



Information Resources Exchange Group Highlights

Wednesday, December 14, 2016

The 101st meeting of the Information Resource Exchange Group (IREG) was called to order at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's office by IREG vice-chair, Phil Pierdomenico, from the Philadelphia Water Department. Forty-eight people were in attendance.

Key Points

- According to a 2016 report by DVRPC, The Philadelphia Region's strengths include its diverse economy; relatively affordable housing; myriad of colleges, universities, and cultural opportunities; health care resources; extensive highway and transit network; and quality air and port facilities.
- CARTO is an open, powerful, and intuitive web mapping platform for discovering and predicting key insights underlying location data in our world.

Presentations

2045 Forecasts and Rating the Region - Mary Bell (mbell@dvrpc.org), Manager, Demographic and Economic Analysis, DVRPC.

As a part of the Commission's long-range planning activities, DVRPC is required to maintain population and employment forecasts with at least a 20-year horizon, or to the horizon year of the long-range plan. Mary Bell presented the recently adopted 2045 forecasts, which were developed by the Commission over the past several months working collaboratively with its member county planning staffs. Mary talked about the methodology that goes into generating these forecasts and stated that "population forecasting is as much an art as it is a science." She also discussed DVRPC's *Rating the Region* report, which was published back in June 2016 (<http://www.dvrpc.org/Products/16010/>). This report compares the Greater Philadelphia MSA to the 25 largest metropolitan areas in the country on a variety of indicators in terms of demographics, natural resources and the environment, livable communities, the economy, and transportation.

CARTO – Andrew Thompson (athompson@carto.com), CARTO, showcased many of the new features and enhancements that have recently been made to the CARTO (<https://carto.com/>) platform, an open source web mapping and data platform for location data. Andrew gave an in-depth look into the data visualization and analysis tools that have been added to the CARTO Builder which include: improved data importing, dynamic legends, and analysis widgets with on-the-fly filtering and creation of new data fields. CARTO has also begun to provide ACS 5-year datasets that can be included with customers own geospatial datasets.

Information Items

- DVRPC's final 2015 Land Use product is scheduled to be completed by the end of February 2017. There are several newer land use categories that will provide for better analysis and will be designed to allow for comparison to prior land use years.
- DVRPC has also partnered with PECO to acquire impervious surface data for Bucks, Chester, Delaware, and Montgomery counties.

The next scheduled IREG meeting is Wednesday, March 8th, 2017.

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