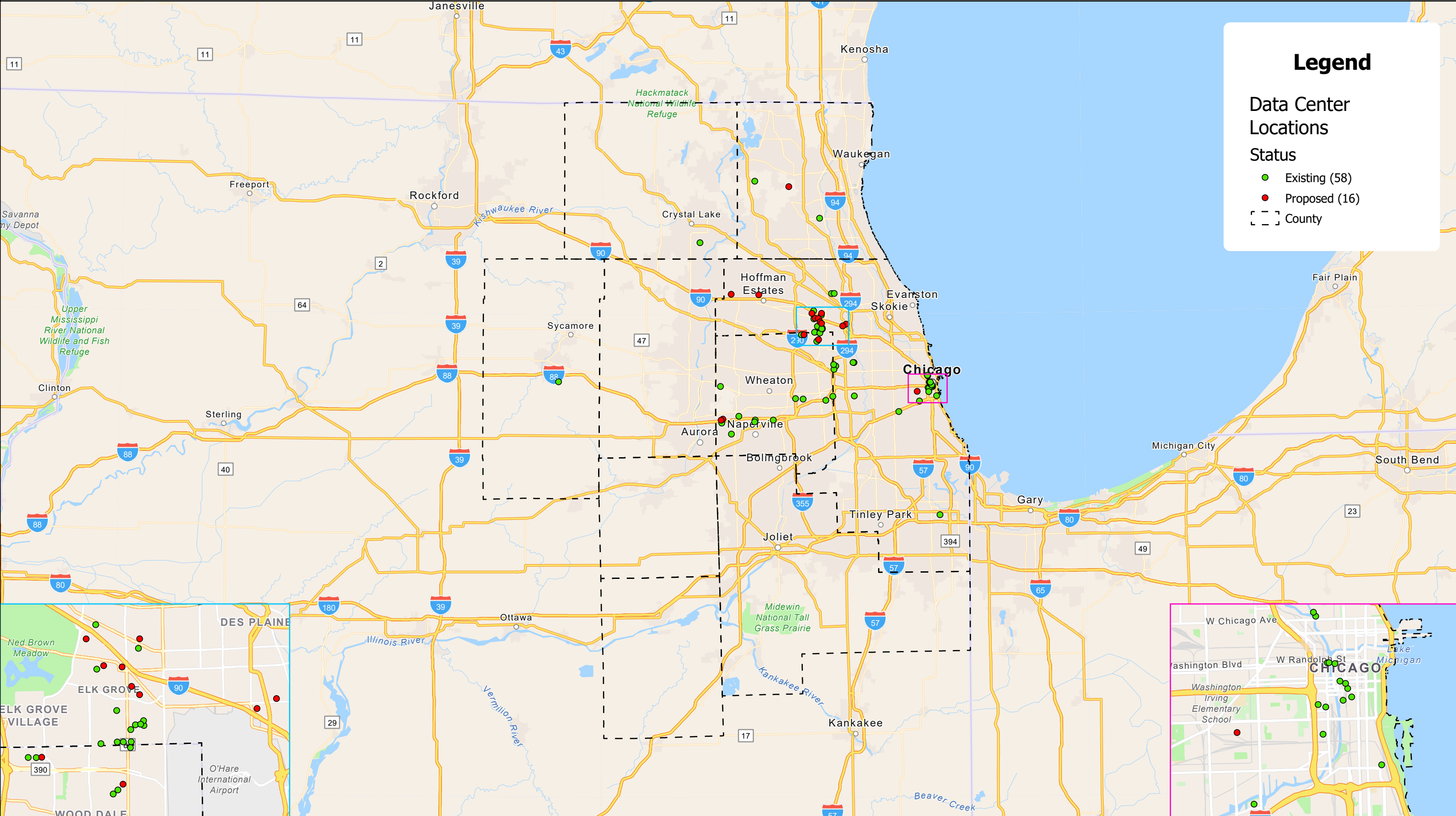# Northeastern Illinois Data Center Hotspots
How are Data Center Hotspots Best Communicated?
