



## North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council

### Minutes

May 14, 2025

### PROCEEDINGS

The Council held its quarterly meeting at the William G. Ross, Jr., Environmental Conference Center, 121 West Jones Street, 4th floor, Raleigh, North Carolina, and via virtual meeting connection.

#### Welcome and Chair Announcements

Ms. Hope Morgan, GICC Chair, called the meeting to order after confirming a quorum was present.

The Chair reminded everyone that the meeting was being held in accordance with open meeting laws, aligning the GICC with other statutory boards and commissions.

Ms. Heather Freeman read the ethics statement to the council:

*In accordance with the State Government Ethics Act, it is the duty of every Council member to avoid both conflicts of interest and the appearances of conflict.*

*If any Council member has any known conflict of interest or is aware of facts that might create the appearance of such conflict, with respect to any matters coming before the Council today, please identify the conflict or the facts that might create the appearance of a conflict to ensure that any inappropriate participation in that matter may be avoided.*

*If at any time, any new matter that raises a conflicts issue arises during the meeting, please be sure to identify it at that time.*

*Council members should exercise appropriate caution in the performance of their public duties should conflicts of interest or potential conflicts of interest related to issues that come before the Council. This would include recusing themselves to the extent that their interests would influence or could reasonably appear to influence their actions.*

Ms. Morgan then reminded everyone about the attendance registration process, emphasizing the importance of registering using the displayed QR code to confirm attendance, and acknowledged those attending online, noting that their attendance information was already recorded.

Ms. Morgan announced that the Council had a new member, Larken Egleston, representing the North Carolina Department of Justice. Mr. Egleston introduced himself as the interim director of

intergovernmental affairs for Attorney General Jeff Jackson. He noted his previous service as Congressional District director during Jackson's term in Congress and as a former member of the Charlotte City Council.

Ms. Morgan welcomed Secretary Marshall to the meeting and acknowledged her attendance.

### **Approval of March 2025 Meeting Minutes**

The March 2025 GICC meeting minutes were motioned to be approved as written, which was carried unanimously. There were no recusals.

### **2025-2027 Goals and Priorities**

Ms. Morgan presented the Council's goals and priorities for 2025-2027, noting that these had been developed over several months and reviewed by various committees. She emphasized that while these are general goals for the Council at large, committees will take on specific implementation pieces. Ms. Morgan explained the structure consists of two overarching goals with multiple sub-goals underneath each.

#### **Goal 1: Improve, expand, and support statewide geospatial data and applications**

##### **1.1. Promote free and open discovery of and access to geospatial data created and maintained by local governments and support efficient local to state data sharing.**

Ms. Morgan noted that the Local Government Committee (LGC) is leading efforts to ensure efficient local to state data sharing and open discovery and access to geospatial data through linking state agency open data sites to NCOneMap. She explained this involves understanding what datasets are available to local government and identifying problems or difficulties, while working to reduce redundant data requests and streamline processes.

##### **1.2. Recommend utility infrastructure solutions that maintain data sharing security to aid discovery and ease of access to geospatial data.**

Ms. Morgan noted the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) has created utility infrastructure documents and emphasized the need to create a working group to address utility data sharing needs. She discussed the challenge of developing mechanisms for safely providing infrastructure information when needed while respecting existing rules and security requirements. The focus will be on identifying stakeholders, determining what data can be shared, and determining appropriate channels for data sharing.

Amy Barron from Duke Energy volunteered to help with the working group and emphasized focusing on what can be shared, including outage data and easements, as well as establishing contact protocols for emergency situations. The initiative will include Duke Energy and municipal power groups, water and sewer utilities, and telecommunications. Ann Winstead, representing the Utilities Commission, agreed to pass along information about this initiative to Gavin Mouat.

**1.3. Support priority initiatives that compile and maintain statewide geospatial datasets that benefit the businesses and citizens of North Carolina.**

Ms. Morgan explained this sub-goal focuses on standardization and data transparency, assigned to the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC). She highlighted hydrography as a current priority, noting it could help improve North Carolina's geospatial maturity score (currently A-minus) by addressing the missing hydrography component. SMAC is focused on adding streams, administrative boundaries, elevations, addresses, and building footprints to the state's framework datasets.

