



Information Resources Exchange Group Highlights

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

The 120th meeting of the DVRPC's Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG) was held virtually as a webinar and co-hosted by IREG Organizer, Christopher Pollard, from the DVRPC, and Justin Cusick, from esri/MAC URISA. Over 220 people registered for the event and about 85 people were live on the webinar. IREG, in partnership with MAC URISA, hosted a half day webinar focused on Racial Equity, Social Justice, and GIS.

IREG and MAC URISA are each dedicated to sharing innovations and developments in information technology related in particular to geographic data, data management, geospatial technology, and spatial analysis.

Key Points

- The event was well received and each presenter did an excellent job sharing their insights on how their organization has recently been addressing racial equity and social justice in their projects and approaches to analysis using GIS technology.
- MAC URISA and Esri have numerous GIS resources related to racial equity and social justice - [Racial Equity Overview](#) , [Racial Equity ArcGIS HUB](#) , [URISA Answers the call to action for equity and social justice](#), and [NorthStar](#).

Presentations

DVRPC's Approach to Evaluating Equity in Safety and Performance Based Planning

Jesse Buerk & Marco Gorini, DVRPC

Marco's presentation covered a study by DVRPC of the regional inequities in crash incidence, which used a correlation analysis to determine which federally protected classes ("communities of concern") are at the greatest risk of severe vehicle crashes in the Greater Philadelphia region. Its main finding is that census tracts with above average rates of low-income, racial minority, ethnic minority, and disabled populations correlate with census tracts that have above average crash rates in the region. These findings are helping to set policy around directing transportation safety projects to address these regional inequities.

Jesse talked about the details of a new framework to analyze Environmental Justice and Title VI considerations when developing a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) or other planning documents, which DVRPC has implemented for the PA and NJ TIPs. The evaluation process includes identifying populations using census data, then overlaying other datasets such as bridge and pavement condition, transit, and safety data to help determine if, for example, poor condition bridges or bike/ped crashes are overrepresented in communities of concern. This analysis then informs project selection and development. The analysis also evaluates whether investments are being fairly distributed across the

DVRPC region, and helps identify individual projects that have the potential to create disproportionate burdens on EJ and Title VI populations early in the planning process.

Use GIS as a framework for Racial Equity and Social Justice | Clinton Johnson, Esri

Clinton leads Esri's Racial Equity & Social Justice team and he also founded and leads the NorthStar of GIS, a community organization that focuses on racial justice and works to advance equity and belonging for people Black / African diaspora in GIS. Clinton advocates for justice, representation, and belonging for Black people and other people from underrepresented groups in GIS and STEM more broadly. Clinton takes an empathic approach to technology, beginning with real-world challenges faced by diverse communities and finding creative ways to implement practical solutions.

Clinton talked about What is Racial Equity, Social Identity, Racial Identity, and ways to address racial inequities which includes the elimination of policies, practices, attitudes and cultural messages that reinforce or sustain differential community conditions and outcomes by racial identity. Over the years esri has developed a framework and guidance on how to deal with racial equity initiatives. Using GIS, communities can use location intelligence and follow a stepped approach and analysis to help with these initiatives: Lens, Workflow, Configuration and Envisioning. Clinton gave an overview of these steps and ways that organizations can start to incorporate them into their GIS work and projects.

GIS at Hopeworks: How we are dealing with Racial Equity, Social Justice and Related Projects | Luis Olivieri, Hopeworks

Luis gave an overview of Hopeworks Camden and their approach to involving young people of color and race within their GIS Intern programs. He highlighted Hopeworks project with the DVRPC that analysed Camden's Food Accessibility, which showed the unequal distribution of supermarkets and pinpointed the food deserts to be within the low income communities within the City of Camden.

Webinar Recording (Youtube)

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL6IRoGmzkXs-epbPz-7odk6H2VvP8SyMX>

Information Items - The next scheduled IREG meeting is planned for December 2021.

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