

LAW AND THE GEOWEB WORKSHOP



Association of American Geographers Annual Meeting

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The context of local agency GIS operations

- ☐ **Likely 1,000 county GIS operations in the U.S. (potential of 3,000 plus)**
- ☐ **Likely 2,500 – 5,000 municipal GIS operations in the U.S (potential of 25,000)**
- ☐ **Hundreds of regional agency GIS operations**
- ☐ **Thousands of utility district GIS operations**
- ☐ **NONE OF THESE GIS OPERATIONS HAVE ENOUGH MONEY**
- ☐ **ALL OF THESE GIS OPERATIONS ARE LIKELY FACING BUDGET LIMITATIONS**

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The context of local agency GIS operations

- ☐ **GIS data development and maintenance to meet local agency business needs is complex, expensive, and provides no direct benefit in and of itself**
- ☐ **GIS business applications data needs provide the ROI and drive data development and maintenance**

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King County GIS

- ❑ 475 maintained data layers
- ❑ 1,200 data layers obtained from other regional agencies via GIS Data sharing program
- ❑ Other than imagery, there is little viable market provided GIS data that meets our municipal business needs

The screenshot shows the King County GIS data portal. The header is dark blue with the King County logo and tagline 'Always at your service' on the left, and navigation links (HOME, NEWS, SERVICES, DIRECTORY, CONTACT) and a search bar on the right. Below the header, the main content area is divided into three columns. The left column is a blue sidebar with a 'Services' menu listing various departments like Business, Courts, and Health, and an 'Essentials' section with links like 'About King County' and 'Customer service'. The middle column features a large graphic titled 'KCGIS DATA PORTAL' showing a map with a 3D paper airplane flying over it, with the King County GIS Center logo and website URL below. The right column is titled 'King County GIS data to go!' and contains text about the availability of map data for download in various formats, along with social media icons under a 'Connect' heading. At the bottom, there are sections for 'News' (listing recent events like 'Passport Day' and 'Bellevue sewer meeting'), 'County Executive' (Dow Constantine) with a photo and links to his web site, biography, and staff, and 'Transit and traffic' (listing links like 'Trip Planner' and 'Bus tracker by location').

King County
Always at your service

| HOME | NEWS | SERVICES | DIRECTORY | CONTACT | Search

King County, Washington

Services

- Business
- Courts, code & law
- Electronics
- Environment
- Health
- Operations
- Property
- Records and certificates
- Recreation, leisure
- Safety, emergencies
- Social services
- Transportation

Essentials

- About King County
- Customer service
- Departments
- Employees
- Jobs

KCGIS DATA PORTAL

King County
GIS CENTER
www.kingcounty.gov/gis/data

King County GIS data to go!

King County map data is now available for download. More than 170 current enterprise data layers are available in three file formats, including KML, which is a popular format for web-browser and open-source software applications. From water bodies to mountain peaks, from streets to trails, from bus stops to landmarks and more, there's a treasure house of GIS data waiting for you. Browse and download now...

Connect

- Twitter
- Facebook
- LinkedIn
- YouTube

News

- "Passport Day in the U.S.A." cancelled
- April 14: Bellevue sewer meeting
- New Metro Transit ad policy
- Exec: More frequent Eastside transit
- We salute emergency dispatchers

County Executive
Dow Constantine

- Web site
- Biography
- Staff

Transit and traffic

- Trip Planner
- Metro Online
- Traffic cameras
- Bus tracker by location
- Bus tracker by map
- Bus schedule by route number

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Local government limitations relative to the Geoweb

- ☐ **Capability levels of local agency GIS operations vary greatly**
- ☐ **Process maturity levels of local agency GIS operations vary greatly and the concept of maturity is poorly understood**

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Local government limitations relative to the Geoweb

- ☐ **The ROI from local agency GIS is assumed – but needs to be proven:**
 - ☐ **Spatial Information in the New Zealand Economy, LINZ 2009, ACIL Tasman**
 - ☐ **King County GIS ROI Study via UW CBA Center**
 - ☐ **Twin Cities, Metro GIS ROI Study**
 - ☐ **Multnomah County GIS Application ROI Study**

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Local government limitations relative to the Geoweb

- ☐ **Compliance with state and local jurisdiction legal & policy framework for GIS data sharing (and these vary in each jurisdiction)**
- ☐ **Transactional nature of most data sharing**

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Local government imperatives relative to the Geoweb

- ☐ **Meet critical local agency Geoweb data business needs**
- ☐ **Minimize liability**
- ☐ **Pay for data development**
- ☐ **Pay for data maintenance**

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Pressures on local government GIS operations

- ☐ **Provide data for free**
- ☐ **Customize data for outside users**
- ☐ **Sign industry data access agreement, rather than local agency licenses**

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Local government options

- ☐ **Copyright**
- ☐ **State law limitations on cost recovery**
- ☐ **Licensing**
- ☐ **Liability issues**

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The failure of the market to build the Geoweb

- ☐ **Limitations of crowd sourced data to meet government agency needs**
- ☐ **Inability of the market to develop Geoweb data for its own needs**
- ☐ **Unwillingness of the market to develop Geoweb data to meet local agency business needs**
- ☐ **Possible exceptions: Environmental Data Resources, marketing demographics data providers, others?**

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Possible local agency vision for GIS data sharing

- ☐ **Prove ROI of implementing local agency GIS**
- ☐ **Prove regional ROI from making local agency GIS data freely available for business, academic, and citizen use**
- ☐ **Treat GIS data as a utility - developed, maintained, and managed by entrepreneurial multi-jurisdictional consortia (parallel with development of electric utilities from 125 years ago)**
- ☐ **Private industry – public agency GIS data sharing via creative commons**

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Possible ways forward

- ☐ **Model state data sharing laws**
- ☐ **Develop model local agency data license**
- ☐ **Voluntary private industry revenue sharing**
- ☐ **Local open data access web portals**
- ☐ **Incentive federal financial support for core data posted to the NSDI**

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Possible ways forward

- ☐ **Proposed URISA GIS Capability Maturity Model:**
 - ☐ **Designed to measure capability and support statewide GIS assessments and COGO's proposed Geospatial Technology Report Card for the Nation**
 - ☐ **Designed to increase ROI by focusing on attention on process maturity**
- ☐ **URISA focus on local agency GIS ROI study & process**

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What makes me lose sleep at night

- ☐ **Uninformed decision makers assuming that local agency GIS data is easier to develop and maintain than it is**
- ☐ **Public agency GIS data slipping into the control of private industry via copyright law**
- ☐ **Crowd-sourced data as an alternative to critical framework municipal data layers**
- ☐ **Erosion of local agency GIS funding support as municipal decision makers assume that the market (or the mob) can step in and supply and maintain useful data**

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