

**Minutes**

**Thursday August 29, 2013 - 10:00am to 11:45am**

**DRCOG~1290 Broadway~Denver 80203**

**1st floor Independence Pass Conference Room (West Side**)

Parking recommendations [here](http://www.drcog.org/documents/2010%20DRCOG%20Parking%20Map%20Final.pdf)

**Meeting Objective:**

Promoting collaboration and information sharing among GIS professionals in the region by featuring presentations and discussions led by members of the Data Consortium.

* **Attendees:**
  1. Christine Connally DRCOG
  2. Ashley Summers DRCOG
  3. Jenny Todd DRCOG
  4. Andrea Santoro Denver- CPD
  5. Todd Bleess DRCOG
  6. Doug Genzer Denver - TS
  7. Joe Lovell Denver Parks and Rec
  8. Trent Casi RGS/i-cubed
  9. Robert Stansauk Denver Water
  10. Benjamin Sloboda RTD
  11. Dave Murray Westminster
  12. Dan Jackson RTD
  13. Nick Mesenbrink CDOT
  14. Robb Menzies Denver Public Schools
  15. Matthew Baker Denver Public Schools
  16. Gabby Voeller DRCOG
  17. Kirk Hayer Commerce City
  18. Michael King CDOT
  19. Kathleen Collins CDOT
  20. Cindy Kamigaki Frederick
  21. Derek Stertz Centennial
  22. Joe Gierlach Nederland
  23. Lex Ivey Nederland
* **Presentation: Denver's TOD Walkshed Analysis**

Presented by Andrea Santoro, Senior GIS Analyst, City and County of Denver Community Planning and Development

Denver has traditionally used "as the crow flies" 1/2 mile buffers around TOD stations to estimate walksheds. Andrea discussed a new approach that accounts for street networks. Her analysis indicates that the previous 1/2 mile buffer method does not accurately characterize walkability. Her innovative methodology suggests a way to model scenarios of infrastructure change that affect connectivity and access to stations.

Q&A

* Did you account for slope?
* No, but Denver is relatively flat.
* Did you account for sidewalk networks?
* This project didn't address sidewalk connectivity; it was based on walkable streets. The analysis also didn't take into account ADA compliance.
* Does this analysis model where stations will be built?
* No, but it is useful for existing stations because it provides a way to see how small changes in connectivity can increase station access.
* What determines the location of FasTracks stations?
* Not GIS
* What are the next steps with this project?
* Further analysis on the new stations in the east corridor build-out.
* Does the analysis include demographics?
* No, but the City and County of Denver is doing analysis on who is being served by transit.
* Are there any plans for making a city-wide walking layer?
* Not currently. This project was only for the station areas.
* **Presentation: Implementing Versioned Editing in SDE**

Presented by Jenny Todd, GIS Specialist, Denver Regional Council of Governments

Early this year, DRCOG implemented versioned editing for their built environment database. Jenny, the lead on this project, shares her workflow, useful tools, best practices, and lessons learned.

Q&A

* Do you ever use disconnected editing?
* No, DRCOG hasn't had a need for that yet.
* How did you deal with parcel conflicts?
* We instructed our editors to work together to resolve geometry and attribution conflicts before the posted/reconciled their edits. Conflict resolution was usually done on the editor side, not the administrator or QC side.
* **Discussion: The Colorado Open Records Act and Data Sharing in our Region**

Lead by Dave Murray, GIS Coordinator, City of Westminster

Dave provides insight into the data sharing issue in our region by highlighting Westminster's struggle to attain data from Jefferson County at no cost. He also presents several insights from CORA and discusses next steps.

Discussion Summary:

During this discussion, other jurisdictions that charge for data were named. One attendee commented that data should be free amongst public entities but private companies should still be charged. Another felt that data should be free and open to the public. Suggestions for action included going to the DRCOG Board with a resolution, sending a letter or series of letters (from different agencies) to the jurisdiction formally requesting data at no cost, and starting an online petition to engage citizens in this discussion (their taxpayer money is used by one jurisdiction to buy data from others). The discussion closed with a statement that it's necessary to rely on the legal basis of the data sharing argument as this initiative moves forward. Dave is currently working with his legal department and management team to draft a letter. He would like other jurisdictions, agencies, and organizations to sign on in support when the time comes. Joe Gierlach, the Mayor of Nederland, DRCOG Board Member and a GIS enthusiast, volunteered to sign.

* **Discussion:** **Strategies for "Marketing" GIS - Group Discussion**

Lead byDerek Stertz, Sr. GIS Analyst, City of Centennial

Derek presented some basic principles of marketing to illustrate how our GIS community is failing when communicating our value and our needs to board members and elected officials. He discussed the need for us to present our message with less detail and more focus on the monetary impacts. He also suggested we have a marketing committee or a professional PR firm help us convey our message.

Discussion Summary:

There was discussion on what our "product" is that we are marketing. While data is our most frequent topic of conversation, it was discussed that the data is only a means to an end, and the "end"- a new park, a fixed road, a new station - is our product. Essentially, the "product" we are marketing is the decision that we support with our data and spatial analysis. The group further discussed the need to identify what we do with the data to get more buy-in for sharing data freely. Our audience often doesn't know what questions to ask, so we should help them figure out what's possible. We have to show them what we can do!

It was pointed out that DRCOG has recently started publishing a quarterly Data Consortium newsletter that is vetted through the DRCOG Communications and Marketing Team. This newsletter contains brief articles on what's happening in the geospatial community and is an opportunity for increased visibility into our community's challenges and successes.

**Next Newsletter Issue: October 15, 2014**

(Submit articles and ideas to Ashley at asummers@drcog.org by September 15th)

**Next Meeting: February 27, 2014**