



# Geographic Data Committee

## Meeting Minutes Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 3:00 pm

Member Agency	Contact	Present
Alterra Technologies	Jim Stevens Matt Kelly	
Brazoria County Engineer's Office	Kevin Sherrodd Eric W. Dyess	
Burditt Consultants, LLC	Paul Howard John Ross	
CenterPoint Energy	Cindi Salas John Chambers	
City of Alvin	Cassandra Langley Doug Ross	
City of Conroe	Les McKay Angela Slayton	
City of Houston, Houston Emergency Center	Ed Loomis	
City of Houston, Planning and Development	Max Samfield Larry Nierth Chris McPhilamy	●
City of Houston, Public Utilities Division	Greg Johnson Anthony Powell	
City of League City	Rick Brezik Andra Caudel	
City of Pasadena	Charles Vaughan Matt Ross	
City of Pearland	Michael Masters	
City of Sugar Land	Mark L. Hochstein Erik Schenck	●
City of Tomball	Ivalu Rose Erin Custer	
City of West University Place	Bart Harms Gary McFarland	
CivilTech Engineering, Inc.	Annie Ding	
Claunch & Miller, Inc.	Doug Wilson Joshua Vickrey	●
CLR, Inc.	Scott Fair Paul Ullman	
Contract Land Staff	Leon Law Kevin Taliaferro	
Cypress Creek Emergency Management Services	Toivo Sari	
Dodson & Associates, Inc.	Mark Starks Michael Henze	
Fort Bend County Engineer's Office	Richard Dela Mater Ronald Drachenberg	●
Galveston Central Appraisal District	David Arnold	



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Greater Fort Bend County EDC	Barkley Peschel	
Greater Harris County 911	Marc Berryman Greg Platek	
Harris County Appraisal District	Jackie Smith Chengyan Wu	
Harris County Emergency Services District 7	Alan D. Lankford Tim Highley	
Harris County Flood Control District	Scott Lamon Michael Walters	●
Harris County Information Technology Center	Roger Forshee Travis Conner	●
Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services	Christina Hailey Dischinger Stefan Nawrocki	
Harris County Public Infrastructure Department Architecture & Engineering Division	Samuel Garcia Andre C. Bally	●
Harris County Tax Office	Bryan Dunaway Ed Johnson	
Harris County Toll Road Authority	Jason C. Cowart Burt Lee	
HNTB Corporation	Jeff Scarborough Heather Standley Ben Grod	
Houston Advanced Research Center	Mustapha Beydoun Will Alvis	● ●
Houston Airport System	Katherine Luu Brandon Williams	
Houston Community College	Richard DeBose	
Houston Fire Department	James Hugo Adrian Trevino	
Houston TranStar	Maria Cristela Vera	●
Houston-Galveston Area Council	Tanya Nguyen Robert LaBarbera	● ●
Klein Volunteer Fire Department	Rich Jones	
Katy Area Economic Development Council	Steven Perry Lance LaCour	
Knudson & Associates	Ben Murphey Amanda Jaloway	
LAN (Lockwood, Andrews & Newnam), Inc.	Derek St. John David Manuel	
LJA Engineering & Surveying	George Culver Brandon Copeland	●



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Magellan Consulting, Inc.	Virginia Appl Sam Wilson	
Mapping Solutions, Inc.	Jeff Schiel Tim York	
Metropolitan Transit Authority of Harris County	John Labio Bryan Carroll	● ●
Michael Baker Jr., Inc.	Vince Hamilton Daniel Bally	
Montgomery & Associates, LLC	Crystal Carreon Dehui Su	● ●
Montgomery County 911	Chiu-Wen Ray Robert M. Gunter	
North Harris College	Peter E. Price Michael Konvicka	●
Pate Engineers, Inc.	Cheli Cellmer Amanda Menard	
PBS & J	Timothy P. Ledet Gray Rackley	●
Port of Houston Authority	Grant Garrison Brian Doolittle	●
R7 Solutions	Bryan Hassin Kraettli Epperson	
Rice University	Eva Garza German Diaz	●
Sam Houston State University Law Enforcement Management Institute of Texas	David William Webb David R. Hoffpaur	
TCB (Turner, Collie & Braden)	Bruce Davidson Lori Lakatos	●
Texas Department of Transportation	Kathy DeBettencourt Cindy Gloyna Jeremy Scott	●
Texas Medical Center	Marilyn A. Robinson Bill Wheeler	●
Texas Southern University	Dr. Qisheng Pan Dr. Lalita Sen	
Texas Water Development Board	Felicia D. Retiz Erik O'Brian	●
University of Houston, Department of Economics	Janet Kohlhase	
Waller County Economic Development Partnership	Vince Yokom	



