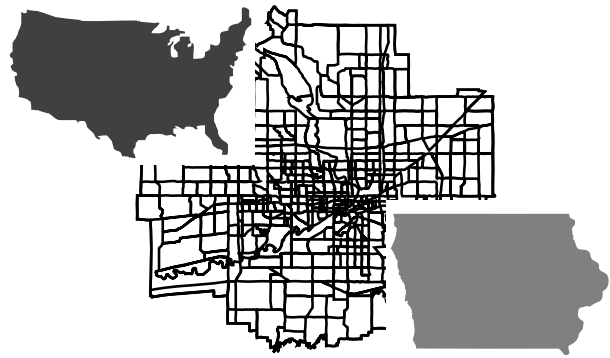


Coordinated GIS



Sharing data, exploring standards, and facilitating cooperation among Iowans who use Geographic Information Systems

Inside

Conferences

MidAmerica GIS Symposium
in May----- 2

GIS across Iowa

GIS moving forward at Iowa DOT --- 3

Webster County announcement ----- 3

lowAccess brings info to citizens----- 4

lowAccess projects ----- 5

Iowa hires intergovernmental GIS Coordinator

A new intergovernmental geographic information systems (GIS) Coordinator for Iowa has been hired, thanks to the lowAccess project (see article on page 4). The first year of the position will be funded through a grant to the state of Iowa by the U.S. Department of General Services. Thereafter, the position will be funded by the Iowa Office of Information Technology Services (ITS).

The coordinator will be responsible for implementing a work program developed jointly by ITS and the Iowa Geographic Information Council (IGIC). The coordinator will serve as staff for the IGIC and work on continuing the collaborative efforts that the IGIC has initiated over the past four years. Having the coordinator on board will allow the IGIC to move forward on initiatives that have been impossible previously due to a lack of staff.

Ann Peton, who is currently the Geographic Information Systems Coordinator for the Missouri Department of Natural Resources, will be starting in the Iowa job in mid-February. Peton was selected from among a large number of high-

quality applicants from around the United States and Canada. She has considerable experience in coordinating GIS and managing GIS projects and grants involving multiple agencies. She has also developed and conducted GIS and global positioning system (GPS) training efforts in Missouri.

Ann is a graduate of Bemidji State University in Minnesota and also has been a small business owner.

Several members of the IGIC steering committee, including representatives of state government, local government, and universities, were involved in the interview and selection process for the new coordinator.

Welcome to Iowa, Ann!

For more information, contact:

David Plazak
Transportation Policy Analyst
Center for Transportation Research
and Education
2625 N. Loop Drive, Suite 2100
Ames, IA 50010-8615
voice: **515-294-8103**
fax: **515-294-0467**
plazak@ctre.iastate.edu

coordinated GIS is a publication of the Iowa Geographic Information Council. The council is a partnership consisting of representatives of the geographic information system (GIS) user community in Iowa.

The GIS community includes federal, state, and local government agencies; universities; businesses; and nonprofit organizations that use or are planning to use GIS or global positioning system (GPS) technologies. These powerful technologies combine electronic maps, databases, and precision locations and can be used to improve decisions, save money, and enhance the quality of life of Iowa's citizens.

For more information about the council and its activities, contact the following members:

David J. Plazak
Center for Transportation
Research and Education
2625 N. Loop Drive, Suite 2100
Ames, IA 50010-8615
voice: 515-294-8103
fax: 515-294-0467
e-mail: plazak@ctre.iastate.edu

Reg Souleyrette
(same address)
e-mail: reg@iastate.edu

We welcome your comments and suggestions regarding **coordinated GIS**. What would **you** like to see in this newsletter?

Submit suggestions or questions to Reg Souleyrette

- by e-mail to reg@iastate.edu
- by mail (disk copy preferred; see the address listed above) or
- by fax to 515-294-0467

or to Marcia Brink

- by e-mail to x1brink@iastate.edu or
- by fax to 515-294-0467

The opinions, findings, or recommendations published here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Iowa Geographic Information Council.

Managing Editor — Reg Souleyrette

Editor — Marcia Brink

Cover depiction of traffic analysis zones courtesy of the Des Moines MPO.



Printed on
Recycled Paper

Conferences

MidAmerica GIS Symposium in May

An excellent conference opportunity is coming up on May 4–7, 1998, in Lincoln, Nebraska. The 1998 MidAmerica GIS Symposium (MAGIS) is expected to attract well over 550 people from throughout the Midwest and Great Plains.

The theme this year is “Sharing Common Ground,” and the conference will focus on sharing GIS information and expertise.

The basic conference registration fee is \$90 before March 15, 1998. Students can register for \$40.

The focus of the conference will change each day. The first day will feature over 20 short courses on GIS and GPS topics. (Short courses will involve an extra fee of \$40 per course beyond the basic conference registration.)

Tuesday's session features a plenary session with national experts and breakout sessions on GIS issues. Wednesday continues the breakouts. On Thursday, the focus will be on breakout sessions for people who work in the same area (e.g. property assessment or transportation) to come together and discuss issues with the help of facilitators.

MAGIS is also seeking vendor exhibits and project showcases (computer demonstrations or posters on GIS projects).

As in previous years, the Iowa Geographic Information Council (IGIC) is a co-sponsor of MAGIS. Several IGIC Steering Committee members have been involved in planning the conference. We encourage you to attend and participate in this event.

The IGIC has begun to coordinate our conference with the MAGIS event; we will be alternating years with MAGIS, so our next Iowa conference will be in late summer or fall of 1999, probably in the northwest quadrant of Iowa. MAGIS will be held again in the year 2000, probably in the Kansas City area.

