



## *Geographic Information Coordinating Council Summary of February 18, 2026, Meeting*

### *AI in GIS Workflows*

Keith Watkins, GIS Administrator for the City of Greensboro, presented on his experience using AI tools including ChatGPT, Microsoft 365 Copilot, and Claude, to support GIS workflows over the past year and a half. Key use cases included data pipelines, SQL queries, dashboard development, and automated documentation. Watkins emphasized that AI works best when users bring strong contextual knowledge, treat the tools as collaborators, iterate persistently, and always verify outputs before deployment.

### *Infrastructure Resilience Guide*

Elizabeth Losos of Duke University and Nick Novelli of AECOM presented a newly released smart guide on systems-level infrastructure resilience, developed with the American Society for Civil Engineers (ASCE), Bentley Systems, Microsoft, and Duke University. The guide emphasizes technology-enabled resilience planning for small and mid-size municipalities, with capability layers spanning expanded data foundations, integrated geospatial environments, advanced analytics, and digital twins.

### *Committee Updates*

Committees reported work on member support and training, job classification review for state GIS positions, a new Census Bureau representative on the Federal Interagency Committee, framework GIS dataset updates, and progress on the Accessibility Working Group's initiatives ahead of the April 24, 2026 public application compliance deadline.

### *American Flood Coalition*

Tony McEwen and Dr. Ruth Akintoye presented the Coalition's work on flood resilience policy, including a Western North Carolina Recovery Resilience Partnership representing 25 communities impacted by Hurricane Helene. The Coalition has engaged Congress and the FEMA Review Council on federal disaster reform and outlined a five-component state resilience framework covering leadership, data, strategic planning, funding, and land use standards. Their free Flood Funding Finder tool was highlighted as a resource for smaller communities navigating federal funding.

### *NC Census and BAS Update*

John Quintero of OSBM highlighted the release of the 2020–2024 American Community Survey five-year estimates and the reinstatement of the Local Update of Census Addresses program with a participation window beginning in late 2027. Colleen Kiley shared an update for the Municipal Boundary Working Group, noting that in its first year coordinating the state's Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) submission on behalf of local governments, the group streamlined a process to collect GIS data, and built a public-facing dashboard to help local governments identify and submit missing annexations. Through active outreach since January, the group gathered over 300 GIS annexation files from stakeholders, with only 69 remaining before the March 1, 2026 submission deadline.



GICC Website: Meetings, updates, annual report and committee information