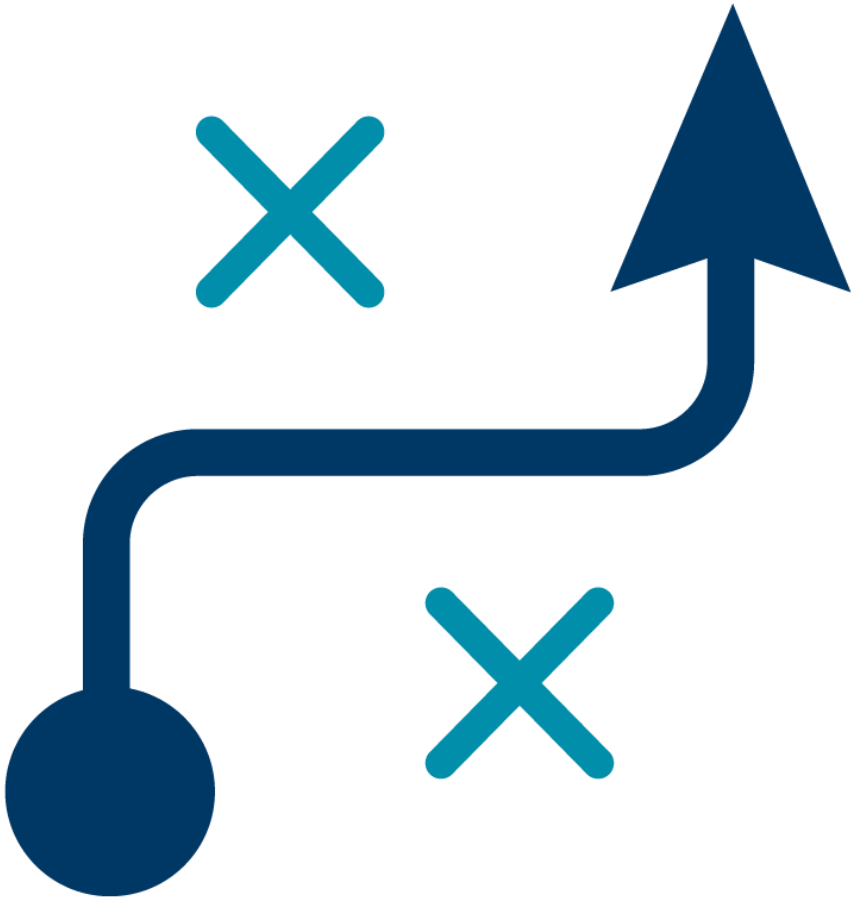
Minnesota Strengths

- Coordination (A+)
- Cadastral Data (Parcels) (A)
- Geodetic Control (A-)
- Elevation (A-)
- NG9-1-1 Readiness (A)



Minnesota Opportunities

- Transportation (C)
- Addressing (B)
- Imagery (C)
  - Leaf-On (B-)
  - Leaf-Off (D+)



Minnesota Strategy

- **Maintain** leadership in Coordination (A+)
- **Advance** statewide addressing toward authoritative NG9-1-1 integration (B → A)
- **Improve** statewide transportation data stewardship (C → B/A)
- **Develop** a comprehensive statewide imagery acquisition strategy (D+ → B/A)



Learn More & Questions/Discussion

NSGIC GMA Resources

- 2025 Geospatial Maturity Assessment Full Report
- States' Grades Summary Page
- 2025 Geospatial Maturity Assessment State Report Cards



Questions and/or Discussion?

Agenda Item 6

MCGISA proposal for GAC opt-in data sharing process

Slaats



Topics

- Background on “opt-in” process
- Current status of opt-in datasets
- Letter received from MCGISA
- Actions taken and recommended next steps
- Discussion
- Resources

Background on “opt-in” process

- The opt-in process was initially developed to support GAC Priority of “Statewide publicly available parcel data”
- Since 2019 MnGeo has been collecting parcel data quarterly, then compiling and transforming the data into a statewide dataset that conforms to the Minnesota Parcel Standard. This statewide dataset is shared across state government.
- Recognizing that parcel data has significant value beyond state government, MnGeo worked to develop a process to share this data in the public domain, via the Geospatial Commons. While some counties were supportive of sharing more broadly, others were not.
- To respect county preferences, the GAC Parcels and Land Records Committee proposed a peer-to-peer outreach process to encourage fellow counties to include their data in the "public cut". The Committee then informs MnGeo about which counties to include.
- As time went on and (more counties abandoned data fees) the public dataset grew. To date, nearly 70% (59) of Minnesota Counties make their data publicly available via this process.

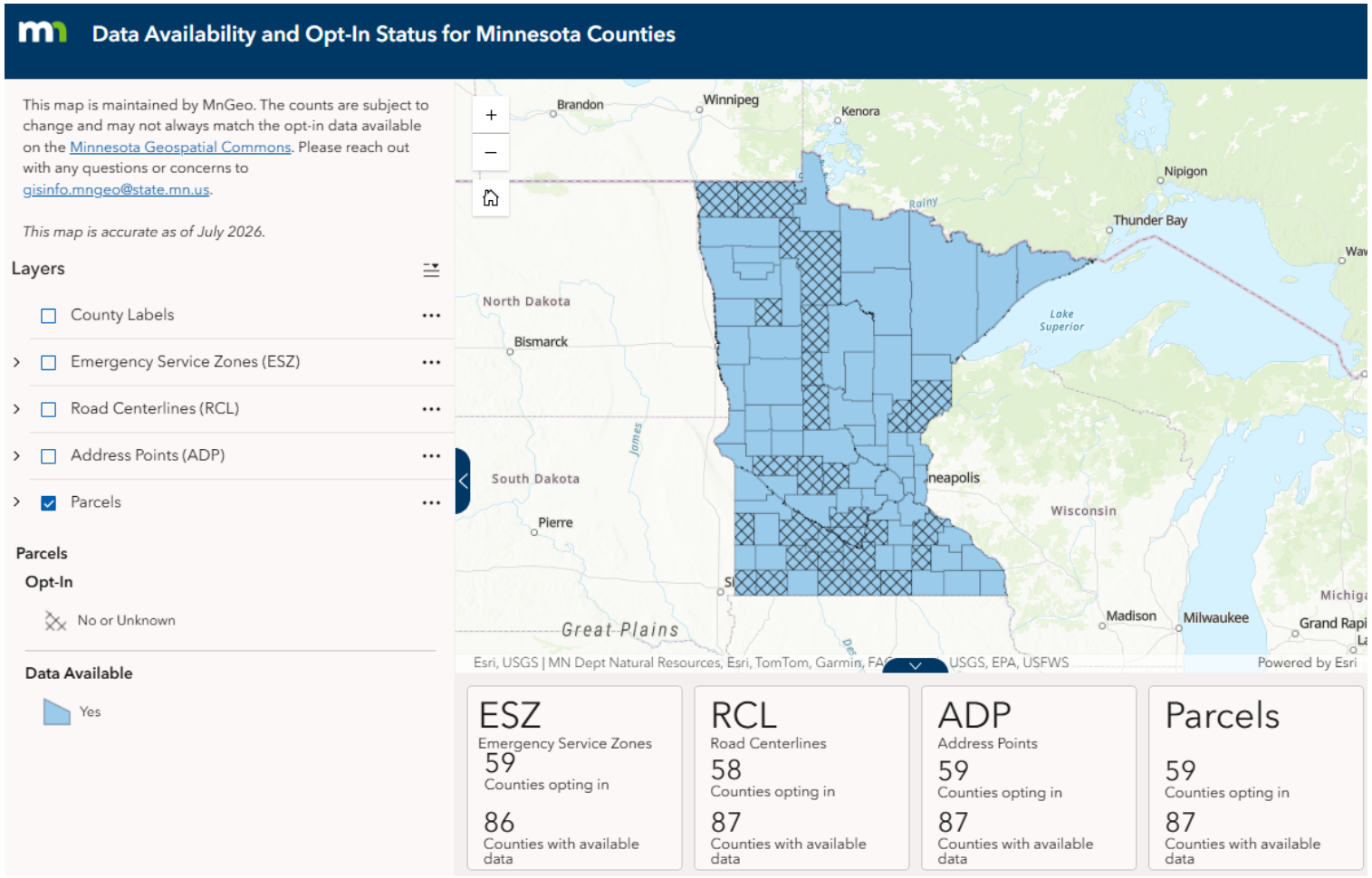
NG911 Program Data Development

- Concurrently, another important project was underway!
- Since 2017 Minnesota counties and the Red Lake Nation have been requested by state agencies to develop data to support modernizing NG911 emergency response systems across the state.
- This complex effort has required extensive participation and contributions by Minnesota counties, specifically GIS data stewards.
- At the programs inception it was recognized early of that while this data had utility to support emerging NG911 systems, it also has broad utility 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 supported Address Point and Road Centerline data standards

Opt-In Extended

- Like parcels, MnGeo extracts a cut of the NG911 road centerlines and address points datasets for publishing on the Geospatial Commons. Most recently a third dataset, Emergency Service Zones, has been included. All three of these GIS datasets have broad value beyond NG911
- As anticipated, there is demand for this data to be shared publicly. To satisfy that request, GAC volunteers included these datasets in their "opt-in" outreach, to data stewards.
- To date, **all** county data producers have submitted data to the NG911 system and MnGeo has the capacity to extract statewide data, both in NG911 and GAC compliant formats.
- 58 data providers have agreed to share road centerline data and 59 are sharing address point and emergency service zone data on the Geospatial Commons