She emphasized the need for maintaining a transparent, up-to-date list of framework datasets, noting these lists are updated annually. Bob Coats raised questions about making different datasets work together for analysis purposes. Ms. Morgan clarified that consideration of how different datasets can work together would be addressed in the integration aspects of the goals.

**1.4 Request all state agencies to make the Council's priority geospatial datasets discoverable and accessible through the NC OneMap Geospatial Portal.**

Ms. Morgan discussed the need for increased awareness of the Council among state agencies, which includes defining priorities and making recommendations, both from a policy and technical standpoint. One key practice for working towards this goal is through demonstrating the value of GIS from a business standpoint to support the work being done across various government agencies.

Ms. Natalie Walton-Corbett highlighted NC Addresses as a key dataset for demonstrating GIS value to management, particularly regarding the GeoComm process for ensuring accurate local government addressing data. Ms. Pokey Harris emphasized the critical importance of this dataset for emergency responders, noting that lives depend on data accuracy.

**1.5. Promote geospatial metadata for standard documentation.**

Ms. Morgan noted that the Council discussed the need to restart metadata training and implementation with emphasis on making metadata a built-in part of deliverable products. She suggested looking at ways to make metadata part of native product deliverables rather than an afterthought.

**1.6. Support enterprise applications that derive business value from geospatial data assets and analytics.**

Ms. Morgan discussed recent conversations about portal usage and tools, emphasizing the importance of educating management on GIS value and providing technical solutions. She noted this sub-goal would be split between committees: TAC will work on promoting understanding of the value of GIS enterprise capabilities, while the State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC) will focus on educating management on the business value of GIS.

**1.7. Promote efficient use and maintenance of large datasets by recommending technical solutions**

Ms. Morgan noted the ongoing challenge of sharing large datasets and the need for better solutions for storage and sharing mechanisms. She explained that TAC will research solutions and find ways to move beyond sharing hard drives.

**Goal 2: Collaborate and conduct outreach for more integration of geospatial data in information technology for expanded benefits in the geospatial community in North Carolina**

**2.1. Identify opportunities to collaborate on GIS solutions in all state departments including divisions not directly represented on the Council to add value to state business processes.**

Ms. Morgan explained this sub-goal focuses on whether datasets need additional attributes or should be tied together, with everything functioning as framework datasets with primary keys for joining. SMAC and SGUC will review datasets for potential derived products or integration with other state systems.

**2.2. Identify opportunities to collaborate on geospatial data and technical solutions on a regional basis, engaging councils of government, educational institutions, metropolitan planning organizations, and rural planning organizations.**

Ms. Morgan noted this focuses on councils of government, educational institutions, MPOs, tribal, and rural planning, with LGC leading this effort to identify opportunities to work with these various organizations.

She expressed interest in expanding outreach to universities and community colleges, asking about how these institutions might fit within existing committees or potentially form their own working group. Ms. Linda Thurman suggested that educational groups might organize their own committee similar to the local government, state government, and federal government committees, potentially seeking formal status through changes to governing documents.

**2.3. Reach out to all jurisdictions to find ways to add value with geospatial data and applications.**

Ms. Morgan explained this includes training and getting people to present on their work to share information about ongoing projects. LGC will identify training opportunities and ways to share information across local governments, particularly through presenting GIS projects and tools.

**2.4. Identify opportunities to support GIS adoption and development by providing resources to those who need assistance.**

Ms. Morgan praised the LGC's growth to over 100 people attending quarterly meetings and their work on technical needs assessment. The Council discussed improving local GIS capacity and data quality through identification of needs and pathways for peer-to-peer assistance, such as general committee meetings.

## **2.5. Increase awareness and adoption of Council initiatives and priorities through outreach and education**

Ms. Morgan emphasized the need to demonstrate benefits and engage the larger community, explaining the goal of making GICC more visible and defining clear priorities and recommendations from both technical and policy standpoints. She emphasized the need to demonstrate the value and benefits of GICC's work to management, potentially through metrics showing time or cost savings.

Discussion included the need to attend conferences outside the GIS community, such as city managers or county commissioners' meetings, to share GICC's message. Ms. Morgan explained that the LGC had identified a need to reach beyond those who already know about GICC's work. FIC, SGUC, and LGC will increase coordination between themselves to promote GICC initiatives and the value of GIS.

