Information Resources Exchange Group Highlights
Wednesday, September 14, 2016

The 100th meeting of the Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG) was called to order at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's office by Barry Seymour, Executive Director, DVRPC. 110 people were in attendance.

Key Points

- The Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG) was formed in 1991 to provide a forum to discuss the creation, use, and exchange of planning-related information and data in the Greater Philadelphia region. On September 14th, 2016 IREG celebrated its 100th meeting with a special half-day event with topics related to Geospatial Technology and Transportation. Several different agencies presented, including the City of Philadelphia, Azavea, SEPTA, ESRI, Bergmann Associates, University of Maryland, Amtrak, and Code for Philly.

Presentations

AGO as an Enterprise GIS in the Cloud – Mark Wheeler, Chief Geographic Information Officer (GIO), City of Philadelphia, discussed how in 2014, the City of Philadelphia reconceptualized and completely rebuilt its use of ArcGIS Online. Once solely the domain of adventurous GIS analysts, ArcGIS Online became the foundational technology for data sharing, communication and collaboration, vendor management, and open data publishing for all of Philadelphia city government. Today, the City's branded ArcGIS Online organization – PHLmaps – is available to all city staff, regardless of technical background. Mark Wheeler explained the policies and education programs that helped relaunch and expand the role of PHLmaps across government. A key example of its use as a multi-agency collaboration tool– the Office of Innovation and Technology's citywide vacant building inventory– was demonstrated.

Empower Your World - What RITIS Can Do for You – John Allen, Faculty Assistant, Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Laboratory, University of Maryland, showcased the RITIS/VPP Suites. Regional Integrated Transportation Information System (RITIS) is an automated data fusion and dissemination platform that provides an enhanced, comprehensive view of the transportation network. Participating agencies are able to view essential information through innovative visualizations to improve their planning projects, traffic operations and emergency preparedness.

Mapping for Maintenance – John Paul Kotyla, Engineer VTI, Amtrak, discussed how Amtrak uses mapping and data collection software to maintain and improve their vehicle track interactions. With the use of portable monitoring equipment they are able to get real-time data on track and vehicle conditions that they use to analyze safety thresholds and provide daily and monthly reports that get used for repairing equipment and providing safe travel along their network.

Internet of Things Perspectives on Data Sharing for Geographic Information System (GIS) Applications in Urban Settings – Asta Zelenkauskaite, Assistant Professor of Communication, Drexel University, talked about how the Internet of things (IoT) in the past five years has fostered developments that provide a new vision of the future of the urban setting. While technology-mediated mobility provides new opportunities, it still presents sociotechnical challenges. She touched on the future vision of GIS technologies for urban settings in terms of a) building new applications and b) analyzing geospatial environments.

Dynamic Planning Scenarios with 3D GIS – Eric Brady, GIS Manager, Bergmann Associates, demonstrated several fascinating new tools that are changing the way GIS professionals are working with 3D GIS. 3D GIS is rapidly evolving into a user-friendly and effective framework to support common planning needs. Eric talked about the evolution of 3D GIS for planning from simplistic visualization, to a tool for dynamic analysis and stakeholder engagement.

Code for Philly: Civic Engagement Through Tech and Data – Jacqueline Siotto, Code for Philly Community Lead, Code for Philly, Code for Philly is a community of developers, designers, civic activists and technologists striving to advance Philadelphia through the use of open data and civic technology. They use tech and data as a mode of civic engagement. Jacqueline talked how CfP work together to identify challenges facing the city and use technology to create solutions that will better the lives of the citizens of Philadelphia, improve public processes and systems, and increase engagement between the community and the city government.

State of Technology at SEPTA – Bill Zebrowski, CIO, SEPTA, highlighted what SEPTA is offering in regards to scheduling and real-time data, and their plan to provide better data to the community in the coming months for all modes of transportation operated by SEPTA.

Parkadelphia: Mapping Every Parking Regulation in Philadelphia – Lauren Ancona, Senior Data Scientist, City of Philadelphia, talked about how we can easily find information on the next bus to arrive, summon a driver on demand, and even have our groceries delivered via smartphone apps...shouldn't we be able to find legal on-street parking that way, too? Lauren showcased a mapping application that allows users to find and search for parking regulations for on street parking throughout Philadelphia.

Philippines National Road Safety Dashboard – Tyler Gilcrest, Project Manager Geospatial Insights, Azavea, discussed a web-based mapping platform that helped the Philippines better capture crash data more accurately and consistently and provide reporting and visualization tools.

ESRI Mobile GIS – Lauri Dafner, Solution Engineer**,** ESRI, Esri provides a suite of ready-to-use apps that let you take your GIS into the field, allowing you to make paper processes digital, give everyone the same authoritative information, and manage resources more efficiently. Lauri demonstrated several of Esri's expanded collection of mobile applications including Collector for ArcGIS, Workforce for ArcGIS and Navigator for ArcGIS.

Information Items

- MAC URISA GIS Conference is being held from October 12-14 in Atlantic City.

The next scheduled IREG meeting is Wednesday, December 14th, 2016.