Current Opt-In Status by Dataset

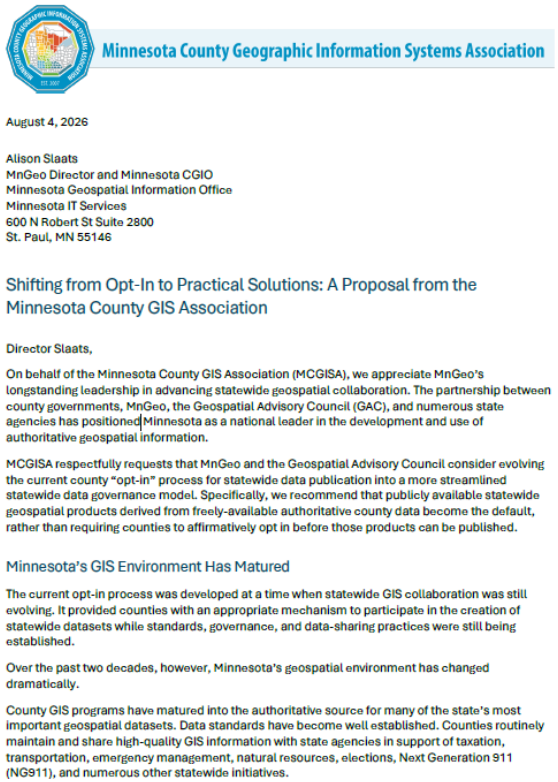


- Parcels 59 of 87 counties
- ADP 59 of 87 counties
- RCL 58 of 87 counties
- ESZ 59 of 86 PSAPs

[Map and Dashboard for Data Availability and Opt-In Status for Minnesota Counties]

MCGISA request to rescind county opt-in approval

- Minnesota County Geographic Information Systems Association (MCGISA) sent a formal request to MnGeo on 8/4/2026 proposing that the GAC discontinue the opt-in process
- Letter is included in GAC packet
- The opt-in process was developed and adopted by the GAC, so any changes should be considered and approved by the GAC as well.



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:

- MCGISA contends that 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 appropriate extension of that public availability *and*
- Statewide public datasets supporting NG911 be published as a matter of statewide stewardship.
- For other county datasets, MnGeo should work with counties that maintain Board-approved fee schedules or other public distribution restrictions to determine whether those datasets should be excluded from statewide public products

Key Considerations

- Data created in support of the NG911 (ADP, RCL and ESZ) is currently extracted and transformed to GAC standards for broader statewide use.
- Counties would no longer be contacted to "approve" those data be included in the public domain.
- Any GIS data that the county serves publicly could also be included in any publicly available aggregated dataset, even when schema changes are imposed.
- This would NOT apply to county parcel data that is requested quarterly by MnGeo and is NOT made available publicly by the data producer.
- The GAC would be no longer involved in data aggregation processes and responsibility for negotiations for any currently "not public" data would be left to MnGeo

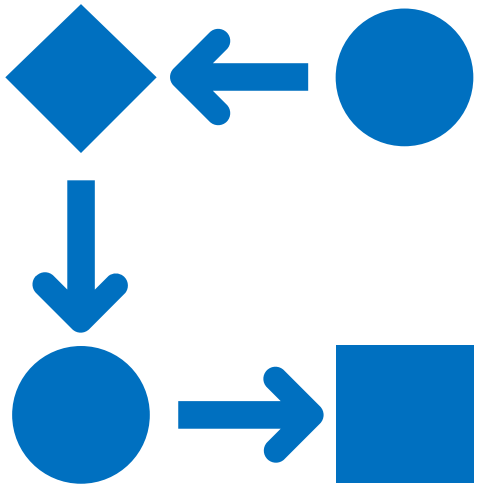
The role of the GAC

- The GAC opt-in process was developed and approved by the GAC, any changed needs to be reconsidered by the GAC as well.
- While the GAC PLRC originally set up the opt-in process, currently, the Open Data Subcommittee, which is a subcommittee to the Outreach Committee currently manages the opt-in process



Recommended next steps

- Discuss at GAC Open Data Subcommittee (8/26)
- Discuss at GAC Outreach Committee meeting (9/8)
- MnGeo shares MCGISA letter and describes topic at GAC meeting on 9/16 with approval of two committees (now!)
- MnGeo, GAC & MCGISA co-host a meeting on this topic and invite all counties to attend (early October?). GAC members could attend to hear and be part of discussion
- Depending on outcome of meeting with counties, possible vote at GAC December meeting, or later GAC meeting, to take action on opt-in process
- If opt-in process is revoked, work on communications and roll-out plan



Questions & Discussion



- Do GAC members and meeting attendees have questions and/or comments about this topic
- Do GAC members agree with proposed next steps
- Additional thoughts?

Agenda Item 7

Break and networking



Agenda Item 8

Imagery Committee request*

Albrecht



*Motion required

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GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Imagery Committee

Committee Request

Heather Albrecht | Imagery Committee

Image Service Sustainability Committee

The MnGeo Image Server is a valuable resource for users throughout the state.

The goals of the on-hold Image Service Sustainability Committee are to:

- Create a "decision matrix" to categorize image layers into a lifecycle and ultimately retirement from the MnGeo service.
- Establish Stakeholders that can use the decision matrix to evaluate layers for categorization on a periodic basis.
- Communicate to the Minnesota Geospatial community, by way of the GAC, the status of layers, especially layers that should be considered for retirement and/or archival.

Imagery Committee

The GAC Imagery Committee mission:

To recommend and guide the development and stewardship of a coordinated statewide imagery program for Minnesota.



Imagery Committee request

- **Retire** – Image Service Sustainability Committee
  - Currently on-hold
- **Coordinate** – Imagery Committee
  - Formed spring of 2026
- **Replace** – Image Service Sustainability Sub-committee
  - First meeting early 2027



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Thank You!

Heather Albrecht

Heather.Albrecht@hennepincounty.gov

Agenda Item 9a

Committee Presentation 1: Emergency Preparedness

Goodman





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GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Emergency Preparedness Committee Report

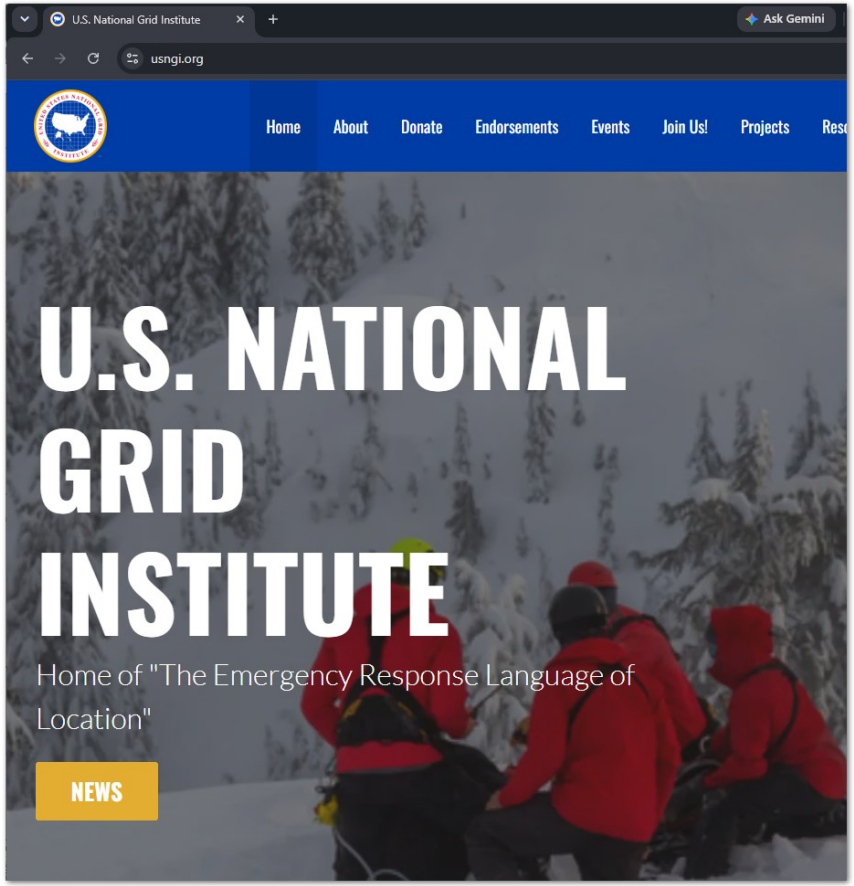
Matt Goodman, Co-Chair

Emergency Preparedness Committee Overview

- [x] **US National Grid workgroup**
  Completed previous term
- [x] **Critical Infrastructure Assessment workgroup**
  Wrapping up now
- [ ] **Education workgroup**
- [ ] **Fire Risk Assessment Tool workgroup**

