



Information Resource Exchange Group Highlights

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

The 92nd meeting of the Information Resource Exchange Group (IREG) was called to order at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's office by Jason Miller, Burlington County Bridge Commission, and IREG Chair. Forty people were in attendance. Highlights from the June 4th meeting were available as a handout and on the internet.

Meeting Summary

- PennDOT recently released an upgraded web mapping platform for MPMS IQ
- PennShare will become PennDOT's future data sharing platform to perform quick visualization of geospatial information
- GISP provides a standard and competent certification program that establishes a common knowledge base for GIS professionals. A new exam will be required for GISP certification by the end of 2015
- DVRPC now has twelve permanent pedestrian and bicycle counting stations on regional trails and multi-modal facilities

Presentations

PennDOT Data Sharing – Patrick Kielty, Center for Program Development and Management, PennDOT, presented an overview of data sharing and visualization plans at PennDOT. In particular, PennDOT has developed two platforms for sharing information with local governments and the public. MPMS-IQ is a web based platform for all highway and bridge projects in the commonwealth. Public information is available online, while more details are available on their intranet. The interface has recently been upgraded to be easy to use, fast, and extendable. Available datasets include programs and projects, permits, bridges and conditions, maintenance records, functional class, pavement condition, and environmental resources. The intranet version also includes safety and crash data. Additional map services can be added to the map by the user for further analysis. MPMS-IQ can be searched and filtered by program or status and also generates reports based on those search results. PennShare is an extension of the ArcGIS Online platform developed for PennDOT to perform quick visualizations of geospatial information for the public. Lightweight mapping applications and content management creates a simple environment for data sharing in a flexible way. Future plans for innovation at PennDOT will follow the PennDOT Next Generation process to identify key initiatives and focus efforts. Issues such as permission management, security, data integrity, and software integration must be standardized and planned for future projects. For more information, visit http://www.dot7.state.pa.us/MPMS_IQ/Splash.aspx.

New GISP Certification Requirements – Jeremy Mennis, Department of Geography and Urban Studies, Temple University, explained the motivations behind the new requirements for the GISP certification. In order to maintain a coherent and foundational profession, there needs to be standards in which all GIS professionals are competent. The University Consortium for Geographic Information Science (UCGIS) has developed the UCGIS Body of Knowledge which outlines focus areas that meet critical work functions in GIS by analyzing and distilling the core job functions of leading GIS professionals. By the end of 2015, an exam component will be established for the GISP certification that will ensure that all professionals are certified in this common knowledge base. Along with the requisite education, experience, contributions, and code of ethics, the exam will show that GIS Professionals are at the top of their field and have the highest quality of skills and knowledge. Professionals are confident that their skills and expertise are transferable and in demand. Employers can be assured that GIS Professionals are educated and skilled in the necessary areas. Because a common knowledge base is developed and outlined, educators can provide necessary educational components to students to maximize career growth. For more information about the GISP certification, current requirements, and the organization that provides the certification, the GIS Certification Institute (GISCI), visit www.gisci.org.

Permanent Bicycle and Pedestrian Counters – DVRPC has implemented a new program for twelve permanent pedestrian and bicycle counting stations on regional trails and multi-modal facilities. Shawn Megill Legendre, Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives, explained how this program fits into the existing framework and its benefits to the region. Permanent counting stations provide a continuous stream of data in 15 minute increments. This high-quality, granular data provides the foundation for developing seasonal adjustment factors for the region that can be applied to short-term cyclical and incidental counts to quickly provide extrapolation to annual average counts. Seasonal factors are influenced by elements such as weather, temperature, daylight hours, commuting patterns, and regional events. Cyclical bike counts are weeklong collections counted on a rolling three-year cycle. These counts, in conjunction with seasonal adjustment factors, improve the regional travel demand model and provide better information in planning multi-modal facilities. Pedestrian and bicycle data can be viewed online at www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/pedbikecounts.

Information Items

- Will Stevens (DVRPC) provided updates on DVRPC's FY2015 Aerial Imagery project
- United Nations Association of Greater Philadelphia (UNA-GP) will be meeting on September 23, 2014 at the Philadelphia Friends Center to develop a showcase for Philadelphia at the upcoming UN Habitat III Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2016. For more information, please contact Cynthia McCoy at Cynthiar.McCoy@gmail.com
- The PA Chapter of the American Planning Association is holding its Annual Conference at the Sheraton Society Hill on October 12-14. Registration can be found at www.planningpa.org

- A walking tour hosted by author Gregory Heller will explore the influence of Ed Bacon in Society Hill on October 12. Tickets and more information can be found at <http://econsult-solutions-inc.ticketleap.com/special-walking-tour-with-author-gregory-heller/details>
- MAC URISA 2014 will be held October 22-24 at the Resorts Hotel in Atlantic City, NJ. More information can be found at www.macurisa.org/2014
- Burlington County and MAGTUG are hosting GIS Day at Burlington County College, Mt Laurel, NJ on November 13.
- University of Pennsylvania will be hosting GIS Day on November 19. For more information, visit <http://penniur.upenn.edu/events/penn-gis-day-1>
- Esri Mid-Atlantic User Conference will be held in Baltimore, MD on December 2-4. More information can be found at www.esri.com/events/mid-atlantic

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