

Notes from Geospatial/GIS Meetup

March 10, 2022

via Zoom

Attendees: Janet Reyes, facilitator;
Via Zoom: Andrea Wilson, Andrew Haglund, Bart Kats, Cesar Zayas, Daniel Collister, Gerald Winkel, Jorge Aponte Gomez, Laura Chansavang, Lynn Sweet, Melanie Davis, Mike Cohen, Owen Mo, Shanon Langlie, Tricia Vivian, Victoria Nguyen

Announcements

This meeting was recorded; video is available [here](#). The passcode to view is @+J9g!dW

The next webinar in the [Speaker Series](#) at the University of Redlands' **Center for Spatial Business** is on March 23 from 6:00 -7:15 pm. The topic is "The Morality of Wind Energy Landscapes." Register by March 20. Previous presentations are recorded.

Registration is free for the [Esri Imagery and Remote Sensing Educators Summit](#) being held virtually on March 31 from 8:00 - 2:00 pm. Students and researchers are welcome to attend. The sessions will be recorded.

Meetups in Spring quarter will be held on April 14, May 12, and June 9. The presentation slot for June is currently open.

You've heard of [Wordle](#); did you know about [Worldle](#)?

Lynn announced that the [Center for Conservation Biology](#) is recruiting for a [two-year post-doc position](#), involving vegetation ecology, habitat modeling and climate resiliency.

Shanon announced that nominations are being sought for [International Affairs Recognition Awards](#). The categories include faculty and staff as well as students and scholars.

First-time Attendees

Daniel Collister is a PhD student in the UCR Math department.

Melanie Davis and **Victoria Nguyen** were also first-time attendees.

Welcome, and we hope to see you again!

Presentation

Owen Mo is the GIS Administrator for the San Bernardino County Transportation Authority, and Tricia Vivian is a GIS Analyst with SBCTA. Their presentation was on “**SBCTA GIS Open Data & Applications.**”

SBCTA is the transportation planning agency for the county. It fosters cooperative regional planning and developing an efficient multi-modal transportation system to serve the county’s 2.1 million residents.

The [SBCTA GIS Portal](#), built using ArcGIS Hub, allows internal and external audiences to access and explore various types of demographic, social and economic GIS data. The GIS team continues to work on refining the user experience.

Applications in the portal include:

- [Active San Bernardino Open Data](#), which provides a range of information including bike paths, sidewalks, and safe routes to school. It’s built on a classic Story Map platform.
- [SBCTA Data Viewer](#), which contains layers relating to projects, census geography, traffic analysis zones (TAZ), and other topics.
- the [San Bernardino County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy](#) story map.
- Statewide [collision data](#).

The team is also developing “SBCTA GIS View” using the [Geocortex](#) platform. It will eventually be made available to internal and external customers. Owen demonstrated how a user could input a parcel number and generate a planning report containing information about the parcel, including a map. Users could also create a buffer around a parcel and create a shapefile of those parcels, or generate mailing labels for all the parcels within the buffer. Downloading the parcel information in Excel or as a CSV file is also possible.

The map application can also zoom to road intersections specified by the user. The user can make measurements, print out a map of a selected area, and create elevation transects.

Future plans for the GIS team include 3D projects.

Owen and Tricia welcome further questions and input.

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Tricia Vivian tvivian@gosbcta.com

Discussion

Daniel asked about the minimum spatial scale, especially for the elevation data. Owen believes it is 3 meters; he also pointed out that it depends on the source data. Eventually, using LiDAR data, the resolution might get down to 1 meter.

Jorge suggested it would be interesting to use GIS to look at the relationship between transportation and each of the following: water treatment/distribution, fast food delivery, and the spread of COVID. He

speculated this type of analysis could be an opportunity for entrepreneurs. Owen observed that not all data (regarding the spread of COVID, for example) can be shared openly due to privacy concerns.

Janet asked whether most of SBCTA's focus is on roads. Tricia confirmed that's true, but they do get involved with other transportation modes as well.

Daniel asked about checking the accuracy of the data provided from other sources. Owen replied they use data generally known to be reliable, such as from the USGS. They do spot-check data to compare values, and may clean data where a more local or reliable source shows different values. Also, SBCTA uses data from the county and from [SCAG](#), which have their own data cleaning processes. Sometimes consultants will provide feedback about data that doesn't make sense.

Daniel also asked about whether feedback from users impacting the tools and data provided. Owen replied that the agency provides data, but doesn't guide users on analytical processes, nor do they get too involved with questions regarding the data that comes from other sources.

Map sharing

Janet shared the following:

Russia-Ukraine Monitor Map: <https://maphub.net/Cen4infoRes/russian-ukraine-monitor>

Mapping Ukrainian refugees: <https://jcheshire.com/resources/more-than-arrows/>

Daniel shared this Ukraine interactive map: <https://liveuamap.com/>