Emergency Preparedness Committee

- [x] **US National Grid workgroup**: wrapped up previous term

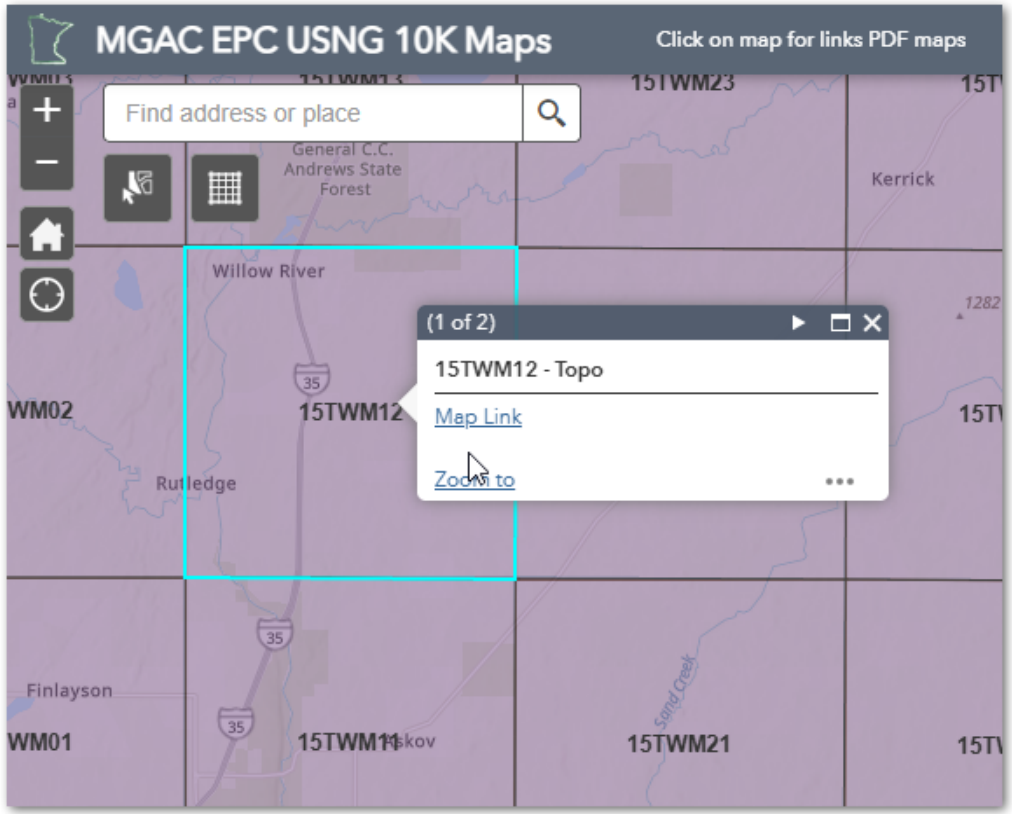


Advocacy activity taken up by the *U.S. National Grid Institute*.

usngi.org

Emergency Preparedness Committee

- [x] **US National Grid workgroup**: wrapped up previous term



Final remaining GAC priority to transfer hosting of USNG topo PDFs for online availability.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

☑ Critical Infrastructure Assessment workgroup

Currently in wrap-up phase.

Sunset document forthcoming:

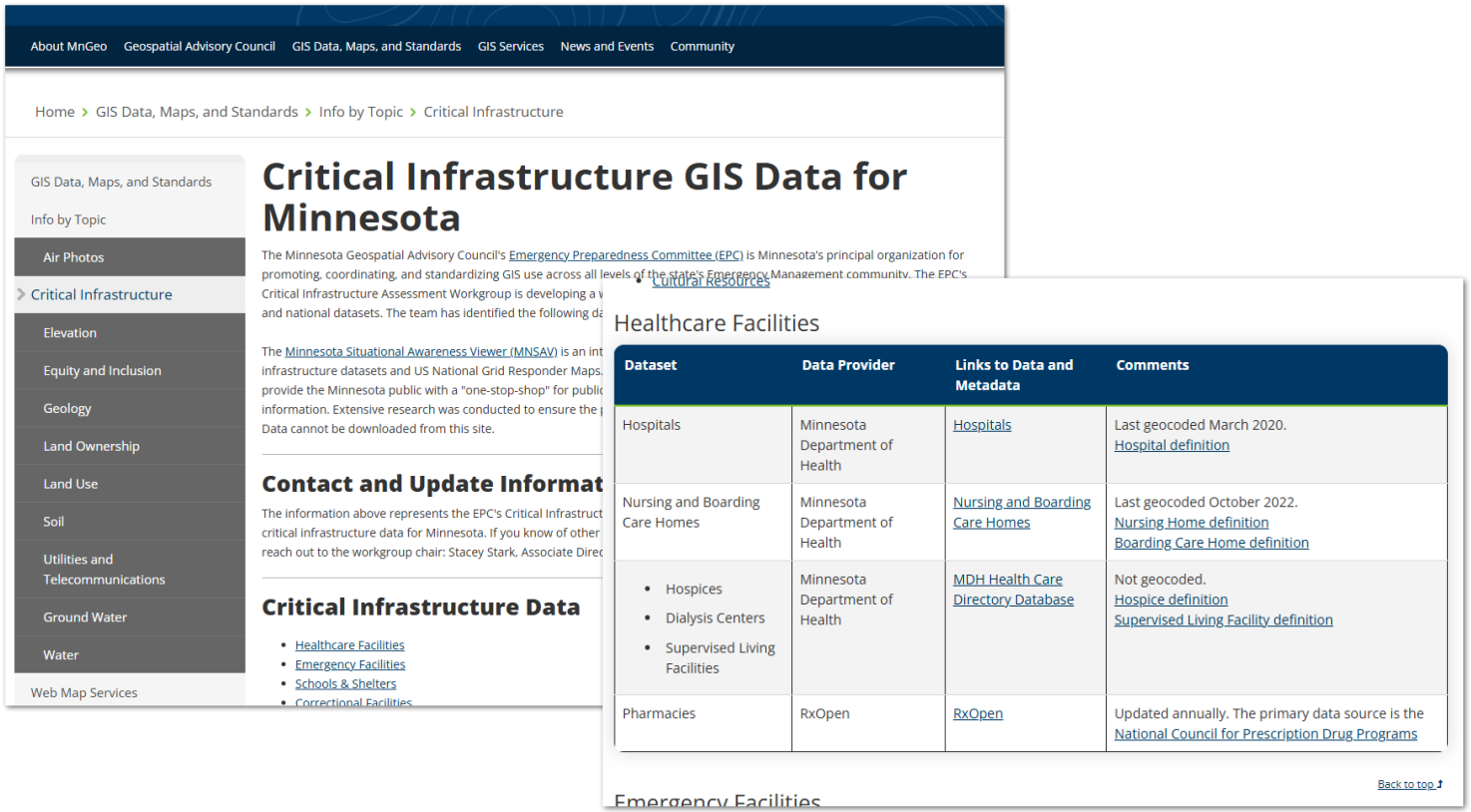
Chair Stacey Stark has documented activities, accomplishments, outcomes, remaining tasks in a detailed sunset document that will be presented to the Emergency Preparedness Committee for their consideration in November 2026.

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Critical Infrastructure Assessment workgroup highlights

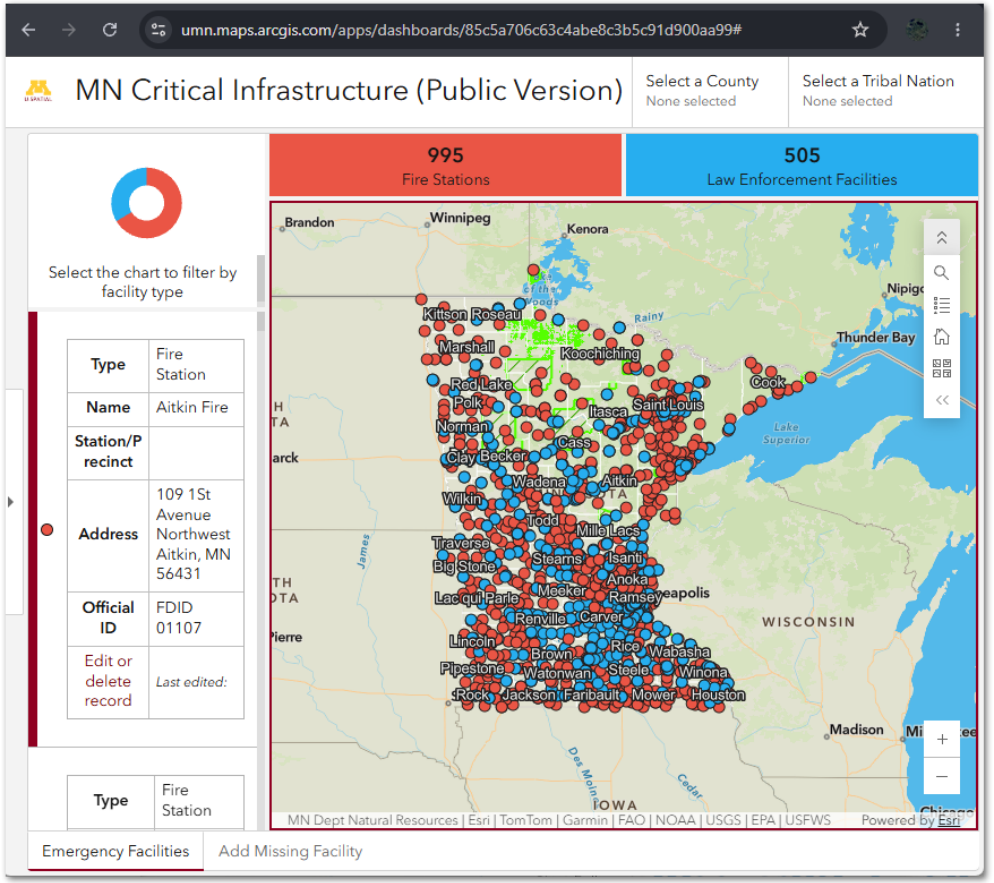
Web page detailing the '*best available*' sources for critical infrastructure data.

https://mn.gov/mngeo/gis-data-and-maps/info-by-topic/critical-infrastructure/



Critical Infrastructure Assessment workgroup highlights

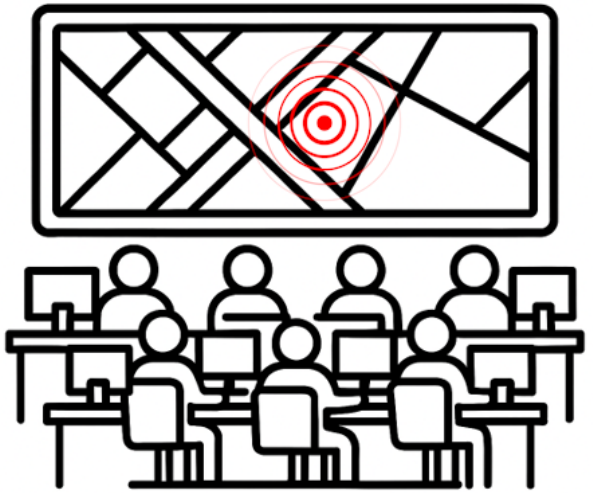
System and workflow for maintaining station location points for fire and law enforcement agencies across the state.