Paul Badr suggested developing a quarterly newsletter, though Ms. Morgan expressed concerns about the level of effort required. Christie Burris mentioned the potential use of Microsoft Copilot for creating newsletters from meeting minutes and offered DIT's assistance. She also noted DIT's increased engagement with county governments as a potential avenue for sharing GICC's message.

In addition to the goals, Ms. Morgan highlighted ongoing work regarding the GIS disclaimer. She explained that while the Council is comfortable with the intent of the disclaimer legislation, which was focused on parcel datasets, there remains concern about the broad term "GIS tools" and its potential future application to other datasets beyond parcels. She noted the disclaimer has been implemented fairly widely at county and municipal levels, with the biggest change being the required checkbox acknowledgment.

### **Federal Workforce and Services Changes**

Ms. Morgan opened the discussion about changes in federal government services and their potential impact on state and local GIS operations. She noted concerns about federal programs, grants, and tools that may or may not be available in the future and the need for contingency planning.

The discussion covered several key areas. Regarding data storage and sharing, the state is working to identify federal datasets that may need to be stored locally if federal access becomes unavailable, while being careful not to create confusion about authoritative data sources. Legal and policy considerations were also raised about the rules governing use of federal data if hosted at the state level, including whether agreements would be needed and how to handle authoritative data concerns. Census concerns were highlighted when an attendee raised concerns about federal funding impacts on the 2030 census cycle and how communities should prepare their data. Bob Coats provided an update on census planning, noting that the test area in western North Carolina is still an ongoing effort, and emphasized the importance of continuing to maintain addresses, parcels, and boundaries as the Census Bureau harvests this information from state sources. Jeremy Baynes agreed that these concerns should be documented and taken back to the Federal Interagency Committee (FIC), noting the alignment with the administration's emphasis on cooperative federalism.

Ms. Morgan requested that committees gather lists of federal data uses and tools to provide to Mr. Baynes for FIC discussion, including specific purposes and uses that might help federal agencies understand the necessity of maintaining these resources.

### **ATLAS Presentation – NCDOT**

Katie Talavera from NCDOT provided a comprehensive update on ATLAS (Advancing Transportation through Linkages, Automation and Screening), which began in 2018 with goals of streamlining project development using GIS tools, applications and data.

Katie described the key ATLAS components, beginning with the Search Tool, which contains approximately 400 layers for viewing and downloading to study areas. She explained that the Screening Tool contains 700 layers for generating quick reports for potential impact assessment, while the Workbench provides data governance and project management capabilities tied to SharePoint.

Regarding new developments, Katie highlighted ATLAS Map, a forthcoming combined tool that will replace the separate search and screening tools, offering faster layer load times, ability to draw larger study areas, screen more layers, and export maps directly. She described templates as pre-configured layer collections for specific use cases, such as building site assessment and environmental analysis. Katie also discussed utility integration efforts, noting they are working with the utilities unit to integrate their 400+ layer dataset that currently exists in Experience Builder.

Ms. Talavera explained that all layers are on maintenance schedules tracked through a maintenance tracker app, with monthly updates to downloadable spreadsheets listing all available layers. She noted that metadata standards are followed for business team layers hosted on ArcGIS Online, and detailed update plans have been created for each layer. Ms. Talavera described how ATLAS provides a resource page with training materials and videos, along with monthly live trainings on specific topics. She emphasized the system's significant return on investment through time savings from not searching for and downloading individual layers, access to current and reliable data in one location, avoidance of conflicts through screening reports, and project tracking and analysis capabilities through Power BI dashboards.

The presentation included demonstrations of workbench capabilities showing project status dashboards that allow quick assessment of completion status across different disciplines and divisions. During the question and answer portion, an attendee asked about the typical number of users, to which Ms. Talavera responded that it varies by tool, with one particular dashboard showing 38 unique users, though she noted the overall Atlas system typically has 500+ users.

Ms. Talavera clarified that while ATLAS was built for DOT processes, anyone with an NCID can access the system after agreeing to the user agreement, and no training is required though resources are available on the resource page. She mentioned they plan to do another round of trainings once ATLAS Map is released.

