

This is a history of the formation of the Pennsylvania Geospatial Coordinating Board's formation, as was documented on the PaMAGIC website across several pages. That content has been condensed into a single document for the sake of archiving important historical information for the geospatial industry in Pennsylvania.

Since the creation of PaMAGIC in 1996 it seemed logical to have some official coordinating body where public, private, and academic interests could coalesce but with some level of authority. We tried a state-centered coordinating body with PAGIC that worked for a little while. The events of September 11, 2001 made the benefits of pooled skills and data very obvious, after which PAGIC and PaMAGIC worked more closely together. The PAMAP Program required all hands for standards and promotion, and demonstrated the benefits of statewide data development and a big vision, but suffered from the lack of an overarching structure.

The Legislative History brief in this section documents the various attempts at legislative solutions, each having different champions and opponents, and each with a slightly different structure. The legislative session of 2013-14 brought success and resulted in Act 178 to create the State Geospatial Coordinating Board (aka GeoBoard) as an advisory board to the Governor. Interestingly, the legislation was introduced in January 2013 as the session began and finally passed the last voting day in November 2014.

You can learn more about the Geoboard at its [official website](#).

Background Documents

- [Corbett Transition Team Brief](#)
- [PAMAGIC 2015 Briefing on Geoboard](#)
- [Senate Bill 771 of 2013](#)

2010 Town Halls

In accordance with its mission, PaMAGIC has been a continual proponent of a Geospatial Advisory Council representing public, private and academic interests of all levels. We were one of only three groups from outside state agencies to participate in the PA Geographic Information Council (PAGIC) established in 1999. Our participation in legislative hearings in 2003 and 2004 resulted in House Resolution 882 recommending Executive-level strategic planning and coordination of geospatial technologies. That resolution was the impetus for a series of legislative efforts that continually refined the concepts and development of a statewide Council.

The history of efforts to share decision-making among all levels of government is captured in our Legislative resources section. You will see that there were strong opinions and much iteration along the way. There are many ways to coordinate, and we have examined them all.

Documentation from the PaMAGIC Town Hall Meeting held on October 28, 2010:

- [PA Geospatial Town Hall Meeting - Mapping Our Future](#)
- [State of GIS Report](#)
- [Transition Paper Discussion](#)
- [Provisional Council Notes \(1\)](#)
- [Provisional Council Notes \(2\)](#)
- [State of GIS Notes \(1\)](#)
- [State of GIS Notes \(2\)](#)
- [State of GIS Notes \(3\)](#)
- [PaMAGIC Town Hall Meeting Minutes](#)

2012 Coalition Sessions

A **Pennsylvania Geospatial Coordinating Coalition** (GCC) gathered on November 14, 2012 to:

... provide advice and recommendations to the Governor and the citizens of this Commonwealth on geospatial issues, providing for uniformity, data standards, coordination and the efficiency of geospatial policy and technology among Federal, State and local government agencies, academic institutions and the private sector.

Task Forces:

- Mapping Needs
- Communication Strategies
- Enterprise Opportunities
- Planning Permanency

The **Mapping Needs Task Force** will identify and describe 'data development' priorities. Although PA had an advanced program of digital base-mapping (PAMAP), the fiscal crises of the past few years, rapid technological advances in data access and creation, and shale gas development changed the parameters against which we measured need.

Related Documents

- [February 13th Mapping Needs Task Force Meeting Notes](#)
- [Justifying the Cost of Imagery \(NSGIC\)](#)
- [Gathering Pipeline Data Exchange](#)
- [Pipeline Placement of Natural Gas](#)

The **Communication Strategies Task Force** will report on means available for the mapping technical community to readily exchange ideas and information among public, private, and academic sectors. This task force works on increasing awareness and education of the power

of good mapping, and of the benefits of public sector leadership in base mapping. This task force will be successful if it identifies tools and methods that are sensible to the full gamut from citizens to policy makers.

