

Infrastructure Working Group
of the NC Geographic Information Coordinating Council

The ***Infrastructure Working Group*** is a committee of the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (the Council). The committee is not a permanent standing committee of the Council, but rather an *ad-hoc* working group that reports to the Technical Advisory Committee and may be dissolved when it completes its assigned tasks.

Purpose

The purpose of the Infrastructure Working Group is to produce a best practices document that outlines infrastructure data that can easily be shared and what data cannot, or should not, be shared. The document will be presented to the Council upon completion. The committee will consider data security, accuracy, and completeness as it relates to data sharing. Committee members will research industry standards, guidance, best practices, and regulations relating to sharing and security of five infrastructure categories: water/sewer, stormwater, electric, gas, and telecommunications. The final document will provide local governments and utilities with resources needed to protect themselves and their data as well as offer options for sharing data in a manner that does not pose a security risk.

Background

Infrastructure spatial data is important to many industries including economic development, emergency response, and transportation planning. In 2019, the Council noted that existing statewide infrastructure data layers produced by the Rural Center were over 20 years old and had no plan of being updated. During three quarterly meetings, the Council reviewed the statutes and guidance relating to infrastructure data, the uses and importance of infrastructure data to data consumers, and surveyed local governments regarding current policies and practices surrounding infrastructure data sharing. Based on Council discussions, the Council determined that additional investigation and documentation would assist both data producers and data consumers in understanding infrastructure policies and best practices. The Technical Advisory Committee was tasked by the Chair of the Council with documenting best practices and infrastructure data security levels.

Approach

The approach of the working group may include the following elements:

- Document commonly produced infrastructure data layers for five infrastructure categories including water/sewer, stormwater, electric, gas, and telecommunications.
- Investigate industry security concerns, regulations, policies, and best practices and document data layers that can and cannot be shared.
- Collect use cases from data producers and data consumers to document the importance of utility data to data consumers and the existing methods of safeguarding utility data including but not limited to data sharing agreements, non-disclosure agreements, internal policies, and data sharing scale, extent, and format.
- Review data layer security and data consumer needs to identify possible layers that could be generalized to limit security concerns while still meeting consumer needs. (Ex. easements, buffers, service areas, etc.). If layers are identified, investigate and document the feasibility of producing these layers.

- Create a best practices document that includes:
 - References to industry standards, guidance, best practices, and statutes
 - Data provider methods and tools for securely sharing data
 - Examples of existing data sharing agreements, policies, and procedures employed by data providers to safeguard data
 - A summary of data layers that cannot be shared and rationale behind limiting access to these layers
 - A summary of data layers that could be shared as is
 - A summary of data layers that could be generalized to remove security concerns

The working group will report findings to the Council.