Emergency Preparedness Committee

☐ Education workgroup

Mission: *to develop training standards and programs for the Minnesota GIS and emergency services communities that will promote productive interaction, provide training, and facilitate st and national training opportunities.*



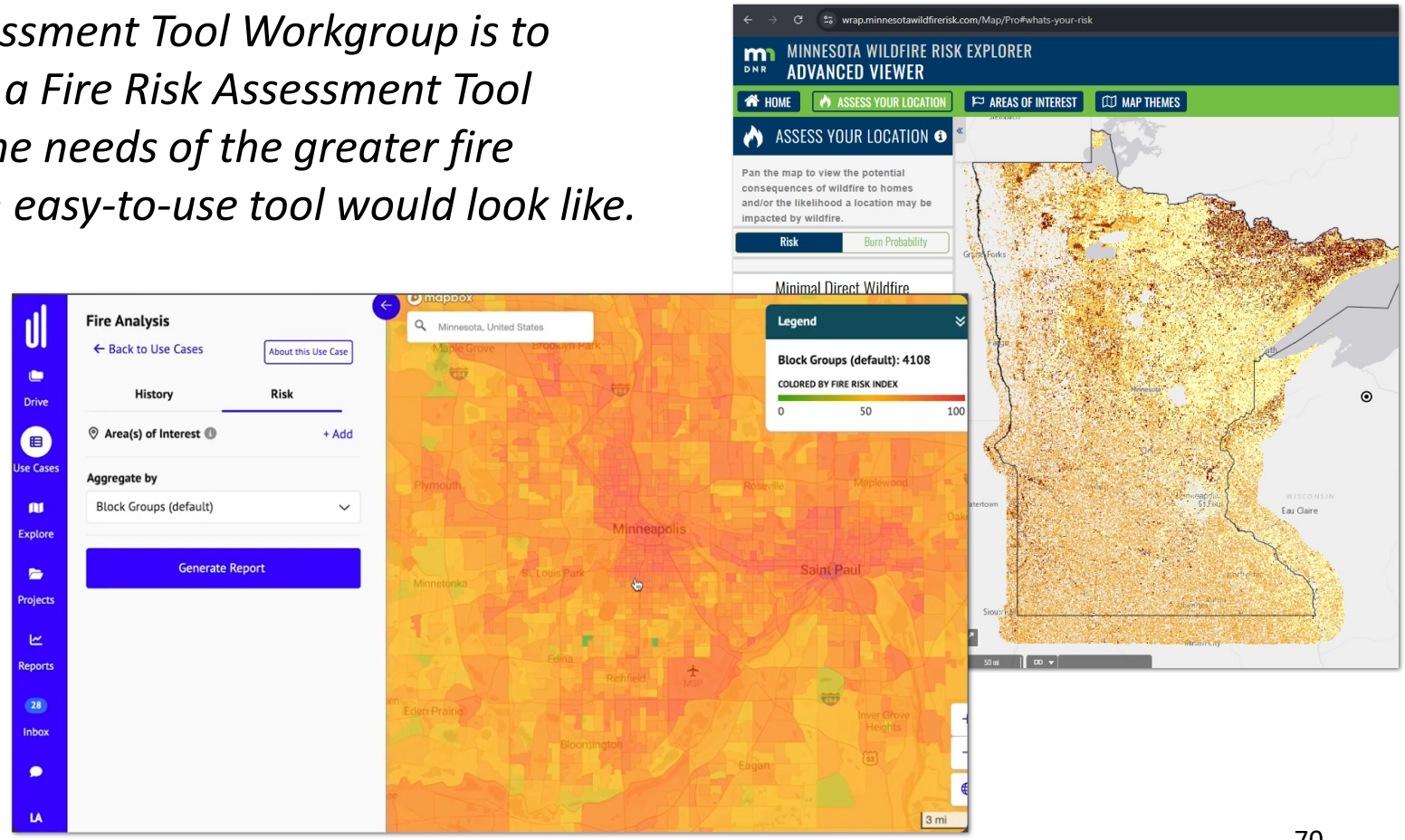
No recent activity: on hold until January

Want to get involved?

Chair: Carla Coates (carla.coates@state.mn.us), *Minnesota Department of Public Safety*

Fire Risk Assessment Tool workgroup

The mission of the Fire Risk Assessment Tool Workgroup is to identify what types of questions a Fire Risk Assessment Tool should be designed to answer, the needs of the greater fire service community, and what an easy-to-use tool would look like.



Emergency Preparedness Committee

☐ Fire Risk Assessment Tool workgroup

First meeting was held July 27th, second meeting September 2026.

- Building discussion around existing resources, history of need/tools, and known limitations to current tools.
- Working toward forming a vision of a future solution.

Want to get involved?

Chair: Angela Contreras (angela.contreras@state.mn.us), *State Fire Marshal Division of the Minnesota Department of Public Safety*

Emergency Preparedness Committee

Planned EPC Meeting Presentations:

- **11/12/2026** – MN Homeland Security & Emergency Management (HSEM) presents on the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).
- **2/11/2027** – The ‘MapMobile’ GIS support in New York City after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack.
- **5/13/2027** – Olmstead County/City of Rochester review of lessons learned during tabletop exercise.



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Thank You!

Matt Goodman, EPC Co-Chair

goodmanm@stlouiscountymn.gov

218-726-2938

Agenda Item 9b

Committee Presentation 2:
Data Endorsement

Slaats / Trappe



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Data Endorsement Process Proposal

A framework for identifying and endorsing statewide geospatial datasets

Kevin Trappe | GAC Data Endorsement ad-hoc Committee Co-chair

Committee Background

Objectives

- **Identify key components of a data endorsement process** through committee meetings and review of materials from other council initiatives and organizations.
- **Ensure key components** of a data endorsement process **include definitions of and recognition of data creators, data users, and other partners**.
- **Define key steps** of a data endorsement process.
- **Ensure the data endorsement process is sustainable**, accounting for new data topics and sources as well as monitoring endorsed datasets for currency.
- Work with other workgroups and MnGeo to **ensure an endorsed dataset is easily identifiable and accessible** to the user community at large, including in the MN Geospatial Commons.



✓ Formed in September 2024

✓ First meeting February 2025

✓ Monthly meetings since then

What are the benefits of Data Endorsement?

1. Helps **data users** quickly identify best available data.
2. Helps **data producers** by reenforcing the value of their data and providing evidence of the need for ongoing stewardship.
3. Optimizes **data investments** by reducing the creation of multiple or similar versions of the same data.
4. Improves **data quality** by holding data to the expectations defined through the endorsement process.
5. Increases **data visibility**, amplifying its value.

Statewide Value Focus

Endorsement prioritizes datasets that:

1. Provide statewide or broadly applicable coverage
2. Enable consistent use across jurisdictions
3. Support statewide decision-making, analysis, or representation of data

What does “GAC Endorsed” mean?

What it does ***not*** mean:

- Superiority over local datasets for local workflows
- Endorsed datasets are the most current version of the data – local datasets may be more current, particularly data aggregated from multiple sources
- A one-time, permanent approval – endorsed datasets are reviewed every 3 years
- Guarantee that the dataset fits every possible use

What it means:

- ✓ Represents the most appropriate statewide dataset for its theme or priority, for cross-jurisdictional use
- ✓ Backed by clear metadata, active stewardship, and documented quality
- ✓ Reflects demonstrated utility and alignment with GAC priorities or framework themes

Framework Themes

	Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)	Minnesota Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI)*
1	Geodetic Control	Geodetic Control
2	Elevation	Elevation
3	Orthoimagery	Orthoimagery / Imagery
4	Cadastral	Cadastral / Parcels
5	Governmental Units	Administrative Boundaries / Government Units
6	Transportation	Transportation
7	Hydrography	Hydrography
8	—	Soils

**Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information, 2004*

A primary goal is for the data to align with either a GAC Priority or Framework Theme.
Datasets may align with a GAC Priority even if they do not align neatly with these framework themes.

