

The Benefits of Sharing “Where”

*The realization is growing that almost everything that happens in a public policy context also happens in a geographic one: transportation planners, water resources studies, education subcommittees, redistricting boards, planning commissions and crime task forces all must consider questions of **where**, along with the usual ones of **how**, and **why**, and how much will it cost. **GIS**, by answering the first question, helps to answer the others.*

-R.W. Greene, GIS in Public Policy ESRI Press, Redlands, CA. June 2000. p. xii.



Where are the areas of highest need?

Benefits Related to Public Health and Safety

“When agencies share data, lives are saved and public offices become more efficient. Sharing data encourages collaboration among agencies, provides for informed decision-making and reduces redundancy of data production. Further, planning and policy groups become better informed, particularly in terms of emergency calls and disaster response. We can be proud that all 92 counties are now sharing their map data, a major milestone that will benefit all Indiana taxpayers.” - David Vice, Executive Director of the Indiana Integrated Public Safety Commission

“Having accurate land parcels, road centerlines and other data already integrated in statewide data layers before the event saved a lot of time in a situation in which every minute was critical.” - Vicky Kent Haire, Clark County Assessor regarding the emergency response to the 2012 tornadoes that devastated parts of southern Indiana.



“One of the most significant threats to animal production in Indiana is the introduction of foreign or new and emerging diseases that can significantly affect animal health, human health and food security. The ability to identify the locations of all animals and associate their movements and their disease status is critical to containing a disease and to showing proof of disease freedom to our state and international trading partners. The locations are confirmed using the Indiana parcel data. During an emergency, the parcel data is also used to rapidly validate the discovery of new locations. The maps generated from this data are essential for rapid, efficient and error-free response. This capability contributed significantly to the efficient identification and containment of the recent highly pathogenic avian influenza outbreak in southwest Indiana. We are very thankful to the leadership of our Indiana counties for providing this information in support of BOAH’s mission and Indiana agriculture.”

- Marianne Ash, DVM, MVPH, DACVPM, FNAP, Director Division of Animal Programs, Indiana State Board of Animal Health



“The statewide data sharing initiative has been invaluable to our work on behalf of Indiana counties in analyzing and mitigating their risks to natural disasters. Two significant initiatives in this area are FEMA’s Risk MAP program and Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning. In order for communities to be eligible to receive federal mitigation funding, they must have FEMA-approved mitigation plans that include quantitative risk analyses. The availability of parcel and address point data from the data sharing initiative has significantly improved the accuracy of our risk analyses, helping the communities to focus their attention on specific points within the county and prioritize specific strategies to mitigate their vulnerabilities.”

- Laura Danielson, Deputy Director of Strategic Initiatives and Civic Engagement, The Polis Center at IUPUI



Benefits Related to Economic Development

GIS can make what is seemingly unrelated relatable by using location as the key variable. By having the ability to analyze spatial and geographic data through maps, it tells a story of how we are linked. From determining what adjoins what or how close something is to something else, GIS allows for the viewing of disparate sets of data in a manner that lets us know how a community actually works. This is critical for economic developers – to know and show what is linked on the ground.

*- Greg Wathen, APR, President & CEO
Economic Development Coalition of Southwest Indiana*

Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC)

The Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) is a public-private partnership committed to attracting and supporting new business investment, creating new Hoosier jobs, and furthering Indiana's legacy as one of the top states for business. In addition to providing statistics about the demographics of Indiana, the IEDC can offer financial incentives and non-incentive benefits to potential businesses. Some incentives are based on the specific location of a business.

Indiana's GIS office regularly collects parcel boundary, address, street centerline, and jurisdiction boundary data from all 92 counties for a variety of uses. The IEDC uses specific parcel boundary data, centerlines and addresses for several important activities, including:

- Locating and viewing the location and surroundings of specific building sites, including shovel-ready sites
- Identifying the location and boundaries of research parks, technology parks, and other business parks, as well as depicting the individual tracts inside those areas
- Viewing and understanding campus-type sites for businesses which may need more than one building, or to expand their existing facilities
- Viewing the boundaries of Community Revitalization Enhancement Districts (CREDEs), and checking if a business site is within that district
- Determining the boundaries of Urban Enterprise Zones, and checking if a specific parcel is within the zone
- Viewing the locations of Industrial Recovery Sites (DINOs) which are large, vacant buildings on one or more parcels

On occasion, the IEDC also needs specific parcel boundaries to view the boundaries of economic development areas, redevelopment areas, and Tax Increment Finance districts. Having access to complete and up-to-date parcel boundary and address layers for the entire state of Indiana is of great value in attracting business to Indiana.

