

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of the Commission,) Application No. 911-057/
on its own motion, seeking to) PI-187
investigate funding for costs)
for the development of certain)
Geographical Information Systems) ORDER SEEKING COMMENT
Data relating to the provision)
of Enhanced Wireless 911)
Service.) Entered: January 7, 2014

Comments on behalf of the:

GIS Council of the Nebraska Information Technology Commission

The following is a response from the NITC GIS Council to PSC Docket 911-057/PI-187. This response is based upon efforts of the NITC GIS Council's Street Centerline and Address Database working group. This working group is developing a business plan and standards towards the development of a statewide street centerline and address point database project. This response provides dialogue about the necessary steps towards the development of a statewide address point data layer.

The docket is asking for comment on the following:

1. Any preliminary steps necessary for the development of a statewide address point data layer. Commenters should identify the necessary step; the estimated costs and possible funding sources for each step; any established standards; and reference the appropriate governing authority responsible for the activity.
2. The specifications for the development of the data should a request for proposal be issued and the potential costs involved in the development of the data.
3. Any other relevant information.

The GIS Council has a Street Centerline and Address Point working group tasked with identifying standards and development steps as well as estimating costs and identifying funding sources.

A statewide street centerline and address point database was identified in 2013 as a statewide strategic initiative by the Nebraska Information Technology Commission (NITC). The NITC and GIS Council have statutory responsibilities. The GIS Council is currently planning for an address point layer that will support both E-911 and NG911. An address point layer for enhanced wireless 9-1-1 and Next Generation 9-1-1 is considered a geographic framework layer and falls under the jurisdiction of the GIS Council for determining the standards and management recommendations.

According to Neb. Rev. Stat. § 86-572, the GIS Council shall: "(2) Establish guidelines and policies for statewide Geographic Information Systems operations and management (a) The acquisition, development, maintenance, quality assurance such as standards, access, ownership, cost recovery, and priorities of data bases; (b) The compatibility, acquisition, and communications of hardware and software; (c) The assessment of needs, identification of scope, setting of standards, and determination of an appropriate enforcement mechanism; (d) The fostering of training programs and promoting education and information about the Geographic Information Systems; and (e) The promoting of the Geographic Information Systems development in the State of Nebraska and providing or coordinating additional support to address Geographic Information Systems issues as such issues arise."

The following is the strategic initiative approved and set forth by the NITC for the GIS Council to lead. "Develop and maintain a statewide seamless street centerline and address referencing system used for

various transportation, public safety (ie, NexGEN 911), economic development and other related applications. Initiate assessment of current street centerline data. Implement a data model and workflow guidelines for QA/QC of existing and future maintenance of street centerline data. Develop data model for address points and use of data in relationship to street centerlines and other Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) framework layers. Further develop partnership efforts that support NexGEN 911 or combinations thereof who needs to be involved in the process of using street centerline and address point data. Research and develop recommendations for standards, policies, infrastructure, and funding to support collaborative efforts by state, local and federal agencies to periodically acquire updated a seamless street centerline-address database. Identify methods and linkages through NebraskaMAP to communicate and provide access to relevant data to users and stakeholders."

Our recommendation is for the PSC to work with the GIS Council on this initiative. The GIS Council has drafted preliminary specifications, data schemas, and business operations plan for an address point layer database. The GIS Council is following the Federal Geographic Data Commission's (FGDC) Fifty State Initiative's business planning requirements in its efforts to plan state level spatial data infrastructure framework layers. The Address points layer is a primary framework layer for the Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI). The business plan provides strategies for statewide planning and coordination, standards and guidelines, implementation and maintenance, and funding. The plan covers database design, workflow processes for creating and using data, quality control of data, and access for use of the data. The plan defines a project management team comprised of stakeholders to assure the necessary criteria are met for the database. Costs have been estimated and funding sources have been identified but they will not be finalized and released until full specifications and standards are completed and approved by the NITC.

In 2013, Nebraska Legislation initiated LB 595 to study the implications, costs, and necessary components for the development and implementation for a statewide NG9-1-1 program. To assist in the data collection process, a survey was developed by the GIS Council to solicit information regarding the status of existing data and anticipated needs for geospatial data layers and mapping software to support NG 9-1-1. Several of the questions in this survey were designed to provide information to help answer some of the same questions you posed in this docket. Prior to sending out the survey, a vendor was selected by the Public Service Commission to conduct the study. The survey questions were then later incorporated into the data collection process by the vendor who is conducting the study for LB 595.

Preliminary responses from the survey have been returned with missing or little information to justify a complete examination and assessment of the needs for NG911. The vendor is working on completing the final report. A final report is expected to be delivered to the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee the first week of April 2014. Until that time, survey responses and study recommendations will be considered in the development of the street centerline and address point standards and business plan.

On the national level, the National Emergency Number Association (NENA) is the leading authority for data standards for specific E911 applications. They have developed a number of recommended standards for data layers and data exchange. NENA is also taking the lead in developing new policies and standards as they relate to the evolution of E911 dispatch systems to support NG9-1-1 for VoIP, texting, and other evolutions of telecommunication technology. The Nebraska State GIS Coordinator, Nathan Watermeier, is currently a member of the NENA Site/Structures Address Working Group that meets weekly to develop these address point standards for the U.S. This working group involves other partners including the National State Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) Addressing Working Group, Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), US Census Bureau, and US Department of Transportation.

The federal requirements for site/structure point address layer standards are still in draft by NENA for NG 9-1-1 and are not expected to become available for several months. State standards for Address Points will incorporate both NENA standards for enhanced wireless 9-1-1 and NG9-1-1. The state standards are cognizant of the relationships that must exist between Address point standards and street centerline standards.

In 2014, Nebraska Legislation initiated LB 911 for the creation of a new NG9-1-1 Advisory Council. Depending on the outcome of this bill, additional modifications to the Street Centerline and Address Point Database business plan and standards are likely.

Ultimately, it is the intention of the NITC GIS Council to develop a set of standards and a business plan for a statewide address point database that coincides with the current street centerline database. The GIS Council recommends that information from the draft standards from the Street Centerline and Address Data points working group and from draft NENA standards be incorporated with information resulting from this docket to create a comprehensive set of requirements for an address point layer. All of the issues addressed here are important issues to consider prior to soliciting costs and implementation steps for enhanced 9-1-1. Another important consideration is the updated state and federal standards being studied for NG 9-1-1.

For questions and follow-up on these comments by the NITC GIS Council please contact:

Bill Wehling
Vice Chair, GIS Council
Nebraska Dept. of Roads
P.O. Box 94759
Lincoln, NE 68509-4759
402-479-3986
Bill.Wehling@nebraska.gov

Nathan Watermeier
State GIS Coordinator
Office of the CIO
NITC GIS Council
402-471-3206
Nathan.Watermeier@nebraska.gov



Bill Wehling, Vice Chair, NITC GIS Council



Date