Distinctions Between “Authoritative” vs. “Endorsed”

	Authoritative Data	GAC-Endorsed Data
Primary question	Who is responsible for the data?	Is this an appropriate statewide dataset for the identified purpose?
Focus	Source, responsibility, and official status	Statewide suitability and shared use
Geographic perspective	May be local, regional, or statewide	Primarily statewide/cross-jurisdictional
Stewardship	Responsible entity maintains the data	Stewardship is evaluated as part of endorsement
GAC role	Not necessarily involved	GAC formally evaluates and endorses
Meaning	**"This is the responsible/official source."**	**"This is an appropriate dataset for this statewide purpose."**

Proposed Process



Committee evaluation decisions of "Conditional" or "Do Not Recommend" route back to the proposer before advancing.

Intake

- Proposal submitted with required documentation

Evaluation

- Reviewers independently complete the standardized Evaluation Form
- Committee discusses and reaches consensus: Recommend, Conditional, or Do Not Recommend

Public Input

- 45-day public review
- Comments published with attribution; a summary and responses are documented

Decision

- Committee presents a final report and recommendation
- GAC reviews the recommendation and votes on endorsement

How Data Will Be Evaluated

Six categories on the standardized Evaluation Form

- **Priority / Theme Alignment**
- **Stewardship**
- **Quality**
- **Coverage**
- **Constraints**
- **Metadata**

Certain questions/criteria require a mandatory "Yes" response before a proposal can advance.

A Known Challenge: What If Multiple Datasets Exist?

The Operational Procedures address this directly with a "why endorsement" requirement: **every proposal must clearly articulate why endorsement is needed**, and – especially when more than one source exists – **why this dataset is the most appropriate statewide option** for the identified theme or priority. This is captured prominently, early in the proposal, which may help resolve the issue of competing candidates before technical evaluation begins.

Post-Endorsement Actions

Summary Sheet

- Purpose and scope of the data
- Appropriate use recommendations
- Key metadata highlights
- Disclaimer language
- Steward information

Communication

Distributed to stakeholders and promoted through MnGeo platforms, including the Geospatial Commons.

Publication

- Publish Endorsed Dataset Summary Sheet
- Add to Endorsed Dataset List
- Publish on Geospatial Commons with endorsement indicator

3-Year Review

Endorsed datasets are reviewed three years from their endorsement date to confirm they still meet the criteria.

Request for GAC Action

1 Adopt the Data Endorsement process (as presented or with changes)

Suggested motion:
Approve the Operational Procedures for Proposing and Approving Data Endorsement (Version 1) as the Council's standing process.

2 Make the Data Endorsement Committee a Permanent Committee of the GAC

Formalize the committee to lead intake, evaluation, public review, and recommendations going forward.

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Thank You!

Data Endorsement ad-hoc Committee

Alison Slaats, MnGeo, and Kevin Trappe, Beltrami County – Co-Chairs

Jason Ewert, MNIT MN Pollution Control Agency

Linse Lahti, MN Department of Natural Resources

Tanya Mayer, Metropolitan Council

Robin Mertes, MN Pollution Control Agency

Jonathan Mortensen, City of Shoreview

Pamela Oslin, Metropolitan Emergency Services Board

Gerry Sjerven, Allete

Stacey Stark, U-Spatial, University of Minnesota

Kory Thurnau, MnGeo

Sally Wakefield, MnGeo

Alison Wieckowicz, MNIT MnDOT

Special thanks to:

Curt Carlson and Mark Kotz

-Standards Committee Co-Chairs

Agenda Item 9c

Committee Presentation 3: Archiving

Mattke / Mortensen



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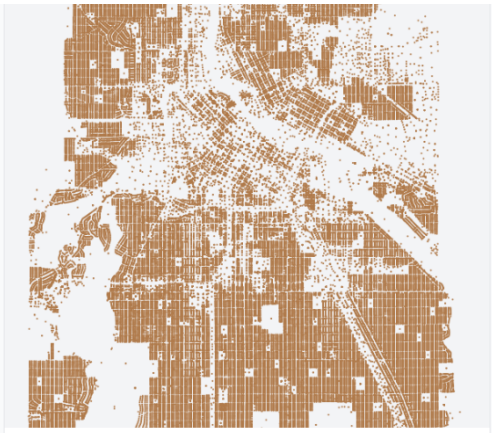


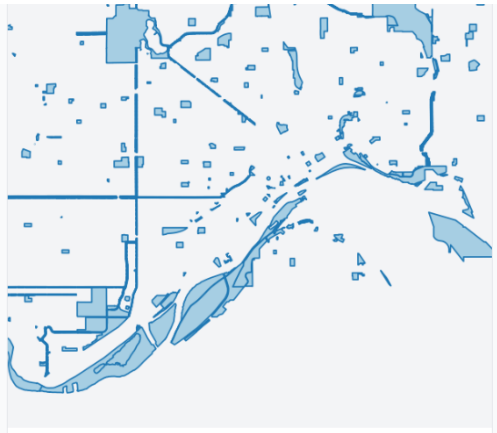
6. Address points [Minnesota--Minneapolis] {2026}



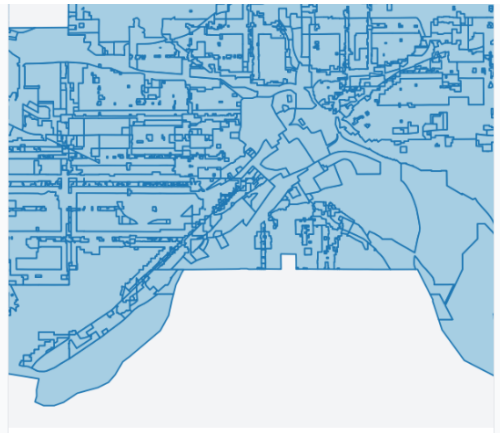
7. Major Streets [Minnesota--Saint Paul] {2024}



8. Buildings footprints (planimetrics) [Minnesota--Minneapolis] {2022}



9. Parks [Minnesota--Saint Paul] {2022}



10. Principal Zoning [Minnesota--Saint Paul] {2026}

Archiving Minnesota Geospatial Data – Proposal Draft

Ryan Mattke | Archiving Committee

Partnership and Roles

Partnership between the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council and the Big Ten Academic Alliance Geospatial Information Network (BTAA-GIN) to collect and provide access to historical Minnesota geospatial data.

MnGAC Archiving Committee would**:**

- define and refine the scope of the archive
- review progress
- communicate the work to MnGAC members, data providers, and the public

BTAA-GIN would carry out the operational work using its existing staff, infrastructure, and collection workflows. Program documentation: https://gin.btaa.org/projects/curation/

Initial Scope - Historical Minnesota Geospatial Commons

BTAA-GIN would create a public archive from local (UMN dark storage) backups of the former CKAN-based Minnesota Geospatial Commons from 2017, 2020, 2021, 2024, and 2026.

BTAA-GIN would**:**

- inventory the datasets, metadata, and supporting files
- identify changes between snapshots
- document provenance
- host the files and metadata in BTAA-GIN storage
- publish clearly labeled historical versions through the BTAA Geoportal
- direct users to the Commons for current versions

Preliminary inventory of the first and last available snapshot:

- 2017: 508 datasets, 28 organizations
- 2026, 780 datasets, 48 organizations
  - 317 new
  - 340 changed (used the same IDs from 2017, but different file sizes and checksums)
  - 48 resources had been removed from the GDRS

Initial Scope - Current City and County Data

BTAA-GIN would continue collecting selected city and county datasets through its existing curation programs.

BTAA Geoportal already includes recent data from Minneapolis and St. Paul through the ongoing Urban Base Layers project. This project began with cities and will expand to counties in the near future.

- Priority layers may include addresses, buildings, boundaries, parcels, streets, zoning, parks, and other foundational datasets.

Collection of these layers depends on availability, rights, technical feasibility, and local participation. Current data providers would remain the authoritative source.

- BTAA-GIN copies would become historical snapshots.

Would start with counties that already contribute to the Commons

Initial Scope - State & Regional Data (TBD)

This proposal does not establish an ongoing process for capturing future versions of state agency datasets after the historical Commons backups have been processed.

Deferring this decision allows the historical archive and existing city and county work to proceed while a sustainable model for future state data is developed.

A later policy will be needed to determine:

- which state datasets should be retained
- how often versions should be captured
- whether collection should occur before or after a version is superseded
- how archived records should relate to the current Minnesota Geospatial Commons
- what roles MnGeo, state agencies, MnGAC, and BTAA-GIN should have

Continuity and Exit Strategy

This arrangement does not prevent Minnesota from establishing a state-operated geospatial archive in the future.

MnGeo may assume responsibility for some or all of the work at any time.

- If responsibility is transferred, BTAA-GIN can export the preserved data together with its associated metadata and provenance information in a transferable package.

This provides a practical path for beginning the work now without making BTAA-GIN the only possible long-term steward.

- Any future transfer would require agreement on the scope, timing, storage location, access responsibilities, and ongoing maintenance of the collection.

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Questions / Feedback

Ryan Mattke

matt0089@umn.edu

MINNESOTA GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Thank You!

Ryan Mattke

matt0089@umn.edu

Agenda Item 10a

Sector Report 1: Higher Education

Stark / Mohapatra



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GEOSPATIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL



Higher Education Sector Report

Stacey Stark| University of Minnesota
Rama Mohapatra| Minnesota State University, Mankato

Higher Education Sector Representation

- Provides a Higher Education perspective
- Contributes to priorities with unique expertise and data:
    - Geodata Archive
    - Success Stories
    - LiDAR data
    - Critical Infrastructure Data
- How might MN GAC representatives connect better with the MN Higher Education geospatial community?

