DENVER REGIONAL AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY PROJECT 2018

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Regional Planning and Development
DENVER REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Description

Every two years, the Denver Regional Council of Governments facilitates the acquisition of high-resolution aerial imagery for the region. Since 2002, this project has been providing a common base map for DRAPP members and partners to use for mapping, planning and analysis.

The 2018 project encompassed approximately 6,000 square miles and included 3-inch, 6-inch and 12-inch imagery.

DRCOG's level of participation keeps participant costs low, providing valuable data at a fraction of the cost. Program costs include imagery acquisition, post-processing, custom order delivery and DRCOG project management.

Survey results

	Very good	Good	Fair	Poor
Overall experience	81%	14%	5%	
Communication	90%	10%		
Quality	76%	24%		
Timing of deliverables	43%	48%		9%
DRCOG's performance	95%	5%		
Sanborn's performance	76%	24%		
Harris' performance	35%	50%	15%	

By the numbers

Value of data provided to members	$777,000
Average cost paid by DRCOG members	$12,000
Total number of partners	46
Number of participating member counties	7
Number of participating member cities/towns	30
Number of regional partners	9
Amount of 3-inch imagery acquired	1,321 square miles
Amount of 6-inch imagery acquired	1,389 square miles
Amount of 12-inch imagery acquired	3,319 square miles

What's new in 2018?

During the 2018 project, DRCOG responded to a partner need for higher resolution imagery by increasing 3-inch coverage by 55 percent from the previous project. The high-resolution imagery allows for more visual analysis of assets, including accurate identification, measuring and evaluating condition. To offset the cost of acquiring more high-resolution data, DRCOG and project partners performed quality control activities instead of hiring a vendor.

To respond to its partners' need for more frequently delivered imagery, DRCOG worked with the acquisition vendor to deliver interim imagery through a web map service immediately following the flights in March and then followed it with a color-balanced version in May. These services were of higher quality and timelier than in past projects. Additionally, DRCOG negotiated and paid for a Nearmap trial service for all project partners to determine whether it would be a suitable supplemental data source.
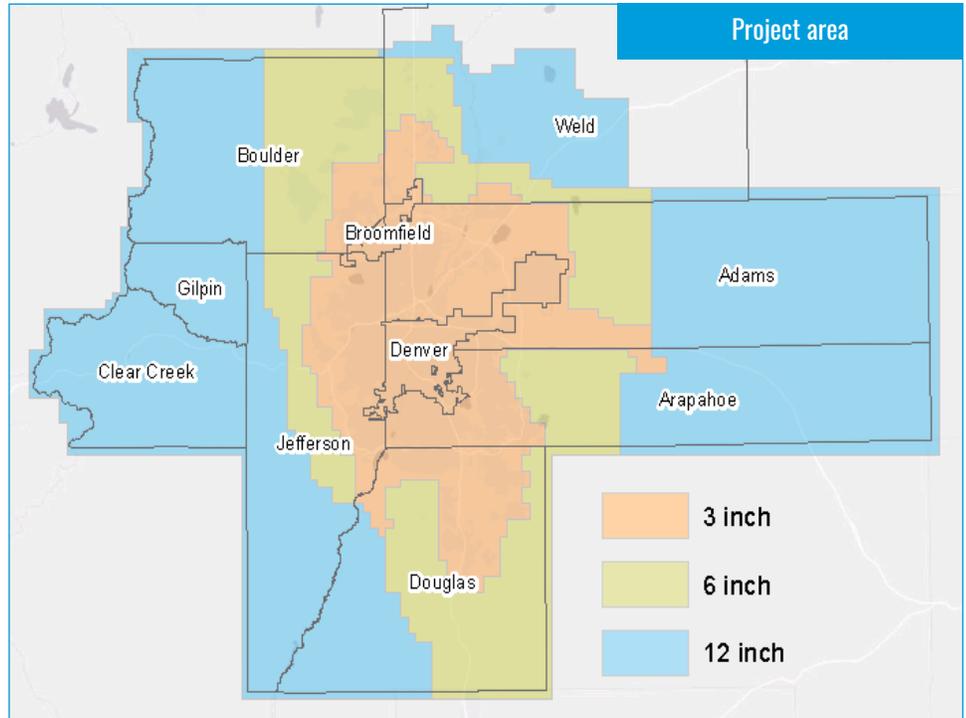
Finally, DRCOG made several operational improvements, including improving communication with Denver International Airport to ensure flight request approvals and adjusting the spring and summer flight windows to take advantage of optimal flying conditions.

Vendors

Imagery was acquired, processed and delivered by the Sanborn Map Company. Web map services were provided by Harris Corporation.

Accessing data

Current DRAPP imagery is available for purchase from Harris MapMart Inc. and Sanborn Map Company Inc. Historical imagery is available for free download from the Colorado Governor's Office of Information Technology's FTP site. Supporting files including metadata, tile indices and flight date/time information can be download from DRCOG's Regional Data Catalog.

Project area

- 3 inch
- 6 inch
- 12 inch

Funding partners

- Colorado Department of Transportation
- Regional Transportation District
- Denver Water
- Adams County
- City and County of Broomfield
- Clear Creek County
- City and County of Denver
- Douglas County
- Gilpin County
- Jefferson County
- City of Arvada
- City of Aurora
- Bennett

- City of Brighton
- City of Castle Pines
- Castle Rock
- City of Centennial
- City of Cherry Hills Village
- City of Commerce City
- City of Englewood
- Erie
- City of Federal Heights
- Firestone
- Frederick
- City of Glendale
- City of Golden

- City of Greenwood Village
- City of Lafayette
- City of Lakewood
- City of Littleton
- City of Lone Tree
- City of Longmont
- City of Louisville
- Nederland
- Northglenn
- Parker
- Superior
- City of Thornton
- City of Westminster

- City of Wheat Ridge
- Arapahoe County Water and Wastewater Authority
- United Power
- Metro Wastewater
- South Suburban Parks and Recreation
- North Table Mountain Water
- Aurora Public Schools
- South Metro Fire Rescue
- E-470 Public Highway Authority
- Centennial Water and Sanitation District

More information

Visit our website for meeting materials and links to historical imagery tiles. Geographic information system files showing project and tile boundaries can be accessed from the Regional Data Catalog.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Ashley Summers, DRCOG information systems manager
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