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Agenda Item	Action/Discussion/Information	Responsibility
Call to Order	Eva Garza called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. and welcomed the new GDC members.	Eva Garza (Rice University)
Review of the October Minutes	The December 5th GDC minutes were adopted as circulated.	Eva Garza (Rice University)
STAR*Map Status Report	<p>Wenge Fu stated that since October 1, there were a total of 14,846 changes. 8,005 new roads were added. 6,841 road segments were spatially modified or their attributes were updated. Austin County and Chambers County have been incorporated into this quarter's STAR*Map.</p> <p>The newest release of the STAR*Map has been uploaded to the H-GAC FTP site. Go to <a href="http://www.h-gac.com">www.h-gac.com</a>, click on the Regional Data &amp; GIS Services, GIS products, STAR*Map. Then click on the right side called "STAR*Map Quarterly Update."</p> <p>Tanya Nguyen commented that the system will prompt for a username and password. Eva Garza asked if the username and password are the same as previously given. Wenge replied no, each organization needs to apply for a new one. Tanya commented that each quarter a new username and password will be given to the STAR*Map subscribers so that they may download the update. H-GAC will send an email notification ahead of time with the login information and notice that a new update is ready for downloading. Eva asked if the shapefile can be kept in one folder. Tanya said yes, can be done in .zip format.</p> <p>Robert LaBarbera commented that in the past, the STAR*Map inside of H-GAC's database included only Fort Bend and Harris County's portion of the STAR*Map. Wenge and Becky Stoneman have been conglomerating all of the rural 9-1-1 centerline networks into the existing Harris County and Fort Bend County network in SDE. Next month both of them will be giving a short presentation on that topic, along with the adoption of the statewide 9-1-1 field attributes that the GDC has adopted.</p> <p>Samuel Garcia asked for the definition of a "subscriber." Robert replied that a subscriber is an organization that has paid for the STAR*Map. Eva asked if the subscription is only for educational institutions. Samuel also asked about the subscriber list, since his organization has two representatives and is it possible to publish a current list of subscribers? Tanya Nguyen stated that she can publish the list online or email it to him.</p>	<p>Wenge Fu (H-GAC)</p> <p>Tanya Nguyen (H-GAC)</p> <p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>