Higher Education Constituents

First Higher Education Sector Meeting, May 15, 2026

- Participants submitted topics (GISc program challenges, data access, workforce)
- GAC and the Higher Education Community next steps



What does GAC need from higher education representation?

- Identify the data students use frequently and prioritize those. For example, updated NAIP aerial photo, accurate road centerline, web layer for NG9-1-1 address of non-address points, etc.
- GIS programs are very small and can be cut easily. Common advocacy to offer the program even if they are small.
- Workforce related questions: What is the demand? If we are getting enough people? Are we preparing our workforce with the required skills?
- Statewide strategy to promote GIS as a career to middle and high school students?

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Thank You!

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rama.mohapatra@mnsu.edu

Stacey Stark
slstark@umn.edu

Agenda Item 10b

Sector Report 2: Nonprofit

Fendos



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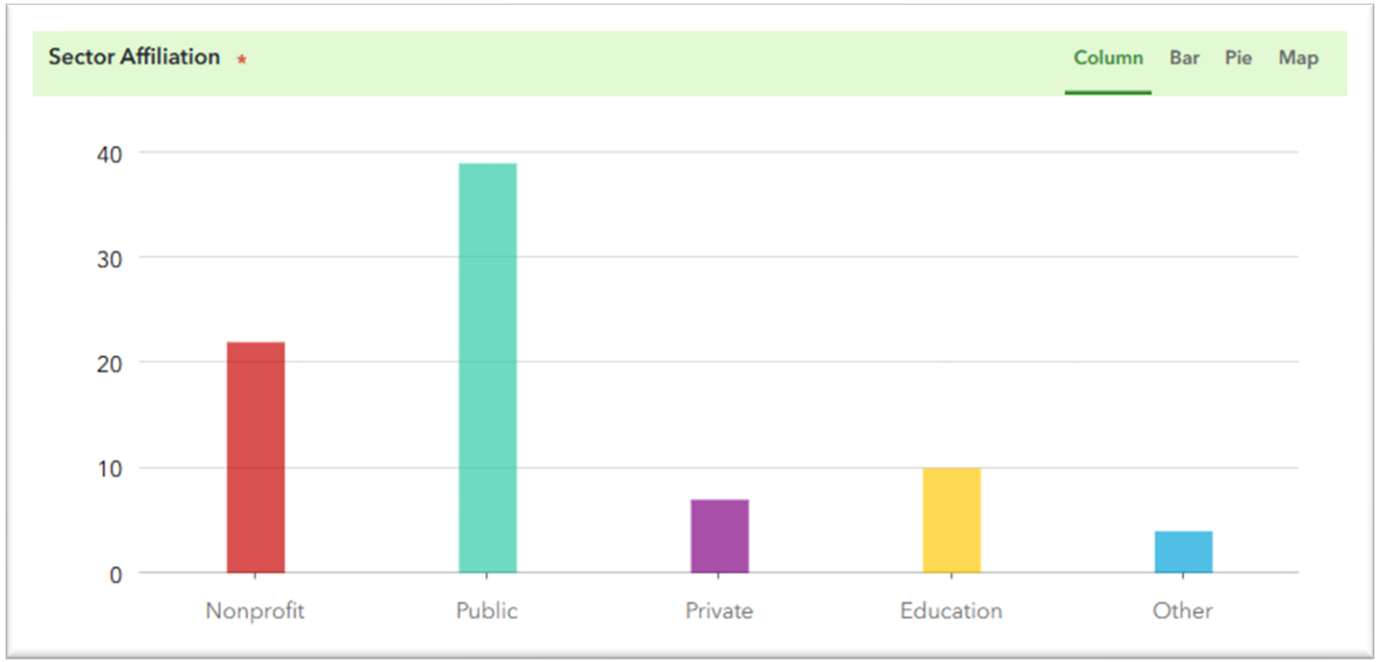
2026 Nonprofit Sector Report

Jessica Fendos | Nonprofit Sector Representative

Key Updates

2026 Mapping Expo – August 12th, 2026

- **Enrollment: Birds of a Feather by Sector**





Group Synergy

- **75 Participants**

Unlocking Minnesota GIS: State Resources for Mission-Driven Work

- **Alison Slaats**, Chief Geospatial Information Officer, MnGeo
- **Megan Sisko**, GIS Data & Coordination Specialist, MnGeo

Using Equity Analysis to Drive Community Outreach

- **Ariana Kim**, Non-Profit Account Manager, Esri
- **Jarod Fox**, Solution Engineer, State and Local Government, Esri

Lightning Round

- **Quentin Ikuta**, Indian Land Tenure Foundation

NextGen Mapping -Tribal Youth GIS Education and ArcGIS Online

- **Dale Watt**, Trust for Public Land

Parks and Public Health: Building Livable Neighborhoods

- **Holly Bushman**, Le Sueur County Partnering with CURA

Turning the Tide on Flooding

- **Nick Linell**, Alight

A Future Beyond Displacement: Humanitarian Needs and Outcomes in Sudan



Highlights



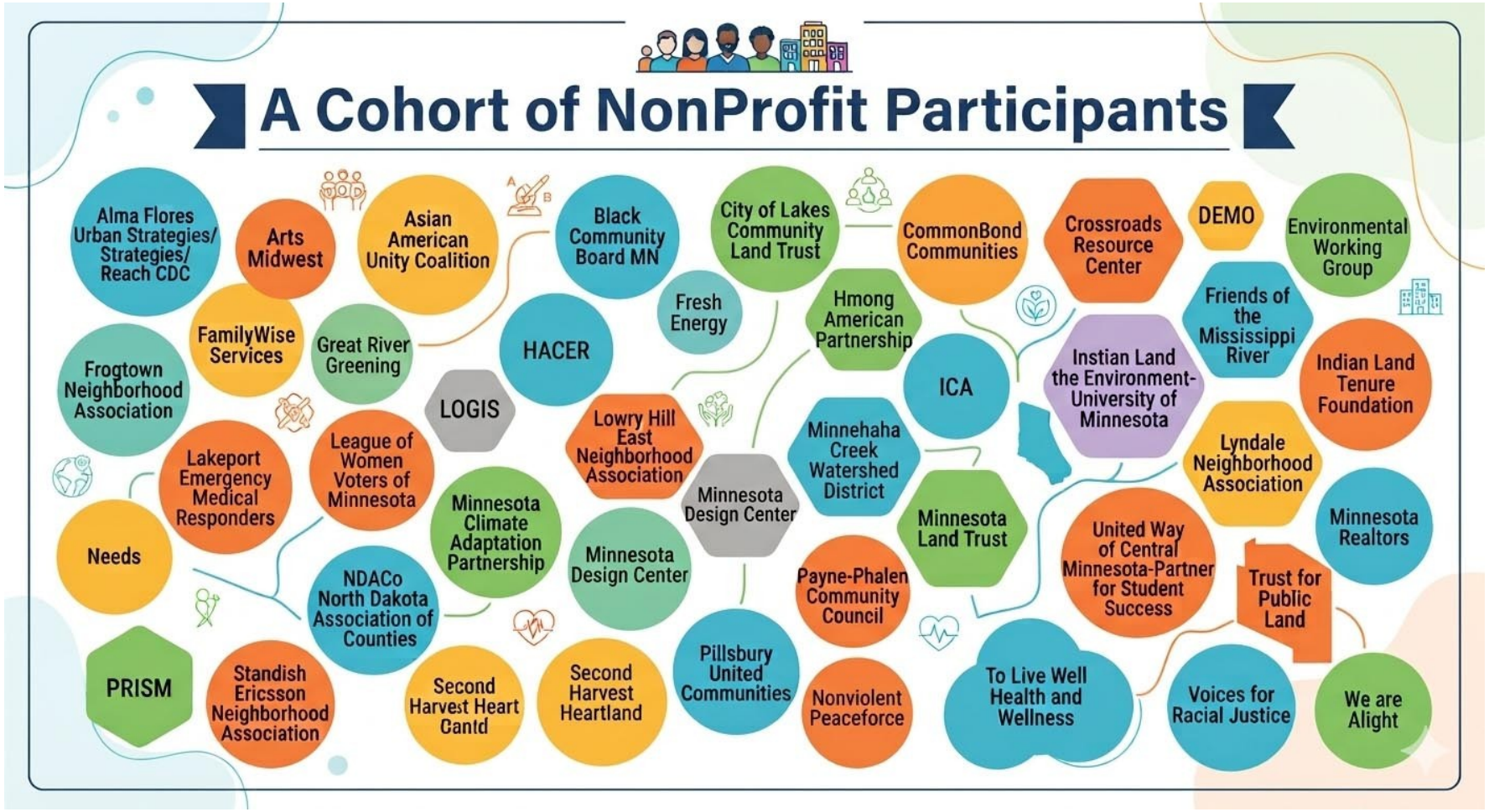
2026 Community Mapping Expo

Bridge the Gaps - Bringing Your GIS Dreams to Reality

Jessica Fendos
September 8, 2026



An Event of, by, and for the Nonprofit



Feedback

- **All participants find the following most valuable:**

- State resources for mission driven work
- Networking opportunities
- Technical GIS tools demonstration from Esri

- **Nonprofit only - Which geospatial resources or support systems currently help your organization the most?**

- Free, publicly available Minnesota state and local geospatial data, such as the Minnesota Geospatial Commons
- Collaborative networks and peer-to-peer mentoring
- Free or low-cost GIS software licensing, such as nonprofit programs

Challenges

- Lack of staff time or capacity
- Lack of technical GIS expertise or training
- Cost of GIS software/hardware
- Difficulty finding or cleaning relevant datasets

