

Indiana Geographic Information Office

Strategic Planning

Stakeholder Workshop Summary



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Empowering People with Spatial Solutions

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Workshop Overview

AppGeo facilitated an online (Zoom) workshop on June 29, 2021 from 10:00 am to 11:30 am Eastern time to engage stakeholders in the strategic planning process. The workshop was aimed at engaging both technical users as well as non-technical stakeholders. A total of 38 people participated in the workshop including the AppGeo and Indiana GIO project team members. The full list of participants can be found in the project's Teams directory at General > 1_Information Gathering > Workshop > [20210629_participants.csv](#). Only three people registered that did not attend the workshop, which underscores the level of engagement of this community of stakeholders.

The specific agenda was driven by input from the feedback gathered in the stakeholder survey, the former GIO, Jim Sparks, as well as the current GIO, Megan Compton, and project team. We focused on a deeper exploration of the information gathered by the survey regarding GIO activities and priorities, GIO responsibility regarding data standards, and the role of the GIO as it pertains to data availability. There were open discussions on these topics presented through the use of breakout rooms.

AppGeo kicked off the workshop by explaining what strategic planning accomplishes and who benefits from it. To stimulate the thinking of the attendees, some high level results of selected survey questions were reviewed. The aforementioned presentation portion of the workshop was led through a series of slides which can be found in the project's Team directory at General > 1_Information Gathering > Workshop > [Stakeholder Workshop Indiana GIO GIS Strategic Plan - June 2021.pdf](#). Finally, the attendees were broken into 4 breakout groups to openly discuss a specific topic and then rejoined the main room to report out the main takeaways from the discussion. This was repeated for three discussion questions. The participants were organized into these breakout rooms:

1. Commercial
2. State
3. Academic, Federal, Non-profit
4. County/Local Gov

Breakout room assignments can be viewed in the registration report found in the project's Team directory at General > 1_Information Gathering > Workshop > [20210625_RegistrationReport with Breakout Rooms.xlsx](#).

The workshop was recorded and will be placed in the same Team's workshop directory.

Breakout Question 1: Community Priorities and GIO Support

The survey asked about the importance of GIO actions or potential activities (see Table

1).

Action/Potential Activity	High Importance
Ensure the availability of critical datasets	67%
Foster a cooperative environment for sharing data	67%
Serve as Indiana's geospatial voice at a National level	54%
Serve as the liaison between state priorities and local activities	52%
Enforce geospatial data standards	50%
Inform legislators	50%
Identify potential funding resources for geospatial projects	47%
Provide leadership for IndianaMap	45%
Provide support for GIS Tools and Technology	44%
Serve as the liaison between national priorities and state activities	44%
Form partnerships for geospatial projects	44%
Serve as K-12 Education Resource	15%

Table 1: Results from Stakeholder Survey

Do you agree with these priorities? Is anything missing? How does the GIO address these priority actions (perform directly, coordinate, fund, encourage)? What is needed by your agency/organization?

Question 1 Group Discussion Summary:

Breakout Group	Major Themes
Commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A key priority of the GIO must be to ensure that critical datasets are available. K-12 education is lacking with respect to spatial literacy. Group undecided if this is an IGIC or GIO role, but agreed that at a statewide level it is an important investment in the future; students should be spatially literate. GIO should play a prominent role (fill a gap) in educating the Legislature about GIS and spatial activities and needs.
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Missing from the list is "Education about the value of GIS for agencies" (very different from "Serve as K-12 Education Resource"). Geospatial programs in many agencies are in their "infancy" and need guidance/leadership to succeed. The wording "Enforce geospatial standards" is too strong.

	<p>Would rather see encouragement than enforcement as this places an unwelcome burden on state agencies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GIS data standards should be developed collaboratively with each agency, as each agency has its own needs. Perhaps a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the agencies that specifies (1) what they are sharing to the public (2) how frequently they are updating data and (3) what standards they are following.
Federal, Academic, Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group members agreed with the prioritized rankings of the listed GIO activities from the survey responses. • It is not the GIO's responsibility to provide tools and technology to users outside of the State Agency System. • The GIO needs to act as a liaison between National and State organizations, and initiatives, and the State Legislature. Group members view this activity as more important than was recorded in the survey. • It is a role of the GIO to support partnerships and coordination of various groups focused on specific project activities and training. Funding is a key area where the GIO could provide support. • IndianaMap role falls under "ensure critical datasets". The GIO needs to have a higher role in making sure critical data is available, and persistent for all users.
County, Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are too many activities ranked as highly important; the GIO cannot do everything, the list needs to be whittled down to most beneficial: 1) Cooperative sharing environment, 2) Funding the standards so the data can be exchanged, 3) relationships with national and legislature. • GIO should play an active role in educating the legislature on the benefits of GIS. This could be a potential avenue for additional funding. GIO should be in the loop when anyone is working with legislators regarding GIS topics. • Beneficial if the GIO could provide insights into the definition and prioritization of "critical" datasets.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards are beneficial for local governments, and GIO could support through funding as opposed to enforcement.
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Breakout Question 2: Data Standards and GIO Responsibilities

In your opinion, should the GIO be responsible for creating or setting data standards for statewide datasets?

If so, should it be for all statewide datasets or just specific data? Further, if the GIO should enforce data standards, how should they do so?

For example, by promoting a standard over time with progressive enforcement of it? Or by some other means?