“Access to reliable local GIS data is vital to helping us understand how our communities and economy are growing and changing and enable us to make more informed decisions in our economic development strategy and efforts.”

-Tim Monger President/CEO
Hamilton County Economic Development Corporation



Other Uses of Shared Geospatial Data

Indiana Department of Homeland Security (IDHS) Damage Assessment App

IDHS has rebuilt the Individual Assistance Damage Assessment process to improve efficiency and improve services available to Hoosiers stricken by disaster. The app relies heavily on the IOT Data Sharing Initiative collecting data shared by all 92 Indiana counties for field assessment damage. Parcel and other data are used to direct field teams and partially prefill the assessments. This information is routed to the federal government to help more quickly make disaster declaration decisions.

Naval Support Activity (NSA) Crane and the Lake Glendora Test Facility Joint Land Use Study (JLUS)

Statewide geospatial data resulting from the data sharing project are helping Daviess, Greene, Lawrence, Martin, and Sullivan Counties, and agencies and organizations in the region, to engage in the JLUS to address compatibility planning with NSA Crane and the Lake Glendora Test Facility. Some examples of data usage are:

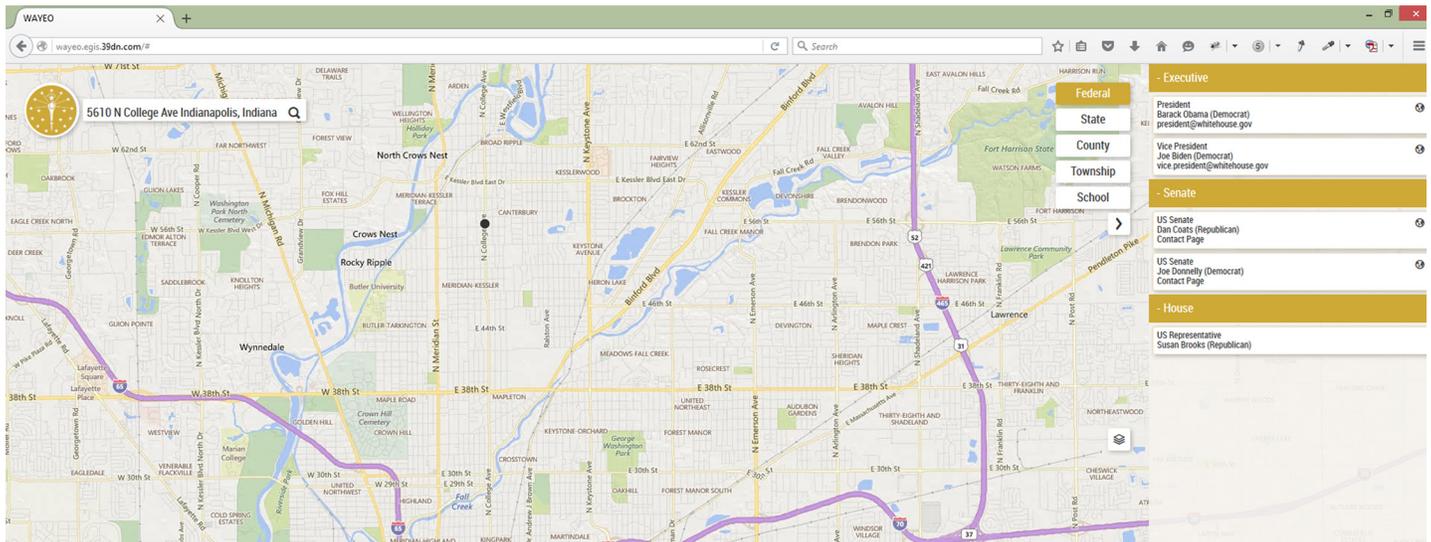
- Coordination / Communication
- Noise
- Legislative Initiatives
- Safety Zones
- Land Use
- Infrastructure Extensions
- Roadway Capacity
- Vibration

Improving the Precision of the Indiana Statewide Voter Registration System (IN SVRS)

Statewide road centerlines and address points from the data sharing project are being used to add GIS capability to the system and improve the precision of address points and boundaries in the voter registration database.

“Who Are Your Elected Officials?” Application

Data from the Initiative support the Who Are Your Elected Officials? web application, one of the first geographic information system (GIS) applications made available on IN.gov. The app is the only one in the nation that offers a complete list of elected officials, including local, based on address. <https://secure.in.gov/sos/elections/2681.htm>



<https://secure.in.gov/sos/elections/2681.htm>