Regarding the utility Experience Builder application, Ms. Talavera confirmed it is currently internal, but they are working to make it more readily available since it contains public-facing utility facility information. She explained that the utilities unit is engaging with hundreds of providers under specific agreements, and that any publicly available data from those providers could potentially be made available through ATLAS.

An attendee asked about templates, and Ms. Talavera confirmed that if anyone had particular templates they would like to see created, NCDOT can accommodate those requests.

### **Conference Menti Follow-up**

Ms. Natalie Walton-Corbett provided an update on the lessons learned documentation being developed from the NC GIS Conference discussions about Hurricane Helene response. The LGC is creating an informal checklist and resource document for local governments that will be easy to use and reference.

The LGC will structure this documentation by creating simple, easy-to-read checklists rather than complex documents with appendices, organizing information by timeline to cover before, during, and after event planning, and ensuring the scope covers both direct response when it's your community and supporting neighboring jurisdictions. The initiative also continues community building efforts to reach all counties and municipalities, recognizing that not everyone is fully connected to the GIS community conversations.

The project aims to create a living document that will be updated annually or bi-annually with new lessons learned and feedback. Ms. Walton-Corbett emphasized that GIS is becoming more integrated into every aspect of emergency response, placing additional responsibilities on GIS professionals.

Upcoming plans for the LGC include:

- HurriUp Meeting: A mini-symposium focused on disaster response, building on the 2019 meeting at the inception of the WGEER
- Integration with WGEER: Continued coordination with the Working Group for Enhanced Emergency Response
- GIS Contacts Database: Working with CGIA on a comprehensive, community-maintained database of GIS contacts across North Carolina accessible through an Experience Builder app

### **Committee Updates**

Ms. Morgan turned the discussion towards committee status updates, noting that going forward she would be requesting that status updates follow a template format that speaks to the aforementioned goals, to help focus the discussions.

#### **Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) - Matt Helms**

The TAC is currently working on a big data best practices guide, with a rough draft expected by next month and completion planned for summer. As discussed earlier, they will also be taking on utility infrastructure data sharing solutions, focusing on both what can be shared and the technical aspects of enterprise implementation. Matt noted they will need additional people for the infrastructure working group and may bring in ESRI for enterprise system assistance.

#### **Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee (SMAC) - Paul Badr**

The Eastern Piedmont 2025 Orthoimagery Project is well underway with four selected vendors completing acquisition and producing imagery. End user portal review is scheduled for July through September. The procurement process has been improved with a three-qualified vendor list and DIT assistance to change to a convenience contract.

A smaller team from the hydrography working group has been meeting bi-weekly to develop a memorandum of agreement between DOT, DEQ, and DIT. The group will work on a governance document guiding geometry changes and updates, outline approval processes, and establish specifications for map and hydrography assurance and business processes. A governance group will be created to approve changes.

#### **Federal Interagency Committee (FIC) - Jeremy Baynes**

The FIC is planning a joint meeting with the Local Government Committee, following the successful model of the recent joint meeting with the State Government Users Committee. Personnel changes include Eric Hund's upcoming retirement from NOAA. The committee is working to increase NASA engagement and may see additional membership changes. Jeremy reiterated that federal data use concerns should be documented for FIC discussion, noting alignment with cooperative federalism principles.

#### State Government GIS Users Committee (SGUC) - Melanie Williams

The SGUC's recent joint meeting with the FIC was highlighted as a successful collaboration. Committee members attended an accessibility webinar hosted by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) and discussed preparation needs for the 2026 accessibility deadline, particularly given the large number of services, maps, and apps currently shared by state agencies requiring review.

ESRI training classes have begun with 15 employees already trained, 45 scheduled for May, and 37 more throughout the summer. The committee is also beginning discussions about developing a GIS strategic plan at the statewide level, examining funding resources, implementation approaches, and lessons learned from other states.

#### Local Government Committee (LGC) - Natalie Walton-Corbett

As discussed during the Menti follow-up, the LGC continues extensive work on disaster response documentation, GIS contacts database development, and community building efforts. They maintain regular conversations about local topics including utility network transitions and wetlands, and continue efforts to expand community participation.