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<p>InfoUSA Business and Household Data Lease Renewal</p>	<p>It is time to renew the InfoUSA database. There are about 1,225,762 residential records for the area that the GDC wants for a cost of about .02 cents a piece (approximately \$30,000.00). There are approximately 195,559 business records for a cost of .06 cents a piece (approximately \$13,000.00). The grand total is around \$43,000.00. In past years, the amount has been in the range of \$38,000-\$45,000.</p> <p>H-GAC needs as much support as possible towards the purchase. Robert asked the GDC, if it is at all possible to up the minimum amount per subscription from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Consensus was that raising the amount would not be possible this year, but Robert asked that the organizations start asking their administration for more support. Mark Hochstein commented that the minimum increased last year, as well. Each entity must buy in, in order to use and receive the data.</p> <p>Tanya Nguyen asked about the deadline for purchasing, and Robert replied April. The number of participants is needed by the next meeting. Mark Hochstein asked about household use. Peter Price said he uses it for park data for Harris County. Mark Hochstein said it would not help Fort Bend County because only Harris County household data is included.</p> <p>Samuel Garcia asked about the accuracy of the data. Robert said H-GAC can provide the data in .dbf format and H-GAC geocodes based on the STAR*Map. Robert showed the InfoUSA data (household and business) on the screen. Detailed columns provided, table format with addresses, size of buildings, latitude and longitude, etc. The data is private and cannot be given to anyone outside your organization. Roger Forshee asked if he could use it for census data. Robert said ok as long as it's not giving to private organizations.</p> <p>Samuel Garcia asked if Mark Hochstein uses the latitude and longitude given by InfoUSA to geocode. Mark said he does not use it, just uses addresses along centerline.</p> <p>Eva asked how much time H-GAC spends on the geocoding process. Robert said H-GAC uses the latitude and longitude, and H-GAC can do the geocoding and provide it to the organizations or just give the raw data and each organization can geocode how it wants.</p> <p>Mustapha Beydoun asked about buying only business data to save money. Grant Garrison replied that the deal has always been contingent on buying together. Roger Forshee commented that the cost is more if buy separate.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
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<p>GIS Training 2008</p>	<p>The ArcGIS Server Enterprise (SDE) Tuning for SQL Server class (2 days) has been scheduled by H-GAC for March 10, 2008. Then on March 12, 2008, H-GAC has scheduled the Data Management in the Multi-user Geodatabase class (3 days). The cost for each person for both classes is around \$1,800.00. Classes will be offered to the internal H-GAC first, then at the February meeting will open up to the GDC. Need to contact Data Service's administrative assistant to set up a purchase order for the classes.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
<p>Other Issues</p>		
<p>Aerial Flight Plans</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera discussed several maps illustrating the flight line status and proposed flight plans from Sanborn Mapping. Flight lines are arranged in an A, B, and C Block. Sanborn has not started on Block A. Block B is about 75 percent done. Block C is about 75 percent done, as well. About 30-40 percent complete on the 6" pixel area. Sanborn has 4 total base stations and plans to have 60 panels on the ground for the flight lines for B and C.</p> <p>Sanborn is not acquiring the imagery during cloud cover. The flight line is programmed into the computer onboard the plane and imagery is acquired only when at precise height and flight line. Robert has talked directly to Sanborn and has viewed the plane. On a good day, Sanborn flies for approximately 4 hours and can acquire roughly 700 images in that period of time, 50 photos per flight line. Sanborn should be done with the acquisition by the end of June. Mark Hochstein asked if the GDC can go see the plane. Robert said yes, on cloudy days. Jeremy Scott asked whether Sanborn is meeting their deadline, and Robert said he could not say, but that Sanborn has all of their deadlines setup.</p> <p>Sanborn is doubling up on flight lines downtown because of the tall buildings in that area. They are flying the 3" with the same plane and will be acquiring that, as well, but most likely last because of the need to fly low. Due to such high volume of air traffic in the area, plane must fly 1' at 10,000 ft instead of 9,500 ft and for the 6" fly at 5,000 ft, instead of 4,500 ft. Eva Garza asked about the delivery of the data and Sanborn providing updates. Robert said they will provide metadata. H-GAC will have a kickoff meeting on the 16th of January with Sanborn to see what they are doing. Though no precise deadline yet, Sanborn has to provide all deliverables by July 14th under the contract.</p> <p>Jeremy Scott asked if the Aerial TAC meeting would be delayed until after the kickoff meeting. Robert said he has asked Sanborn to provide 3 separate color .tiff's so the GDC can look at 3 different plots and can agree upon</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>



