



Information Resource Exchange Group Highlights

Wednesday, June 8, 2016

The 99th meeting of the Information Resource Exchange Group (IREG) was called to order at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's office by the IREG chair, David Long, SEPTA. Sixty Two people were in attendance.

Key Points

- Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), or "drones", can be a fast and cheap way for agencies to collect information and data about buildings, bridges, and the built environment but current regulations and other rules have been causing difficulties for companies in advancing and using this new type of data collection.
- Autonomous vehicles have many potential advantages such as: reduction in traffic accidents and traffic congestion. The elderly, car-less households, and commuters that need to travel further distances for work, are some of the likely groups to benefit from self-driving cars.

Presentations

Drones for Planning, Monitoring and 3D: Current and Future

David Day, Keystone Aerial Survey, spent time discussing Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), or "drones", and how the industry has changed, and is continuously changing as the final rules for small UAS are to be realized by the FAA in June. Unmanned aerial systems are inherently different from manned aircraft. Introducing UAS into the nation's airspace is challenging for both the FAA and the aviation community, since the U.S. has the busiest, most complex airspace in the world. Keystone Aerial Survey specializes in providing quality, commercial grade aerial surveys across the country. David was able to illustrate the difficulties companies may have when attempting to acquire a drone, the legality of operating commercially, and the location of where companies are able to fly. David provided information regarding the capable accuracy of various types of drones, and demonstrated the continuous use of LiDAR technology. For more information regarding different types of UAS operations, please visit the Federal Aviation Administration at: <http://www.faa.gov/uas/>.

Self-driving Cars, Land Use, and the Future(s) of Car Ownership

Erick Guerra, Assistant Professor and Associate Chair of City and Regional Planning (University of Pennsylvania), discussed the current testing state of autonomous vehicles and the likelihood of these vehicles driving themselves on city streets and highways in the next 20 years. Whether self-driving cars reduce harmful emissions or the amount of land, energy, money, and other resources consumed by the transportation system depends largely on whether they reduce car ownership and driving. There are many potential advantages to using autonomous cars, such as: reduction in traffic accidents caused by human driver errors, and reduced traffic congestion. Optimists envision a future where driverless cars lead to a revolution in shared urban mobility. Pessimists, by contrast, see vehicle automation as one

more technology that makes driving more comfortable and convenient and thus increases the amount that people drive.

Information Items

- DVRPC has receive and distributed the 2015 orthoimagery and has recently received LiDAR for the entire region
- DVRPC's 2015 Land Use will include 2 products: a quick update to the 2010 land use focusing on change and a more detailed 72 category land use.
- DVRPC continues to collect local road and bridge data for the suburban PA counties.
- MAC URISA 2016 conference (Mid-Atlantic Chapter of the Urban & Regional Information Systems Association) is holding their annual conference in Atlantic City, NJ from October 12-14, 2016.

The next scheduled meeting of the IREG is Wednesday, September 14th, 2016.

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