#### **GIO Report**

Mr. Matt McLamb began his report by reflecting on the conference, noting that this was the first Council meeting held at a conference and that it went well. He reported just under 600 attendees and over 120 sessions, thanking everyone for their contributions to the conference in March. Mr. McLamb indicated that planning for the 2027 conference will begin this fall and that decisions on location will be based on pricing and other factors.

Mr. McLamb announced that the GICC 2024 annual report is complete and submitted to the Governor's office. He then addressed an important Next Generation 911 item and recommended LGC consideration, explaining new processes and workflows surrounding TDMS or geo-enabled MSAGs (Master Street Address Guides). He reported that communication has gone out to Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and counties, with some already transitioning to TDMS/geo-enabled MSAGs. Mr. McLamb emphasized the critical requirement of maintaining a 98 percent or greater address sync rate, explaining that this requirement has been expanded from the previous standard for road centerlines to now include address points as well, making current and updated address data even more important.

Regarding the geospatial maturity assessment, Mr. McLamb noted that the 2025 version is in progress. He explained they will be working with representatives in state agencies to complete the surveys for submission to NSGIC for grading and assessment. The assessment will cover addresses, coordination, elevation, geodetic control, government units, imagery, parcels, and transportation, with non-graded sections on elections and hydrography included for information gathering purposes.

Mr. McLamb announced that he will be sending meeting summaries (not full minutes) to each Council member as well as their state agency secretaries shortly after each meeting to increase awareness and exposure. He noted this will help ensure everyone is aware of meeting outcomes.



Finally, Mr. McLamb discussed the GeoGov Summit scheduled for September 8-10, noting that the Council will again be a supporting partner for this event in the DC area. He explained that he had received legal approval for the agreement and that this partnership provides discounted registration rates for GICC members, state agencies, and local governments across the state. He mentioned there will be opportunities for GICC participation in hurricane response panels and that more information will be shared once the agreement is finalized.

### **Adjournment**

Following a motion to adjourn with no objections, the meeting was adjourned

### **2025 GICC Quarterly Meeting Dates**

August 20<sup>th</sup> (Raleigh)

November 12<sup>th</sup> (Raleigh)

## **Member Attendance**

<b>Last</b>	<b>First</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Proxy</b>	<b>Agency/Organization</b>
Averett	Steve	Yes		City of Greensboro
Badr	Paul	Yes		GPI, Geospatial Division
Baker	David	No		NC Association of County Commissioners
Barron	Amy	Yes		Duke Energy
Baynes	Jeremy	V-Yes		US EPA
Clyburn	Lee	No		
Coats	Bob	V-Yes		Office of State Budget & Management
Dowdy	Jason	No		CACI, Inc
Duncan	Stan	No		Retired, State and Local Government
Enright	Dianne	No		Department of Health & Human Services
Grantham	Dean	Yes		Department of Environmental Quality
Halls	Joanne	No		UNC Wilmington
Harris	Pokey	Yes		NC 911 Board
Hedley	Jason	V-Yes		Stewart Engineering
Helms	Matthew	V-Yes		Charlotte Water
Piccione	Teena	P-Yes	Christie Burris	Department of Information Technology
Koonts	Sarah	No		Department of Natural and Cultural Resources
Marshall	Elaine	Yes		Office of Secretary of State
Egleston	Larken	V-Yes		Department of Justice
Morgan	Hope	Yes		AECOM
Nida	Chris	No		NC League of Municipalities
Cox	John	Yes		Department of Administration
Sandoval	Allan	No		Department of Commerce
Shankle	Bill	No		Tri South Commercial Realty
Serkin	Allen	V-Yes		Cape Fear Council of Governments
Simpson	Tony	No		Department of Revenue
Spitler	Ed	V-Yes		NC Community College System
Mouat	Gavin	P-Yes	Ann Winstead	NC Utilities Commission
Thompson	Gary	Yes		Department of Public Safety
Thurman	Linda	Yes		UNC Charlotte
Vaughn	Sallie	Yes		Person County
Vose	Christian	V-Yes		Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
Walton-Corbett	Natalie	Yes		Greenville - LGC representative
Williams	Melanie	Yes		NCDEQ - SGUC Chair
Wilson	Eric	Yes		Department of Transportation
Wrenn	Vanessa	No		Department of Public Instruction

V- Virtual attendee

P-Proxy attendee