NYS GIS Association Regional Committee Meeting: December 2nd, 2021

Attendees:
Ross Baldwin
Frank Winters
Doug Schuetz
Alan Leidner
Svetla Borovska
Ana Hiraldo-Gomez
Jason Baum
Bill Ostrander

Notes:
Frank Winters reported on a number of items
- Frank noted that The GIS Program Office (GPO) provided U.S. Census quarterly updates of streets , addresses and boundaries.
- Census blocs are oriented towards street centerlines and not parcels. Census doesn't always utilize civil boundaries. Census also uses RR tracks, and hydro features for boundaries.
- The hydro features Census uses to create blocks appear to be at a much smaller scall than other layers used. Census does not appear to use USGS National Hydro Database (NHD) which is considered the best since hydro data is Federated with local and state governments contributing data. NSGIC will be urging Census to adopt the NHD layer. They will be working with Diedre Bishop head of the Census Geography Division.
- Frank reported that due in part to collaboration between Census and NYS about 700,000 individuals were identified above previous estimates for the 2020 Census. Frank believes that the value of each person counted in the Census, in amount of Federal funding for population-based programs, is between $500 and $5000. (If we assume $1000 per person counted then use of GIS contributes $700M to State and Local economies.
- Frank informed the Committee that his office had been working with Google and other companies to provide them with SAM address points and that Google has accepted 1.2 million points beyond what they had on

record. Google will then provide better data to the public and to other GIS service providers.

- Additionally, State roadway data is being used by private routing applications to identify all bridges over roadways in NYS and provide clearance information. This is expected to significantly reduce bridge strikes and lead to a large reduction in the $30M cost of towing, cleanup, DOT and Police presence, not including damaged vehicles, bridge repair, and personal injury. A partner from USDOT is performing an ROI estimate and we expect a significant positive ROI.
- Frank began conversations with OnStar about PSAPs boundaries and related boundaries covering Military Bases and National Parks. There is life saving potential here.

Svetla (Ithaca/Tompkins County) reports that she is aware of "empty census blocks." Also, census blocks that do not align with roads.

Ana (Westchester County) said that Census tract boundaries in single family home areas were guided by the location of bedrooms. She pointed out a number of misalignments where census tract lines arbitrarily crossed parcels and building footprints and did not adhere to street centerlines.

Alan (NYC GISMO) said that the $700M in increased state revenues based on higher-than-expected census counts should be publicly attributed to GIS. He speculated that it could be useful to have a State GIS newsletter that publicized GIS benefits and other successes. Copies could be sent outside the GIS community to political and community leaders. State sharing of roadway information is another source of GIS ROI which should be publicized.

Alan gave a brief presentation of progress being made on the NYU-GISMO, NSF funded project to map underground infrastructure in pilot areas within the Midtown East and Sunset Park neighborhoods. The NYU-GISMO project (known as UNUM or Unification of Underground Resilience Methods) will be using a new data model (MUDDI: Model for Underground Data Design and Integration) developed by the Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) with leadership and input from NYS GIS Assn and GISMO members. Alan also reported that the U.K. had

embarked on a 3-year program to map all underground infrastructure across the nation also using the MUDDI Model. U.K.'s NUAR project (National Underground Asset Register) will join similar projects already implemented in Scotland, Flanders, Denmark, and the Netherlands. Alan promised to keep the Regional Committee updated and invited anyone interested to contact him for additional information.