

VT Enterprise Geospatial Consortium (EGC) Parcel Data Workgroup

Meeting Notes

11/22/13

VTrans Board Room

Present: Bill Johnson, Tax Dept.; Jim Knapp, Tax Dept. ; Ginger Anderson, FPR; Jeff Briggs, FPR; Jack O'Wrill, FPR; Erik Engstrom, ANR; John E. Adams, ACCD; Ivan Brown, VCGI; Melissa Prindeville, ACCD; Peter Telep, ANR; Johnathan, Croft, VTrans; Jonathan Williams, VLCT; Dan Currier, CVRPC; Louis Bedor, DEMHS; Gary Smith, VTRans; Joanna Grossman, VDAFM; Ryan Cloutier, VTrans; Michael Trunzo, VTrans; Leslie Pelch, VCGI.

Via Phone: Neil McGaffey, MassGIS; Dave Salzer and Pat Santoso, University of New Hampshire's Technology Transfer Center.

Neil described Massachusetts' parcel data improvement project:

MA has had a parcel data standard for years so they chose to apply funds towards various mapping contractors bringing each town's data up to date and up to the level two standard. Contractors submitted proposals to work with a list of towns. Most towns had at least two contractors submit to do their parcels. Process weighted previous relationship (between town and contractor) heavily.

They did a lot of outreach previous to awarding contracts, but still feel they missed at least one requirement related to annotation of frontages on tax maps. Neil did say that even if they had been aware of the importance of this issue, they probably wouldn't have been able to fund the inclusion of this information in their project. But it is a good idea to at least be aware of all of the implications of the project requirements and what other issues the town may still have to pay for in the upgrade.

He felt that the 2.5 year duration of the project was really two short (they have around 350 towns).

They were not going for seamless data, although they do already have official town boundaries so it is less of a contentious issue in MA.

They chose not to deal with the maintenance issue, so there is currently no plan in place for statewide maintenance. Some contractors will pass along updates as they do them.

They did include the link to assessment data in the contracts, and required about a 99% match rate (varied somewhat based on the number of parcels in town). That link is not necessarily being maintained as boundary data is updated, however.

A lot of the funding for their effort came from 911 money.

About 17% of their towns had no GIS data (no map, paper, or CAD).

They worked with several CAMA vendors on the specifications for their project.

The data is viewable and downloadable at the MassGIS web site, but the compiled data (one shapefile) has to be requested.

Pat Santoso and Dave Salzer from UNH described NH's Mosaic Parcel Data Project:

Transportation dept. and Revenue Dept. were primary partners in this effort.

The PR aspect was very important as was emphasizing transparency. They went to a great deal of effort to decrease fears about "big brother" fears.

They did research to determine which justifications resonated with the public and found that Disaster Recovery was the one that people really got.

They did an 18-town pilot project as a proof of concept. Towns simply submitted their parcel boundary and assessing data as is. Town boundary issue ended up not being so bad.

Tax Dept. was very motivated to use this data to aid their equalization procedures.

177 out of 235 taxing entities participated the first year after pilot study (they did a lot of PR). They have now gotten data annually for 3 years. 100% participation.

They establish the link between the parcels and the assessment data and they have a 1% to 2% error rate.

It takes 2.5-3 FTEs to do this work.

There are at least 300 users of this data in various state departments accessing it via a web interface, but it is not publicly available.

They have not done edge-matching to create seamless data. They have found that they have to deal with about a 10% change each year.

Questions:

Johnathan Croft asked each speaker whether their state has quantified the Return on Investment the projects. Pat and Dave responded that their transportation Right of Way division has definitely identified the value, as has the dept. of taxes, particularly related to the property transfer tax, and property valuation/equalization. Neil said that the ROI was identified in the Business Plan written before the project, but no attempt to quantify the results has been made.

Leslie asked Neil some questions about the contractors who did the work in MA. He said that they had a pre-approved list of contractors, that they identified a section the list of towns to do each year, and that each town did have at least two contractors bid on it. There were 6 contractors who actually received contracts in the first year, 5 in the second year, and up to 10 in the final year because some of the RPCs were included and did work.

Remainder of the meeting:

We agreed to meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month from 1:30 – 3:30. Each meeting might be designated as focusing on the VTrans project or the long term maintenance issue in part or in full. We agreed to meet on November 26th to continue discussing the Vtrans Project, and in the end we scheduled the December meetings on the 11th and 18th from 1:30 – 3:30. All meetings will be in some conference room in National Life.

Bill Johnson requested a summary of what the speakers shared about their programs as well as how the NBRC project will work. Leslie agreed to do this.

Lou Bedor offered that DEMHS might be able to contribute funds to support this effort and Leslie asked if it might be able to fund the match portion of the NBRC project. He said maybe.

We identified constituencies from whom we wish to solicit input now, before we commit to how the VTrans or long-term projects will be pursued:

- Listers
- RPCs
- Mapping Contractors

There are also a number of private sectors folks we will want to reach out to eventually:

- Realtors
- Foresters
- Engineers
- Surveyors
- Builders

We have tentatively designated December 2013 and January/February 2014 as the time frame for collecting as much information as possible to inform our long-term parcel maintenance program development process.

VTrans Project

The VTrans IT Governance group will meet Dec. 4 to consider the issue of whether the project should fall under DII's jurisdiction at all.

We all feel very comfortable with the idea of a qualifications based selection process that gives a great deal of weight to whether a contractor has an existing relationship with a town.

How VTrans can give out this money was discussed a bit. Johnathan and Ryan will talk about this internally to figure out what they can do.

Other people who should be involved in these discussions:

Nancy Driscoll, the Chief Marketing Officer

Joe Segale, Vtrans contact for the Regional Planning Commissions

PR ideas:

- We need to put out something vague soon
- VLCT newsletter
- RPCs each have a newsletter
- Tax Dept. can contact Listers
- Muninet listserv