

Information Resources Exchange Group Highlights

Wednesday, March 8, 2017

The 102nd meeting of the Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG) was called to order at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's office by Christopher Pollard, Manager, Geospatial Application Development, DVRPC, and IREG Coordinator. Fifty-six people were in attendance.

Key Points

- Cyclomedia has been one of the fastest technological tools that the City of Philadelphia has adopted within the past 10 years
- R Shiny can help streamline big data into a web platform that allows for easy manipulation and analysis of the data quickly

Presentations

Cyclomedia – Mark Wheeler, Chief Geographic Information Officer, City of Philadelphia Office of Innovation and Technology, gave an in-depth look into how the city is using Cyclomedia. Cyclomedia (https://www.cyclomedia.com/us) is a custom capture street view tool (similar to Google's Street View) that the City of Philadelphia has been using in some of their more recent mapping and data collection efforts. Mark mentioned that it has been one of the fastest adopted software tools that the city has accepted in the past 15 years. Cyclomedia provides several benefits over Google Street View, including: no blurring of images, date stamped, data capture and measuring tools, seamless integration with ESRI software, and a continuous street image along corridors. The images meet standards for pre/post planning for inspections and also have allowed for the collections and creation of 111,000 street trees in less than 4 months. In 2017 the city is having new imagery driven with LIDAR being one of the additional deliverables.

Sharing is Caring: An analysis of Citi Bike's Discounted Membership for New York City Housing Authority Residents – Thom Stead, Transportation Planner, DVRPC, presented on his research that he did around Citi Bike and New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). One year after its May 2013 launch, Citi Bike had garnered 100,000 annual members—a figure unprecedented for a bike share program in the United States. As part of this launch, Citi Bike offered \$60 annual membership (a 40% discount), to NYCHA residents. Despite this discount, NYCHA residents made up less than 1% of the total annual members after the program's first year. To better understand why the discounted membership was not widely embraced, the author surveyed NYCHA residents living in developments near Citi Bike stations. The findings of this survey were used to develop a series of actionable recommendations that were given to the

Citi Bike operations team.

Data Analysis at PWD using R and the Shiny Web Application Framework – Jay Cruz, Environmental Scientist, and Liz Mannarino, Civil Engineer, PWD. The Philadelphia Water Department (PWD) scientists and engineers recognize the importance of reproducibility in data analysis workflows and are increasingly moving away from spreadsheet-based analyses. These analyses are being replaced by R, a free software environment for statistical computing and graphics, and PostgreSQL, an open source database management system. Jay and Liz discussed the use of this software and an R web application framework package called Shiny, which has been used to create intuitive user interfaces to interact with and manipulate large amounts of data.

<u>Information Items</u>

- DVRPC's 2015 Land Use P1 is available on the DVRPC GIS Portal and Land Use P2 is coming later this spring.
- Mercer County has a Property Information Portal (PIP) that provides users access to digital documents related to land records and development.
- Census Bureau is starting up the LUCA program shortly.
- NJ TransAction will be held April 21-23, 2015 in Atlantic City.
- 2015 PA GIS Conference at State College is June 15-17, 2015

The next scheduled IREG meeting is Wednesday, June 7th, 2017.

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