Expo Community is Growing



It Takes a Village



















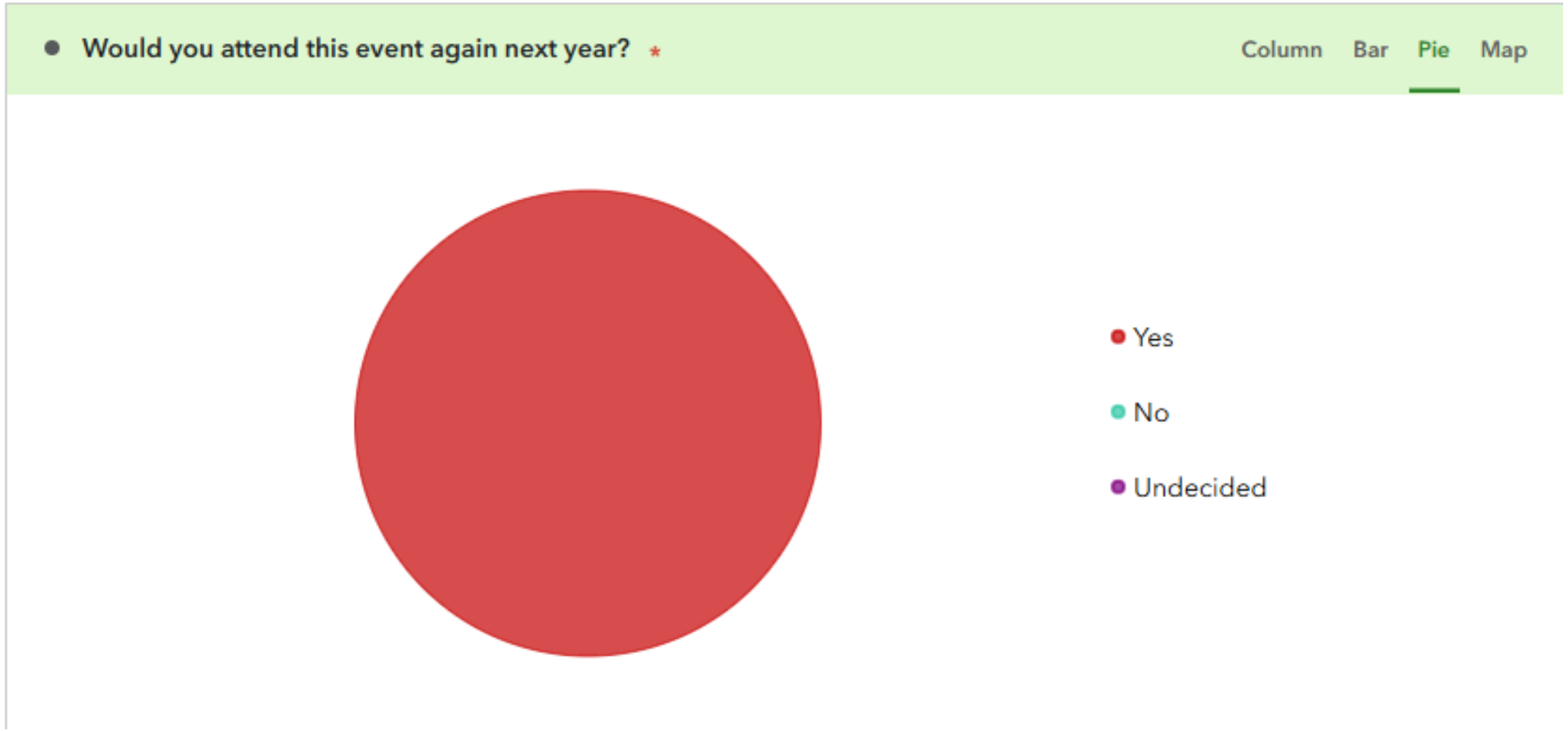




Opportunities

- **Multi-Sector Growth:** Solid public sector foundation with rising engagement from education and private sectors.
- **Strategic Partnerships:** Deeper collaboration opportunities with MetroGIS and MidAmerica GIS Association.
- **Leadership Pipeline:** Active recruitment and development of the next GAC Nonprofit Representative and a robust stakeholder support network.
- **Targeted Incentives:** Intentionally align grant and award structures to incentivize innovative projects within the nonprofit community.

Yes, I Do!


Would you attend this event again next year? *
Column
Bar
Pie
Map
Yes
No
Undecided

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Thank You!

Jessica Fendos

jfendos@logismn.gov

763-543-2638

Agenda Item 11

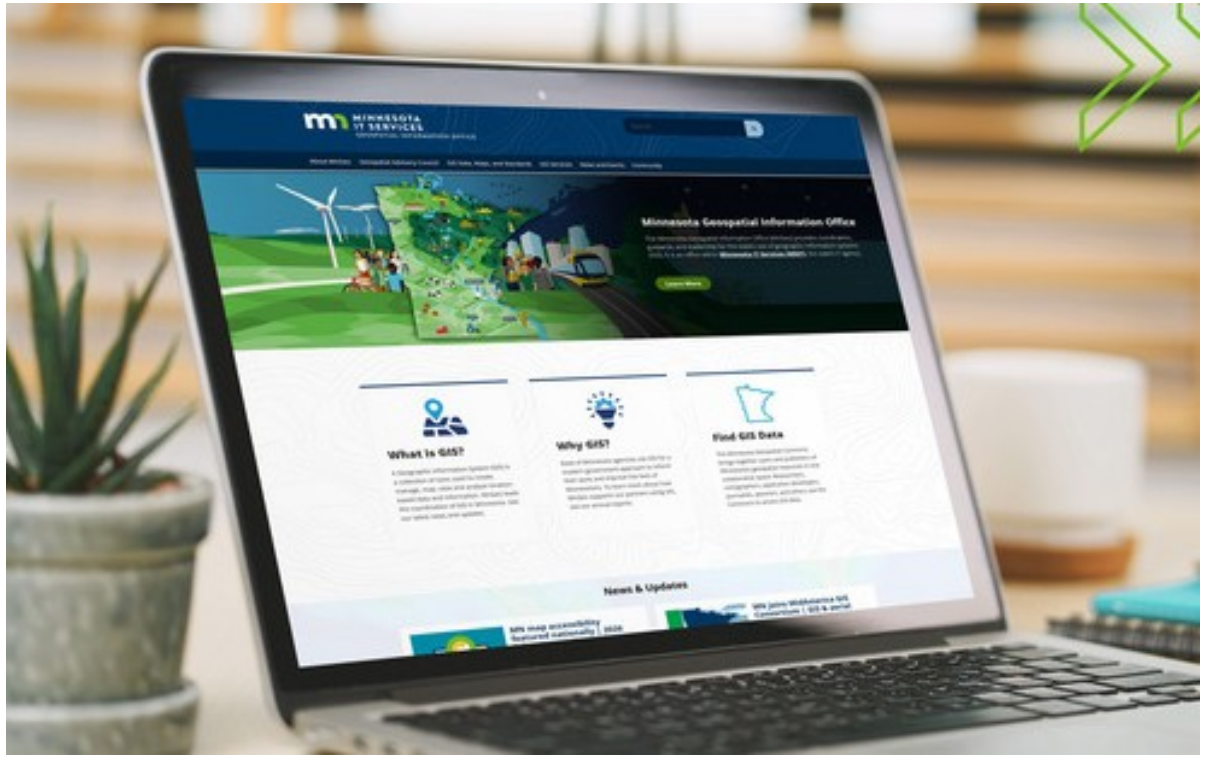
MnGeo Updates

Slaats



MnGeo launches redesigned website

- MnGeo launched redesigned website mn.gov/mngeo/
- Features a cleaner layout, improved navigation, and faster access to statewide geospatial resources
- Includes new newsletter archive for browsing past articles
- Enhanced searchability for data, interactive maps, and geospatial standards
- Old URLs redirect to the new homepage
- Need help locating moved content? Contact gisinfo.mngeo@state.mn.us



Statewide Foundational Datasets: Imagery

Minnesota Geospatial Image Service: local, regional, and statewide imagery in natural color and color-infrared

- **Recently Added:**
  - 2024 Lyon County
  - 1938 Lyon County
- **Coming soon:** none in queue
- Discussions underway to explore **STAC and Cloud Optimized GeoTIFFs** (COGs) for future image services



Interested in adding your imagery?