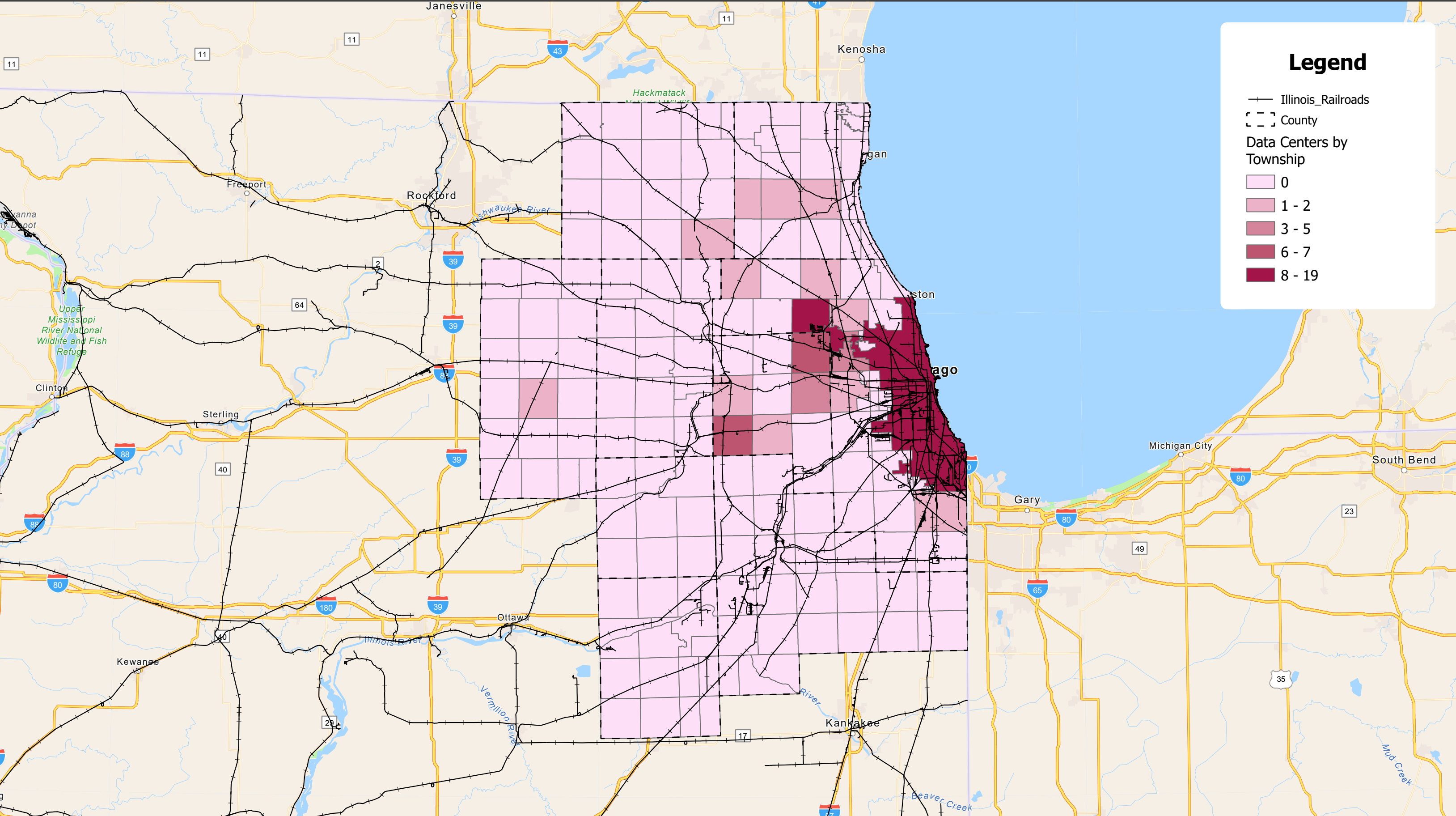By: Sam Curley and Kelly McFadden
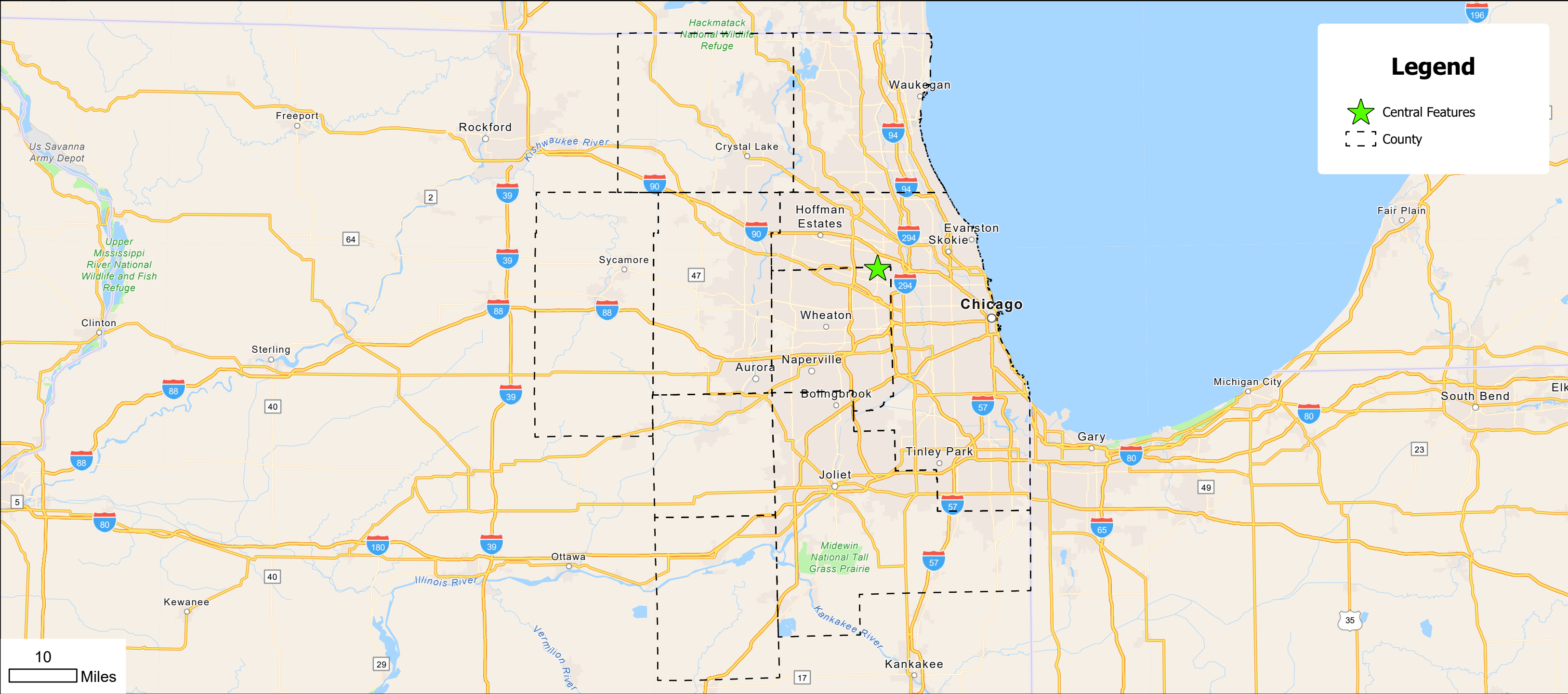
N