Question 2 Group Discussion Summary:

Breakout Group	Major Themes
Commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Standards are beneficial, but without continual enforcement they do not last. Data exchange standards, rather than data content standards, could be a tool to enforce and support standards. The GIO would need to support counties and other organizations that do not have GIS resources to meet or maintain the standard, whether this a content or an exchange standard GIO will have to use a “carrot” to enforce a standard, not just a “stick”. For instance, tie <i>additional</i> funding eligibility to meeting a standard rather than just disqualifying an agency from funding if they do not meet a standard. [Note to readers: this idea was picked up again by this room in Question 3 regarding new ways to make data useful]
State	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GIO could establish “MVP” or a set of common attributes as a standard for all statewide data sets and agencies can augment/enhance as needed for their own purposes.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the GIO is going to enforce standards, they should establish these standards collaboratively with agencies. Build the standards around ALL of the agency requirements. • There is an opportunity for agencies to do a better job documenting what they have through a regularly maintained inventory. • GIO should consider a distributed hosting model for sharing data publicly rather than a central repository.
Federal, Academic, Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The GIO is in a position to facilitate the creation of data standards with all levels of input (Local State Federal Private). However, though the statute states the GIO can “enforce” standards, it was unclear as to what “enforcement” really meant. • GIO will have to use “carrots” to incentivize local entities who are not interested in what happens beyond their borders, to adopt the standards that benefit the whole, not just the part. • The GIO must ensure that when critical datasets are submitted meeting the “base” standards. This will prompt data providers to review their own local standards and adjust them so that they can easily integrate into the GIO’s standard system. • The GIO should use gentle guidance when getting other entities to follow standards. Data providers need to realize that if they want to be able to consume data from lots of different places, they will need to follow some base standard. • Entities that partner with the GIO on a data or acquisition project need to come to an agreement and or follow the standards for the project that are dictated by the GIO.
County, Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some feel that a Custodial Model needs to be maintained - data custodians make their own standard

	<p>decisions, which could include a decision to follow a federal standard.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those who don't follow a standard are already penalized by not having their data be part of the big picture, or by creating more work for those compiling data from multiple contributors (e.g., everyone is penalized in the data harvest example because a standard hasn't been enforced). • Standards should only apply if the data is going to be consumed and used by a large community. Standards should not be dictated for data used for internal agency use. • Perhaps instead of standardizing whole datasets, standardize and enforce the use of a "key" (e.g., PIN) so that data can be linked across departments. Build a directory of keys - the part of the data that is most commonly used. A common language for new addresses or rezoning would be beneficial. • Fund the standard, not the people
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Breakout Question 3: Data Availability and the Role of the GIO

What role/responsibilities should the GIO take on in making data readily available to Indiana users? What is working well and what needs improvement?

How can the GIO make data available in the right form, at the right time, to the right people? For instance:

- Broker licensing to provide access to commercial data sets of value
- Participation in national datasets such as National Address Database
- Expand the kinds of data included in the data harvest
- Foster a culture of data sharing

Question 3 Group Discussion Summary:

Breakout Group	Major Themes
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Commercial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Licensing commercial data is NOT what the GIO should do. Continue the investment in public-funded data collection (orthoimagery, LiDAR) so that is available for free to any and all. General concern is that licensing means costs, and costs to use data will curtail its use, defeating the purpose of data collection in the first place. Licensing might shut out many people who work directly or indirectly for the public. The latter might include contractors working for local governments, non-governmental organizations pursuing research on various issues. • The GIO needs to make sure existing data is available and is current, rather than expanding the Data Harvest. Improving accuracy should be a goal, and this may be tied to data standards (Question 2). • The GIO should focus on more frequent updates rather than expanding the categories of raw data it provides. Especially true for the Data Harvest but also for IndianaMap themes. • The GIO should create new ways for people to use the data being collected. For example, providing a routable statewide network using data from the Data Harvest or creating a geocoding service using address points, or data services focused on realty and assessment. The group thought these might be “carrots” for data standards that create better quality data (see this room, Question 2).
State	<p>Key roles/responsibilities include ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data discoverability of authoritative data, Improving the knowledge and awareness of data is essential. • Educating the user based on how to consume the data. Data should be available for download, published on IndianaMap and via REST services. Opportunity to take advantage of HUB site. • Ensure existing data is current and high quality • Enable agencies/data custodians to publish

	authoritative data. Give each agency responsibility for data stewardship.
Federal, Academic, Non-Profit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group members agree that a key role of the GIO is to foster a culture of data sharing across the GIS community. • GIO should identify multiple channels for sharing data. IndianaMap and Indiana Data Partners (IDP) are both opportunities that the GIO could pursue. • It would be beneficial if the GIO could ensure a solid inventory of who and where data is being shared; understanding who is using shared data is a challenge. • Data sharing is potentially hampered at the Federal level where there are conflicting standards and data is not well organized. • There is a concern that people are gathering information but they don't know how to share it. Increased literacy spurred by the GIO could be beneficial.
County, Local Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some feel that IndianaMap is not beneficial as a local government resource and therefore not a priority for GIO for them. • Focus should be on increasing coordination for the layers more widely used by local gov, e.g., imagery. • Rather than obtaining commercial data their preference is to have the local and state authoritative data get incorporated into the commercial data to improve it (e.g., Google - their data was used extensively during COVID pandemic and was at times a big issue) • Question was raised as to whether it is the GIO's role to publish (commercial or national) data that is not generated by entities within the state of Indiana.