Contact kory.thurnau@state.mn.us

Update: New Geospatial Commons

Minnesota Geospatial Commons was updated to new technology in March; legacy site retired in early July

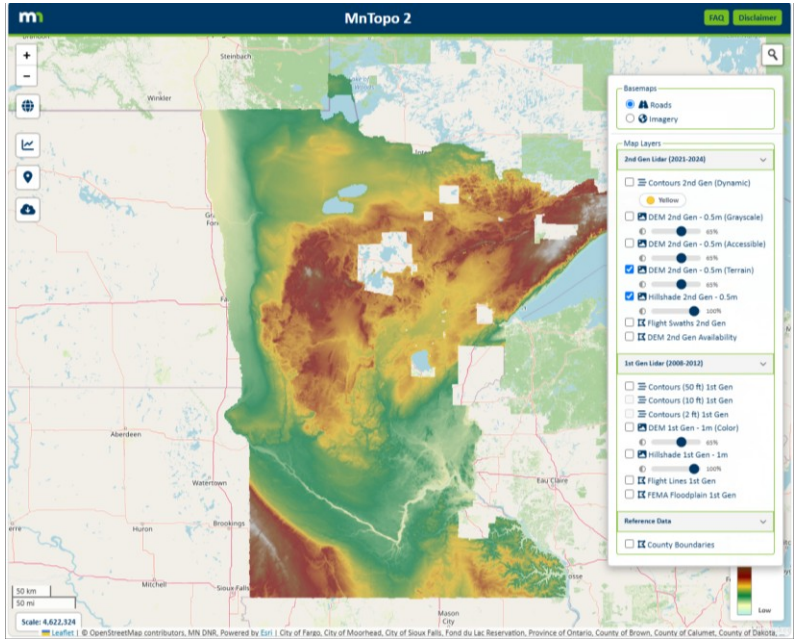
Updates:

- 1051 resources and 35 Publishers (as of 9/8/2026)
- Building out a “News” page that will contain information
  - Releases (enhancements, feature updates and bug fixes)
  - New Publishers and resources
  - Feedback survey
- MnGeo applied for additional FY27 funding for an enhancement of MME (Minnesota Metadata Editor). Funding has been approved!!



Update: MnTopo 2 and Lidar-Derived Data

- **MnTopo 2 App Released in March**
- **Upcoming Data Updates (week of 9/21 or earlier)**
  - Hillshade, HPI, and lower resolution DEMs in Cloud Optimized GeoTIFFs (COGs) and SpatioTemporal Asset Catalog (STAC)
  - 100’, 50’, 10’ authoritative contour downloadable data
  - 100’, 50’, 10’ authoritative contour vector tiles
  - 100’, 50’, 10’ authoritative service for ArcGIS Pro & QGIS
  - Hydrographic Position Index (HPI)
- **Future data updates**
  - 1’ authoritative contour data
  - Digital Surface Model (dSM), Normalized Digital Surface Model (NDSM) and Canopy Height Model (CHM)
- **MnTopo 2 trainings/awareness**
  - Training for lidar funders and public, TBD
  - GIS/LIS Conference



MnGeo Value and Benefits Study

- Assessing MnGeo's financial and qualitative value
- Data collection through cost analysis, stakeholder interviews, and a statewide survey
- Evaluating cost savings, impacts of open data, and other benefits
- Deliverable: a Value & Benefits Report



Request to GAC Members for GIS/LIS State of the State

- At the Minnesota GIS/LIS Fall Conference, the GIO gives the “State of the State” presentation
- The presentation has showcased work by MN geospatial sectors shared by GAC members
- Watch for an email requesting GAC members to share highlights of work in their sector
- Planning for 1-2 slides per sector
- **Thank you in advance!**



Agenda Item 12

Executive Team Updates

Krueger

Mission: The Executive Team of the MN Geospatial Advisory Council supports the functions of the GAC. The Executive Team authors the GAC workplan and aligns the activities of the GAC to adhere to the plan. The Executive Team supports the GAC by organizing the quarterly public meetings, gathering feedback from the GIS community through the priority surveys, and ensuring the committee work supports the priorities.



2026-27 GAC Executive and Leadership Teams

Executive Team	Chair	Tanya Mayer
	Vice Chair	Britta Maddox
	Secretary	Michael Krueger
	GIO	Alison Slaats
Leadership Team	Executive Team members	
	Past Chair or Vice Chair	Heather Albrecht
	3 GAC member volunteers	Dave Brandt Stacey Stark Ryan Stovern

GAC Executive Team Updates

Since we last met in May

- GAC Committee Leadership Retreat - May 20, 2026, 2:00 – 4:00 pm, in-person
- Executive Team Meeting – August 14, 2026
- Leadership Team Meeting – August 19, 2026

GAC Executive Team Updates

Announcements

- Requests for GAC Letters of Support
  - Postponing our follow-up discussion and decision until the December 2026 GAC meeting
- GAC Sign Up Form
  - *Under review:* A simple form for the community to express interest in participating with the GAC or a Committee.
- MnGeo and Geospatial Advisory Council Booth at GIS/LIS
  - GAC Members will be asked to sign up to volunteer at the booth between sessions.
- GAC Member and Committee Leader Cheat Sheet
  - A quick reference sheet that helps GAC members and committee leaders ensure compliance rules and guidelines of the GAC is now in development. Stay tuned!

GAC Executive Team Updates

What's Next

- Executive Team Meeting – October 16, 2026
- MN GIS/LIS – October 28 - 30, 2026
- NSGIC Annual Conference – November 2 - 6, 2026
  - Presentation - Organizing for Impact: Minnesota's Playbook for Council Success
- Leadership Team Meeting – November 12, 2026
- GAC Meeting
  - December 16, 2026, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm, virtual

Desired GAC outcomes for 2026-27 Term

- Align GAC structure
  - Support collaboration between the GAC and its committees by having a GAC member in leadership
  - Provide structure to GAC priority projects by aligning them with GAC committees
  - Make it easier for GAC members to be involved by asking them to join a committee or subgroup
- Foster collaboration with Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MnGeo), MNIT
  - MN Statute 16E.30 GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION OFFICE. Subd. 8. Geospatial Advisory Council created. (a) The chief information officer must utilize a governance structure that includes an advisory council to provide recommendations for improving the operations and management of geospatial technology within state government and also on issues of importance to users of geospatial technology throughout the state.
  - (b) The Geospatial Advisory Council must advise the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office regarding the improvement of services statewide through the coordinated, affordable, reliable, and effective use of geospatial technology.

GAC Goals for 2026-27 Term

- ✓ Increase duration of priority project work to align with full GAC term
  - Completed
- ✓ Align GAC committees and priority projects
  - Completed
- ✓ Improve committee and workgroup reporting
  - Completed
- ✓ Additional GAC member support for committees
  - Completed
- Increased participation of GAC committee and sectors in meetings
  - In progress: Contribute a minimum of one sector presentation during the two-year term
  - In progress: Each committee will present at (a minimum of) one quarterly GAC meeting during each 2-year term
- ★ Replace GAC website and committee pages with Esri Hub
  - Completed (August 2026)
- ✓ Ease transition of GAC membership and leadership between terms
  - Completed: GAC term FY2026-27 member-orientation
  - Completed: Committee Leadership Meeting (January 2026)
  - Completed: Committee Leadership Retreat (May 2026)

GAC Sector and Committee Presentation Schedule



GAC Meeting	GAC Sector	GAC Committee
9/10/2025	MN GIS/LIS Consortium	
12/17/2025	County Government - Greater MN	
	MetroGIS	
3/11/2026	Tribal Government	Awards
	City Government - Greater MN	CANDO
5/20/2026	County Government - Metro	Outreach
	City Government - Metro	Standards
9/16/2026	Higher Education	Emergency Preparedness
	Non-Profit	Archiving
		Data Endorsement
12/16/2026	State Government	PLSS Preservation
	Surveying	Parcels and Land Records
3/10/2027	Federal Government	3D Geomatics
	K-12 Education	K-12 Education
5/26/2027	Regional Government - Metro	
	Regional Government - Greater MN	
	Business	
Participate with appropriate Sector	At-Large	

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Thank You!

Tanya Mayer

tanya.mayer@metc.state.mn.us

Stay up to date on GAC news: https://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/newsletter.html

Agenda Item 13

Round Robin / Announcements

All



Member Announcements

- **City, Twin Cities Metro**
  - Dennis Tumberg, *City of Chanhassen*
- **City, Greater Minnesota**
  - Michael Krueger, *City of Moorhead*
- **County, Twin Cities Metro**
  - Michelle Clasen, *Washington County*
- **County, Greater Minnesota**
  - Ryan Stovern, *St. Louis County*
- **Regional Government, Twin Cities Metro**
  - Mary Mortensen, *Met Council*
- **Regional Government, Greater Minnesota**
  - Karissa Beierle Pavek, *Fargo-Moorhead Metropolitan Council of Governments*
- **State Government**
  - Amy Harrigan, *MnDOT*
  - Kari Geurts, *MNIT DNR*
- **Federal Government**
  - Mitch Bergeson, *US Geological Survey*
- **Tribal Government**
  - Ryan Bonney, *Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community*
- **Nonprofit Organization**
  - Jessica Fendos, *LOGIS*
- **Business**
  - Gerry Sjerven, *Minnesota Power*
  - Kendis Scharenbroich, *Pro-West & Associates*
- **K-12 Education**
  - Shana Crosson, *Education Consultant/Mapping Together*
- **Higher Education**
  - Rama Mohapatra, *Minnesota State University, Mankato*
  - Stacey Stark, *U-Spatial / UMN Duluth*
- **Surveyor**
  - Pat Veraguth, *Douglas County*
- **MetroGIS**
  - David Brandt, *MetroGIS | Washington County*
- **MN GIS/LIS Consortium**
  - Carla Coates, *Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium | MN DPS*
- **At-Large**
  - Britta Maddox, *Anoka County*
  - Heather Albrecht, *Hennepin County*
  - Matt Goodman, *St. Louis County Sheriff's Office*
  - Quentin Ikuta, *National Indian Carbon Coalition*
  - Rick Schute, *City of St. Paul*
  - Tanya Mayer, *Metropolitan Council*
- **Chief Geospatial Information Officer (ex-officio)**
  - Alison Slaats, *MNIT MnGeo*

Non-Member Guests

Share your news!

Reminder: Next Meeting

Wednesday, December 16, 2026

10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Virtual

(online via Teams)

Agenda Item 14

Adjourn*

Krueger



*Motion may be required

Thank You!



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