Related Documents

- [February 13th Communication Task Force Meeting Notes](#)
- [Communication Task Force Resources](#)

The **Enterprise Opportunities Task Force** will specifically study chances for streamlining data development and data sharing among the various levels of government. Of particular interest to this task force are solutions to 1) unnecessary duplication of effort and 2) our current failure to define just whose data is the authoritative source for official decision-making.

Related Documents

- [February 13th Enterprise Opportunities Task Force Meeting Notes](#)
- [Putting US Geospatial Services on the Map](#)

The **Planning Permanency Task Force** will report on alternatives to achieve the strategic planning and implementation that will be described by the other Task Forces; despite over 15 years of effort, PA continues to ignore the benefits of actively coordinated Geographic Information Systems (GIS). The coordination alternatives to be studied still include a Legislative solution, Executive Order, or more aggressive Ad-hoc approaches.

Legislative History, 2003-2014

PaMAGIC actively advocates for the creation of a Pennsylvania statewide geospatial coordinating council. Below are links to information regarding legislative efforts to create a council in Pennsylvania. We have provided a quick summary of legislative history.

- [SB 771](#)
- [HB 1285](#)
- [HB 1701 edited with proposed Amendments](#)
- [HB 1701 Amendment](#)
- [HB 1701 Draft Legislation, June 2011](#)
- [The PA General Assembly HB 1701 Information](#)
- [HB 2300 State Geospatial Coordinating Council](#)
- [PA GIS Council Memo - March 2010](#)
- [HB 1304 Draft Legislation, May 2009](#)
- [HB 1304 Hearing Transcript](#)
- [Public Hearing HB 1304 - August, 29, 2007](#)
- [HB 1304](#)
- [PaMAGIC Comments on HB 2871](#)

- [Memorandum to the Board from the Executive Directors of the House Intergovernmental Affairs Committee](#)
- [Strawman Legislation](#)
- [Strawman Summary](#)
- [HR 882](#)

Geoboard Data Sharing Agreement

The Pennsylvania Geospatial Coordinating Board (PA GeoBoard) is spearheading an effort to facilitate enhanced sharing of data in the Commonwealth. A link to the Data Sharing Agreement can be found below. It will replace the outdated practice of creating specific agreements between each and every agency and county separately. We expect that most, if not all, state agencies and county governments will have signed this Data Sharing Agreement by December 31, 2019.

Related Documents:

- [Geoboard Data Sharing](#)
- [Data Sharing Agreement](#) (pdf)
- [Signature Page](#) (Microsoft Word)

Specific components and benefits of the agreement include:

1. Sharing basic data (e.g. - parcel boundaries and Identification Numbers, or addresses) will promote the actual creators as the authoritative source for this type of information. Counties can still generate revenue from advanced application services but gain the benefits from promoting the counties as the authoritative source for much of the Pennsylvania Base Map.

2. Sharing data will also:

- Reduce the volume of data requests made to the Counties for Right to Know and basic information.
- Promote economic development through the awareness and use of this information by stakeholders.
- Reduce risk/hazards to communities through the development of a common operating picture.
- Encourage communication and accuracy at all levels of government through interaction with state, regional and public sector stakeholders.
- Data your county shares will be archived for long term preservation. This will save your staff time and money.

Some key considerations within the Agreement include:

- All Participants will sign the exact same agreement.
- Participants will share what they want to share
- Participation is voluntary
- Each Participant determines their own signing authority.
- The words “confidential, protected, and privileged” are as defined by each Participant.
- Each Participant retains rights to commercialize their own data as they will.
- The agreement has no suspension date, but any signatory can opt out whenever they want.

This agreement also provides a long-term basis for growth of open data. For instance, expected future public safety applications that require uniform data statewide will define specific requirements and automatically evaluate data for source, completeness, freshness, and format - but there will not be a need for separate agreements for each application.