

Public Access to Infrastructure Data: Discussion

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Goals for Today

- Here reactions to content shared on May 8
- Learn more about needs
- Consider risk versus benefit question
- Prepare for defining use cases



Local Government Infrastructure Data Managers

- Most do not provide public access to geospatial data representing water, sewer, or electricity facilities
- Even GIS coordinators have access constraints to infrastructure data from their own jurisdictions
- Written policies are rare
- Formal data sharing agreements are not common
- Perceived risk to the public versus value in easy access for users



Private Companies and Data Access

- Private companies involved in state emergency operations may share data for restricted access to assist in emergency response
- Gathering information on policies for distribution of geospatial data for facilities



Statutes, Directives, and Case Law

- GS – Role of CGIA: CGIA shall manage and distribute digital geographic information ...
- GS – Sensitive Public Security Information: “detailed plans and drawings of public buildings and infrastructure facilities or plans, schedules, or other documents”
- GS – Public Records: qualified exception for GIS
- US – Homeland Security Act, Presidential Directive: “critical infrastructure protection”
NC Case Law – geographic information may be used as evidence, but no clear definition of geographic information or terms



Next Step

- Jessica Middlebrooks, DIT Legal Counsel for the GICC, encouraged Council members to think through the state statutes concerning data access and data restriction, keeping in mind the authorization to continue to manage and distribute geographic information under the mandated roles of the Council and CGIA.



Some Questions for Discussion

- What business needs require access to infrastructure data?
- Which data layers are needed and why?
- What is the impact of not having the data available?
- Do we need full public access to the data or can it be limited and still meet the need?

