

**DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION
 INFORMATION RESOURCE EXCHANGE GROUP
 Minutes of March 5, 2003**

Location: DVRPC, Bourse Building, 111 S. Independence Mall East, 8th Floor

Attendance:

Name:	Title:	Organization	E-mail Address
Medha Gosavi	GIS Specialist	Burlington County	mgosavi@co.burlington.nj.us
Merilee Torrez	GIS Specialist	Burlington County	mtorres@co.burlington.nj.us
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Bob Gittler	Reg. Initiatives Coord.	B. Franklin Tech Partners / SEP	robert@sep.benfranklin.org
Curt Noe	Camden Co. Engineer	Camden County	curtnoe@camdencounty.com
Bob Walker	Senior Planner	Chester County Planning Comm.	rwalker@chesco.org
Brian T. Sweeney	User Liason	Chester County Planning Comm.	bsweeney@chesco.org
Tom West	GIS Analyst	Chester County Planning Comm.	twest@chesco.org
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Vicki Lewis	Geographer	U.S. Census Bureau	vicki.l.lewis@census.gov

The meeting was called to order at 10:10.

1. Minutes of the meeting of December 11, 2002

The minutes were approved with two corrections: one was that the future meeting dates for IREG were incorrect. The scheduled meeting dates are: 6/4/03, 9/3/03 and 12/10/03. The other correction was that Suzy Hess was listed as being from NJ DEP when she is actually from the NJ Office of Information Technology (OIT).

2. Election of IREG Chair and Vice-Chair

Bob Walker was elected as Chair of the IREG Committee for CY 2003. Katrina Flagel was elected as Vice-Chair.

3. Presentations

Customized Applications for Digital Orthophotography in Chester County

Tom West from Chester County Planning Commission gave a presentation highlighting three tools developed primarily in-house for accessing the County's 2000 Aerial Imagery and a variety of related files. This presentation is a follow up on 2005 imagery possibilities discussed at the preliminary meeting from December 2002.

The goals of this program was to give the technology to the planners, to decentralize technology. give tools to use buttons, menus to focus on needs, not the technology behind it.

Some people do not know GIS intimately, so there is a learning curve to use digital imagery. Digital imagery can take a long time to plot; however, plots must be completed within 15 minutes for practical use at the sales counter. The old plotters that the County owned couldn't handle the new imagery. Chester county had been dealing with digital imagery since 1993, so they were ready with tools and a basic GIS to generate maps.

On display in the conference room was 1 large plot and 4 smaller plots, examples of what the general public can generate at the walk-up kiosk. The system is linked to the County's network, so that the plots are always using the latest data files. However, to improve response time at the kiosk, static images are stored locally.

Mr. West demonstrated three of the tools developed to the IREG Committee.

The first application's goal was ease of use, giving users the ability to recenter regardless of tile edge, page size ability within 15 minutes. First, the user chooses the size of the map desired. Then, the user is prompted to choose an area of interest, by clicking the map, by specifying product ID, by typing in a site address, and by property owner name. Chester County is fortunate to have all county addresses in a layer; whereas other counties might have to use road center lines to approximate locations. After typing in an address, the user is given a zoomed view at 1":400' scale. The next choice is to zoom in or zoom out at 1:200, 1:400, 1:800, or 1:2,000 scales. Then the user has the option to use the pan tool to position your area of interest on the page. Print edges are shown in a light blue, which helps in determining what will print. The next step is to print, so a template is placed on the image and you are given a choice to print X number of copies, with a upper limit of 5, since the average plot takes 10

minutes to print. Older HP 2500 plotters took upwards to a half-hour for one print. The new HP5000 PS can do a small scale print out in about five minutes.

The kiosk interface was developed using AvenueScript with some Visual Basic and is running on a Windows NT server with ESRI's ArcView software running in kiosk mode.

The second application gives the ability to view aerials on the computer to all county workers (about 2,000 PCs). The user types in an address and views the image using ArcIMS. One server broadcasts screen-resolution images out to the entire network. Unlike the kiosk, which uses high-resolution tiff files, these images display quickly and are a great tool for someone just wanting to get the general idea of a location. This application is accessed through the County Intranet GIS website. Users navigate using hyperlinks to get to the application, where they type in an address, search against a local file, then shows the address mapped on county map. Clicking on the point will bring up the image with road, township names, township boundaries and the point shown in color. Typical prints are on 8.5x11 black-and-white laser printers. Efficiency is achieved by maintaining just one machine versus many.

The third application is for someone who has GIS experience and frequently uses an ArcView product, such as a planner familiar with the ArcView interface. The application has similar icons to the standard software, but has additional analytical capabilities, which could be helpful in identifying sensitive areas, or areas for preservation.

Analyzing the Region's Economic Base

Kevin Adams from DVRPC presented the IREG Committee with the results of his analysis of REIS 2000 data, which is released annually and gives employment estimates in broad categories. These results were published in *Analytical Data Bulletin #10: Three Decades of Job Growth and Decline in the Delaware Valley: Analyzing the Region's Economic Base, by Sector*, which was published in February 2003 and made available at the meeting.

