

CHARTER

Working Group for Census Geospatial Data

The **Working Group for Census Geospatial Data** is an ad-hoc committee of the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council (GICC). The Working Group exists to advance the goals and objectives of the Council where census data are concerned. The Council has the authority to dissolve the Working Group once assigned tasks are completed.

Background

Geography is central to the work of the US Census Bureau, providing the framework for survey design, sample selection, data collection, tabulation, and dissemination. Geography provides meaning and context to statistical data. Reliable geospatial datasets support a complete and accurate decennial Census that is invaluable to the State of North Carolina for voting districts, distribution of federal funds to the state and its jurisdictions, and countless public and private business needs.

Governance of geospatial information and technology by the GICC provides a framework for collaborative public development and maintenance of geospatial data for public and private business needs. The decennial Census is one of many business processes that benefit from complete, consistent, current, reliable, discoverable, accessible geospatial data.

State and local geospatial data most valuable in preparation for the decennial Census may be described as three primary types:

1. County and municipal boundaries
2. Addresses (points representing residences for demographics and commercial locations for economics)
3. Sub-county areas (including Census Tracts, Blocks and Block Groups) for demographics and voting districts

The US Census Bureau applies multiple processes that involve state and local governments in preparation for a decennial census. The main processes that rely on local and state geospatial data are the following:

1. Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS), including county and municipal boundaries
2. Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA), including address points
3. Participant Statistical Areas Program (PSAP), including Tracts and Blocks

The BAS is typically an annual process (delayed in 2013 for federal budget reasons). The primary contact for North Carolina is the Office of the Secretary of State, Land Records Management Program. North Carolina custodians of geospatial data relating to county and municipal boundaries are NC Geodetic Survey in the Department of Public Safety (county) and NC DOT (municipal in conjunction the Powell Bill program).

CGIA is participating in the Census Bureau's Geographic Support System Initiative (GSS) with an emphasis on verifying North Carolina addresses before the Bureau conducts targeted

canvassing to verify addresses in its Master Address File (confidential data under Title 13). The LUCA program will occur in 2018-2019 with updates as late as practical to get address datasets as complete as possible for the 2020 Census.

The Participant Statistical Areas Program will be most active during 2018-2019. This program includes opportunities for local governments to review Census Tract and Block boundaries and request changes that make the geographies more useful for local planning and government operations.

To assure proper preparation and complete population counts in Census 2020, the State of North Carolina will benefit by starting a process in 2013 to engage stakeholders and determine the most efficient, effective, and beneficial ways to participate in the three main Census processes that support the three primary types of Census geospatial data.

Datasets that serve the purposes of Census 2020 also have value for state and local government business processes relating to transportation, emergency management, land planning, economic development, environmental analysis, public health, and many other public purposes. The State of North Carolina and local governments will extend the benefits of collaborative data development and maintenance by sharing up-to-date, complete and consistent statewide geospatial datasets with the Census Bureau, including, as appropriate, roads, surface waters, addresses, jurisdictional boundaries, property boundaries, and other features.

Purpose of the Working Group

The purpose of the Working Group for Census Geospatial Data is to ensure that collaborative efforts to develop statewide datasets in North Carolina accommodate timely data sharing with the Census Bureau. The goal, where possible, is to provide consolidated statewide datasets derived from the best available data that are complete, consistent, current, well documented, reliable, and trustworthy.

Topics and Tasks

The Working Group for Census Geospatial Data will engage representatives of working groups of the Statewide Mapping Advisory Committee and other stakeholders to develop plans for providing up-to-date data to the Census Bureau in support of the 2020 Census and Census surveys. The focus will be on providing consolidated statewide datasets, where possible, for the following geospatial data. The Working Group may form sub-groups to focus on data types and engage subject matter experts. Tasks will be organized around five main topics:

- Jurisdictional Boundaries. The Working Group for Census Geospatial Data will collaborate with the Department of the Secretary of State, the NC Department of Transportation, the NC Geodetic Survey, and other stakeholders on a plan to provide municipal boundaries and other jurisdictional boundaries to the Census Bureau.
- Addresses. The Working Group for Census Geospatial Data will collaborate with the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) and other stakeholders on a plan to provide address points to the Census Bureau. CGIA is managing two projects – 1) to

develop a business case for Master Address Database Maintenance in North Carolina and 2) to update the NC Master Address Database.

- Sub-county areas. The Working Group, in collaboration with the NC State Board of Elections and other stakeholders, will determine the best ways to support local governments in reviewing Census Tract and Block boundaries to participate effectively in the Participant Statistical Areas Program.
- Roads. The Working Group will collaborate with the Working Group for Roads and Transportation on a plan to provide roads data to the Census Bureau. The Working Group for Roads and Transportation is charged with exploring and developing guidelines, procedures, tools and standards for creating statewide transportation datasets and to facilitate the sharing of transportation data.
- Surface Waters. The Working Group for Census Geospatial Data will collaborate with the Stream Mapping Advisory Committee on a plan to provide surface waters data to the Census Bureau. The Stream Mapping Advisory Committee is charged with developing and implementing a coordinated approach to mapping surface waters and watersheds across the State of North Carolina.

The Working Group may consider other geospatial data of interest to the Census Bureau and will work with stakeholders to develop plans for providing the data. The Working Group may identify sources of funding to support collaboration with the Census Bureau.

Reporting

The Working Group will report regularly to the GICC's Management & Operations Committee.

Appointment of the Chair

The Chair of the GICC will appoint North Carolina's Census Liaison in the Office of State Budget and Management, State Data Center, to serve as Chair of the Working Group.

Committee Membership

The Working Group for Census Geospatial Data may include appointments from the agencies/entities listed below. The Chair of the Working Group may add additional members.

- NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
- NC Department of Health and Human Services
- NC Department of Public Safety
- NC Department of Revenue
- NC Department of the Secretary of State
- NC Department of Transportation
- State Board of Elections
- US Census Bureau
- Local Government Committee of the GICC
- State Government GIS Users Committee of the GICC
- Federal Interagency Committee of the GICC

- Working Group for Roads and Transportation
- Stream Mapping Advisory Committee
- Center for Geographic Information & Analysis
- NC 911 Board
- NC Chapter of the National Emergency Numbering Association
- NC Chapter of the American Planning Association
- NC Property Mappers Association

Approved by the Management & Operations Committee of the GICC, August 19, 2013