Data Center Locations

Legend

Data Center Locations

Status
- ● Existing (58)
- ● Proposed (16)
- County

Data Centers as the Base Layer

Legend

Illinois_Railroads
County

Data Centers by Township
- 0
- 1 - 2
- 3 - 5
- 6 - 7
- 8 - 19

Central Feature

Legend

★ Central Features
County

10 Miles

Summary

Purpose Statement
Illinois has attracted data center development since the state passed 2019 landmark data center tax incentives. The state currently holds 58 data centers and has plans to add at least 16 more (Data Center Map, DataCenters.com; Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity). All planned and existing data centers stand in northeastern Illinois. The purpose of this poster is to display the spatial distribution of Illinois data center developments using three different methods. We invite our colleagues to comment on how well the maps communicate data center spatial distribution.

Methods
We display Illinois's data center developments by 1. Mapping data center developments, 2. Summing data centers per area, and 3. showcasing the central feature. We determined data center development locations from Data Center Map and DataCenters.com website listings. The following describes the method used for each map.

Method 1: Geocoded Data Center Locations
The first map displays geocoded data center developments. We manually mapped data center developments listed on the Data Center Map and DataCenters.com websites. The map shows both existing and proposed data center developments.

Method 2: Sum of Data Centers per Area
The second map shows data centers as sum per area. This method gives a more generalized view of where the data centers are and highlights the trend of where the majority are located. This map would be ideal for overlaying other data in order to see how two features compare.

Method 3: Central Data Center Development
The third map showcases the most centrally located data center development. We determined the output using ArcGIS Pro's Central Feature geoprocessing tool. Results indicated that the most centrally located data center development stands in Elk Grove Village on the border of Cook and DuPage Counties.

Discussion
Let us know what you think!

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