This project helps us define what we do in the region and how well the region does it. Construction, wholesale trade & transportation sectors have been pretty steady over the years. However, there have been decreases in manufacturing and increases in service. In fact for almost every manufacturing job lost in the region, a job has been added to the service sector.

One tool used for analysis of this data is the Base Theory, which splits the economy into non-basic and basic sectors (consumed locally, or bringing in wealth, respectively). Another tool used is the Location Quotient, which is used to determine if sector is basic. To determine how well the sectors are performing, Mr. Adams used Shift Share Analysis, a technique used in separating national growth from local.

A comparison was done between local and national growth, then growth in each sector locally to the growth in that sector for the nation. The Delaware Valley grew by 7% verses 20% nationally, which adds up to 173,000 verses 529,000 jobs. Where the Delaware Valley succeeded is in the service sector, which grew 30% in the 1990s.

Comparisons of the Delaware Valley were also made to the Detroit, Boston and Washington DC regions, which have a similar economic history as well as a similar population size. Detroit has more synergy, whereas Boston and Washington DC has more synergies between clusters. The Delaware Valley has strengths but lacks clusters between them, such as in life sciences, research and development, engineering, computers systems integration, industrial design and management consulting. Bob Gitler from the Ben Franklin Technology Partners, notes that we are one of the most diversified regions, so no one cluster shows as a strength. This is good because our regions diversity helps us through bad economic times.

This Analytical Data Report, with all of its findings, is available on our website: <http://www.dvrpc.org/data/adrs/adr10.htm> .

4. Census Update

Vicki Lewis from the Census Bureau gave an update on various Census-related products.

- a. **American Community Survey (ACS).** The Census Bureau completed its first month of testing the ACS as alternative to 2010 survey. An expansion of the ACS is planned for fiscal year 2004, beginning next October. An expansion of the program has been proposed for 2004, but the Bureau will wait and see if the budget is approved.
- b. **Census Transportation Planning Package (CTPP).** There are three parts to this release: Part One: residence based; Part Two: place of work based; and Part Three: flow to and from work. The release schedule is as follows:

Part One will be released beginning this month (March) on a flow basis through the end of April. I was told that Pennsylvania and New Jersey will most likely be released in April.

Parts Two and Three will both be released in the summer of 2003 and will also be released on a flow basis by state.

Ed Christopher, FHWA, is the CTPP contact. He maintains the listserve which if you are not already on you can get on the mailing list to receive the CTPP data . To do this go to www.trbcensus.com and select "internet mailing list". Mr. Christopher can be reached at 708/283-3524 and at edc@trbcensus.com .

- c. **County to County Worker Flow File** was released the day after the IREG meeting (the TAZ Areas are part of this release) and can be found at: <http://www.census.gov/population/www/cen2000/commuting.html>
- d. **School District Boundaries** are on TIGER Line 2002 which is available from this website: <http://www.census.gov/geo/www/tiger/tiger2002/tgr2002.html>.
- e. **School District Special Tabulation.** The School District Special Tabulation Part One, being sponsored by the National Center for Education, was released in late February: <http://nces.ed.gov/surveys/SurveyGroups.asp?group=1>. This first of two releases includes the whole country and is basically all of the SF3 data tabulated by School District, minus a few tables. Part Two will include other iterations of the data not included in SF3 plus the School Enrollment Tables missing from Part One. These tabulations are being worked on now and should be released very soon. An FTP site where you can download all the data will be available by mid-March. Currently, you can access all of the data by using a drill down application.

5. **DVRPC FY 2003 Work Program Updates**

- a. **Year 2005 Aerial Imagery Acquisition.** A preliminary meeting took place after the December IREG Meeting to discuss the status of existing imagery programs and options for 2005 imagery acquisition. The current scales used for 2000 imagery are appropriate. Color imagery is a possibility. The NJ 2002 state imagery acquisition is finished. The PA imagery acquisition for this region is scheduled to begin in 2006. It needs to be determined if either state is interested in joining our effort. Philadelphia has different needs and schedule and will continue to do their own flights.
- b. **Region-Wide Transportation GIS Development.** All but 2 participants have completed contracts. Meetings will begin in the next month or so, starting with Pennsylvania then New Jersey participants. Project quarterly reports to 12/31/2002 and expenditures need to be submitted to DVRPC so we can process them and to show that the process is moving along. A separate budget is being processed in New Jersey to reallocate money allocated from previous years.
- c. **Year 2000 Land Use File.** Four counties are done, three are being worked on. We hope to have the first four out by the end of March for review by the counties. All county files will be out for review before end of June. No releases will take place until all preliminary sets are checked.

- d. **NJ 2002 Aerial Imagery Acquisition.** New Jersey's 2002 Aerial imagery release schedule was a bit optimistic; a final product will be available on their website, with releases starting in June 2003.

6. **Old Business**

No old business was presented at this time.

7. **New Business**

Joe Fazekas inquired how many members had problems reading the last email message sent to the group, as he start using a digital signature which wasn't recognized by two member agencies. No one else indicated any problems.

8. **Adjournment**

The IREG meeting was adjourned at 12:05 pm. The Webmasters Subcommittee met immediately after the meeting adjourned.