NYS GIS Association Regional COVID Committee Meeting: January 27, 2021

Attendees
Liz DeGironimo
Frank Winters
Jim Daly
Sheri North
Ross Baldwin
Jason Baum
Steve Pollackov
Karyn Tareen
Alan Leidner

Notes

Alan Leidner reported that the NYSGISA/GISMO response to the OGC Health Spatial Data Infrastructure RFI would likely be submitted on Friday. The response draws from notes taken at past COVID committee meetings and related communications. Upon submission, the RFI response will be sent to COVID committee participants. Alan also reported that when getting his COVID vaccine there was a greater than one hour delay being processed while the vaccination itself took no more than five minutes. There was then a discussion about many problems getting appointments in the first place via the web. It was agreed that elderly people, a top priority group, were most likely to have difficulty using online means to register for vaccinations. There was a report that an older couple were given different vaccination appointment days, and would have to make two multi-hour trips to the vaccine site.

Frank Winters provided a report about current activities.
- As President of NSGIC, Frank reported that NACCO and ASTHO had joined NSGIC, NAPSG and URISA on the National GIS Task Force. The Task Force will be submitting a response to the OGC Health RFI. They are also in the process of producing a plan to deal with future pandemics. One important focus will be the need to ensure that precision location data can be used without violating HIPAA requirements.
- State GIS efforts led by Frank are working on supporting vaccination distribution efforts by mapping vaccination sites, public housing projects, and locating vaccination deserts. Frank expects to develop an interactive map for internal operations support.
- About six states are working with Google to develop a map layer of vaccination sites. Frank is working to develop a working relationship with Google and other web companies that will enable government data to be shared with these companies who would then put it on the internet for public access. The philosophy behind this is: "Let private internet companies do what they do best," with authoritative data from federal, state and local governments. Frank cited the case of a physical road change along the Sheridan Expressway that was not noted in online routing software and led to a dangerous traffic situation.
- Frank hopes this kind of cooperation will extend to other areas including Low Bridge Clearance (650 accidents studied, 511 caused by drivers using auto navigation devices while driving taller vehicles.) Also, road pass-ability information based on vehicle capabilities, roadway grade and

weather conditions such as snow and ice buildup. Additionally, road and highway work zone data are being considered.

- Frank and NSGIC are also looking at an opportunity to work with traffic wayfinding and navigation companies in their quest to develop a national address database. Government would publish authoritative address and road information and make it available for use by the private sector. This will increase road and driver safety.
- Micro-cluster zones will be taken off the State COVID website except for some yellow zones. Over the past months COVID spread patterns have changed making micro-cluster mapping less relevant. Spread has become more widespread and evenly distributed, whereas in the past the areas were smaller and more concentrated. Also, the State's strategy has shifted to put emphasis on hospital capacity.