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	<p>which type of color filter is to be used for the entire region.</p> <p>Mustapha asked what the status is with the Oblique and LiDAR. Robert said the contract is signed for LiDAR and Merrick is starting to mobilize in to this area. H-GAC is still in a holding pattern on the Oblique Imagery, due to waiting on 4 letters of intent and 4 interlocal agreements. H-GAC has until the middle of this month to determine if the Oblique Imagery is going to go forward. Eva asked if letters have not been returned or if entities are backing out. Robert said some entities have backed out, but things are also hard because of the financial ramifications that require interlocal agreements. Robert will keep the entities updated.</p>	
<p>City of Houston website</p>	<p>Eva Garza asked Chris McPhilamy to review the website where agencies can go to download data. Tanya Nguyen and Robert LaBarbera brought it up on the screen. The link is always in the same spot and the release will simply evolve. All of COHGIS is on the website. Grant Garrison asked when next release is expected. Chris indicated that the City of Houston does not have a schedule for the releases yet because they are working on an enterprise agreement, but probably sometime late next year since the City is also taking over the addressing.</p>	<p>Eva Garza (Rice University)</p> <p>Chris McPhilamy (City of Houston, Planning &amp; Development)</p>
<p>New H-GAC Website</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera showed the new H-GAC website and displaying of information. The dynamic calendar on the first page is linked with the H-GAC outlook calendar. On the GIS page, he wants to build a data warehouse in SDE. He showed different projects outlined on the page and the map of STAR*Map coverage area. Data Services will soon have a form that allows for the purchase of aerial imagery. He showed the GIS training page with payment explanation. Tanya Nguyen said the credit card payment link should be available next week. STAR*Map page will be updated and Wenge Fu will do so quarterly, when a new update is available.</p> <p>Eva Garza asked for a dedicated URL just for the GDC. Tanya Nguyen said she would work on that. (The new address created was <a href="http://www.h-gac.com/gdc">http://www.h-gac.com/gdc</a>)</p> <p>Tanya Nguyen commented that she plans to add a section for aerial status updates including a private blog and asked for feedback on the site. She will ask Sanborn to set up a website.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>



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<p>Geospatial Information Systems for Transportation Symposium</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera announced that the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials are having their 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Geospatial Information Systems for Transportation Symposium here in Houston from March 17 through 19<sup>th</sup> at the Westin Galleria and Westin Oaks hotel. Open to anyone who is interested in GIS. Fee to attend, .pdf on their website to apply.</p> <p>Jeremy Scott said that TxDOT is also hosting the event. Felicia Retiz said more related to transportation than other areas of GIS.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
<p>METRO Survey</p>	<p>METRO has asked if they could provide a survey to the GDC. Brian Carroll indicated that METRO is in the process of upgrading their GIS data structure from shapefiles to enterprise GIS. METRO would like to know who is using what different data structures and how big are their data sets. The survey was emailed to the distribution list. METRO will compile all of the answers and will publish the results to the GDC.</p>	<p>Brian Carroll (METRO)</p>
<p>Financial Status of the GDC</p>	<p>Eva Garza asked Tanya Nguyen to provide a report to the GDC in one of the next few meetings on the financial status of the GDC.</p>	<p>Eva Garza (Rice University)</p>
<p>GDC Minutes</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera asked if the minutes could simply be saved as a sound file instead of having the minutes transcribed. GDC indicated no, prefer the paper.</p>	<p>Robert LaBarbera (H-GAC)</p>
<p>TNRIS</p>	<p>Felicia Retiz with TNRIS explained the data acquisition for all of the state. They are working with federal and state agencies on a 7 million project to acquire ½ meter resolution imagery for the entire state. For the proposed area it will be leaf-off and will most likely acquire in 2009. TNRIS can provide LiDAR data for the coast and has no further plans to acquire anymore LiDAR data. They have a project planned with the USGS and the Forest Agency for East Texas. <a href="http://www.tnris.org">www.tnris.org</a></p> <p>The accuracy used for the ½ meter resolution imagery will be absolute control and probably centimeter accuracy.</p> <p>The cost to the GDC for the 2009 imagery will be free.</p>	<p>Felicia Retiz (Texas Natural Resources Information System)</p>

Adjournment  
Upcoming Meeting

**Meeting adjourned at 4:11 p.m.**  
**Wednesday, February 6, 2008 at 9:30 a.m.**



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<b>GDC Guests</b>	<b>Contact</b>
City of Houston	Kirt Arthur
City of Missouri City	Sharon Heisler
Fort Bend County Appraisal District	Juling Bao
Geodynamic Solutions, Inc.	Jason Wagner Bob Amos
Grounds Anderson, LLC	Brandon Grimm
Harris County Precinct 1	Chavonne Slovak
Harris County Public Health and Environmental Services	Nate McConnell
LJA Engineering & Surveying	Marcia Yim
University of Houston	Janet Kohlhase
U.S. Geological Survey	Claire DeVaughan