



Information Resources Exchange Group Highlights

Wednesday, December 13, 2017

The 105th meeting of the Information Resources Exchange Group (IREG) was called to order at the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission's office by IREG Chair, Phil Pierdomenico, from the Philadelphia Water Department. Thirty people were in attendance.

Key Points

- The Pennsylvania Geospatial Coordinating board (GeoBoard) was written into legislation in the fall of 2014 and has been working towards becoming the authoritative group for geospatial data across the state of Pennsylvania ever since. Frank Desendi from PennDOT came to explain how the GeoBoard operates, where their priorities lie, and how they are working to achieve their goals.
- Alternative modes of transportation, like bicycling, have been gaining traction as of late and Sarah Moran, a transportation planner at DVRPC, has been working towards taking a deeper look into the connectivity of these alternative transportation networks. In her Bike Stress Level Analysis presentation, she explained how she used python programs and SQL queries to identify "islands" of low stress infrastructure and what connectors could be improved to have the most impact on the network as a whole.

Presentations

GeoBoard

Frank Desendi, Manager of Geographic Information Division - PennDOT (fdesendi@pa.gov)

The Pennsylvania Geospatial Coordinating Board was written into legislation in October of 2014 as a need for coordination among geospatial data users arose. GeoBoard acts as a governing body for members across all sectors to coordinate and collaborate in order to provide the best possible data in the most efficient fashion possible. Organized into three task forces (Service Delivery, Data Program, and Governance), the board's mission is to identify challenges faced by the professional community and work towards coordinating a standardized approach to solve those problems.

DVRPC's Bicycle Level of Traffic Stress and Connectivity Analysis

Sarah Moran, Transportation Planner, DVRPC (smoran@dvrpc.org)

DVRPC's Sarah Moran presented her work on digging deeper into trying to answer the question of how to prioritize alternative transportation projects. Sarah and her team used Python programs to run the bulk of her analysis, which included identifying "islands" of bicycle facilities - portions of the road network that even casual cyclists would be comfortable using. By identifying these islands, Sarah was able to take her analysis even further by using a shortest path analysis to prioritize connector roads that would have the most impact on the bicycle network if their facilities were improved. An interactive mapping application can be found at <https://www.dvrpc.org/webmaps/BikeStress> where users can explore the Level of Traffic Stress and Connectivity network.

Information Items

- DVRPC is helping coordinate efforts to prepare for the upcoming 2020 Census. Look for more information this spring about what localities can do to ensure that they're ready.
- MapTime/GeoPhilly is preparing a year-end event for some time in January.
- The Free Library of Philadelphia has an inventory of historical atlases and maps that they are looking to digitize. It was suggested that there should be some brainstorming for some type of event to help out with the effort.

The next scheduled IREG meeting is Wednesday, March 14th, 2017.

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