GDW Meeting Summary for February 3, 2021

2021 TMGIS GIS Training from H-GAC: To kick off the GIS training schedule for the new year, the staff at TeachMeGIS (TMGIS) and H-GAC have posted four discounted classes for the month of February specific to NextGen 911 and Python to the [H-GAC GIS Training website](). The classes and dates are listed below:

- Python Primer for ArcGIS
  - Dates: February 9
- Python for ArcGIS- Writing Scripts to Manipulate GIS Data
  - Dates: February 10-12
- Fundamentals of ArcGIS for NextGen 911
  - Dates: February 15-16
- Intermediate GIS Concepts for NextGen 911
  - Dates: February 17-19

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all of the GIS trainings offered by H-GAC will be virtual instructor-led trainings by TMGIS staff until further notice or a trainee requests to take the class in-person at a TMGIS facility. Again, these classes come at a discount for all registered and active GDW and H-GAC members and H-GAC employees once verified by TMGIS staff. TMGIS and H-GAC will meet later this month to assemble and post additional classes to the training schedule for the remainder of the year. To see the February class details or to register for one, please head to the [H-GAC GIS Training website]().

2021 Houston Area GIS Day/GIS Expo Event: To encourage the health and safety of our region, H-GAC has officially delayed the 2021 Houston Regional GIS Expo to Fall 2021. After the results of an online pool taken by the volunteer leads for the GIS Expo and GIS Day events, it was determined that the GIS Expo will run in conjunction with the GIS Day event and will be hosted on the same day this fall assuming in-person events are allowed at that time. The plan for now is to host the GIS Day in the morning hours for students, and then host the GIS Expo in the afternoon hours for professionals. Once again, this will be the plan if it makes logistical sense and we are once again allowed to host in-person events. If we are not allowed to gather still, the volunteer leads for both events will contribute content and material to another virtual, state-wide

Tx GIS Day. More information for both the [GIS Day](#) and [GIS Expo](#) events will be published to their websites later on this year.

2021 Data Axle (formerly Infogroup) Cost-Share: H-GAC reminded the GDW that the sign-up portal for the 2021 cost-share program to obtain the 2021 Data Axle (formerly Infogroup) business and residential databases is open and taking registrations until the close of business on February 15th. The process to receive the licensed databases starts with registering to participate via the [cost-share portal](#) on the H-GAC GDW website. Once registered, the cost of the final data is split among all registered participants where the participants receive both databases in a few different GIS formats as well as SAS and DBF tables for the 13 H-GAC county region in May 2021. To date, there are only six registrants with less than two weeks to register for the program. For more information, visit the portal linked above or contact [Brooks Andrews](#) with H-GAC.

Guest Presentation – Eco-Logical Interactive Mapping Tool from H-GAC: Ayo Jibowu with the H-GAC Transportation Department gave a detailed presentation and demonstration of the Eco-Logical Interactive Mapping Tool from H-GAC. Ayo explained to the group that the tool is used to help make transportation infrastructure planning more sensitive towards preserving wildlife and protecting ecosystems within the H-GAC region. Ayo then displayed and demoed some of the more advanced techniques of the tool which incudes uploading your own custom geography to the tool for a tailored analysis for your area of interest. For more information on H-GAC's Eco-Logical Interactive Mapping Tool or to use the tool yourself, please visit the [Eco-Logical homepage](#) on the H-GAC website.

Announcements/Other Items:

- o Esri is hosting quite a few upcoming virtual events and conferences over the next few months. All of these events and conferences are open to the general public to attend and are listed below:
    - The [2021 Esri Geodesign Summit](#) is hosted virtually from February 9-10
    - The 2021 [Esri Federal GIS Conference](#) is hosted virtually from February 22-24
    - The [2021 Esri Developer's Summit](#) is hosted virtually from March 9-11

- The new Esri Cartography MOOC has started up this month with multiple offerings in February and March
- H-GAC reminded the GDW of a few individuals currently seeking geospatial intern and/or employment positions within the region. They are Liel Mendoza and Brian Baker and their resumes and contact information was emailed to the GDW on January 7th. Should you need their resumes and contact information again, please email DSGIS@h-gac.com
- The City of Houston-Public Works Department currently has 6 open geospatial positions available: 2 GIS Analyst positions, 2 GIS Sr. Tech positions, and 2 GIS Tech positions. To lean more or to apply, please visit the COH Careers website.
- H-GAC has launched an updated version of its GIS Data Downloads page, now called the H-GAC Regional Data Hub. Here you can discover free public GIS data downloads, online GIS services and tools, and other GIS specific resources from H-GAC.