For more information about the MAGIS conference, visit the following web site:

<http://msdis.missouri.edu/magic/magic98.html>

For registration information, contact:

James W. Merchant
Conservation and Survey Division
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
113 Nebraska Hall
Lincoln, NE 68588-0517
voice: 402-472-7531
fax: 402-472-2410
jm1000@tan.unl.edu

GIS moving forward at Iowa DOT

A new era in GIS has begun at the Iowa DOT. As many of you are aware, the DOT filled its GIS Coordinator position in September 1997 and had previously filled a GIS Specialist position. I was fortunate to be selected as the new Coordinator, and Steve Vannoy took on the GIS Specialist responsibilities.

In the last few months we have determined our key steps for moving GIS forward at the DOT. These tasks are outlined below:

- Our highest priority was to investigate GIS efforts currently underway at the DOT and determine how those efforts can be fit into a departmental GIS effort. We have put together an initial plan that we think will facilitate the efficient use of the DOT's data and will satisfy the DOT GIS Coordinating Committee's (GISCC) desires to allow the divisions of the DOT to utilize the software that is best suited for their GIS needs.
- The next step was to determine the software needed to support data collection and maintenance efforts. This software included the relational database management system and the GIS maintenance software. Official recommendations have been made on the database software and will soon be made on the GIS software. These recommendations will be sent to the DOT's Information Processing (IP) Steering Committee for approval.
- The DOT also needed to choose a desktop GIS package for general GIS users. These users will not be heavy-

duty users of GIS, but they need to have easy access to GIS data from their desktops. Several criteria are being considered in this software evaluation. The software must be easy to use out of the box, it must be very customizable, it should easily use data from many sources (in many projections and formats), and it should be easy to support in a large organization. While no product meets all these specifications perfectly, we are striving to pick the product that best meets those requirements.

- Another big step is to define the features or coverages for our initial GIS base map. This includes not only the definition of the features, but also what attributes to attach to the features and finally to our existing digital maps. These features will be the initial base map coverages for the DOT, so it is important that the most widely used features are selected for the first group. This effort is currently underway and should be completed in January.

We are working closely with Iowa State University's Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) to make sure all our efforts are coordinated into a single GIS vision. CTRE has several GIS development projects at the DOT. We also plan to define some metadata guidelines in the very near future so we can begin documenting the data attribution and conversion processes.

The GISCC and many of the DOT's divisions are very excited that we are moving forward in our GIS

efforts. We look forward to working with all the GIS organizations in the state, and with all levels of government, in our efforts to promote and further the use of GIS in Iowa!

For more information, contact the author:

Bill Schuman
GIS Coordinator
Iowa DOT
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010
voice: 515-233-7770
fax: 515-239-1828
e-mail: wschuma@max.state.ia.us

Webster County announcement

Webster County will receive the first delivery of cadastral and orthophoto data in March. This delivery consists of one township. The entire county should be completed before April 2000.

For more information contact:

David Haines
Webster County Geographic Information Specialist
703 Central Avenue
Fort Dodge, IA 50501
voice: 515-574-3761
dhaines@frontiernet.net

lowAccess brings info to citizens

Imagine sitting in your home at your personal computer, logging on to the Internet, and filling out a single form to apply for all the federal and state business licenses you need to start your own company.

Imagine using a kiosk at your local grocery store and, with a few touches on a screen, accessing information on private and government housing programs available to first-time home buyers.

Imagine never again waiting in long lines at the courthouse only to find you need to contact a state agency for the information you want.

With the implementation of lowAccess, these scenarios will become reality by July 1998.

lowAccess is an innovative, cooperative effort of local, state, and federal governments, the private sector, and Iowa citizens to make accessing government information, applying for permits, and submitting required information easier, especially for citizens.

Fourteen technology projects ranging from Internet training to electronic submission of state wage and tax reports are currently being implemented through the lowAccess effort.

The state of Iowa, federal government, and Iowa's local governments take a unique approach to imple-

menting lowAccess through the input and guidance of a citizen council and a steering committee. The citizen council is comprised of Iowa citizens and is responsible for ensuring that project applications are easy to access and use, while also maintaining the privacy of the public. The steering committee oversees and provides input to project teams, reviews project design, and identifies and resolves barriers to project implementation.

A notable lowAccess project is Project 8: Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Support, which is co-chaired by Marty Adkins of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and David Plazak of the Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE) at Iowa State University. This project will establish an ongoing geospatial information coordination infrastructure that will be based within the Iowa Technology Services (ITS). This infrastructure will provide for the following:

- coordination of intergovernmental and private sector GIS efforts
- a clearinghouse for geospatial data and metadata
- coordination of GIS educational efforts at all levels in Iowa
- linkages with federal and interstate GIS programs

At this time, it has been determined that the clearinghouse will be

located at ITS. ITS will dedicate a half-time staff person to maintain the clearinghouse. In addition, Ann Peton has been hired as the GIS coordinator (see cover story). Her position begins in February and she will work out of the ITS office to ensure full coordination between the clearinghouse and the coordinator.

The project team, which has been appointed to oversee the implementation process, has also begun efforts with the governor's office and the Iowa Department of Management to formalize the Iowa Geographic Information Council through an executive order.

The ultimate result of this project will be improved access to geospatial information and tools for Iowans at all levels of the public and private sectors.

lowAccess funding is provided to Iowa by the U.S. General Services Administration.

The lowAccess effort offers up-to-date information on the implementation of all 14 projects through its Internet Web page, <http://www.state.ia.us/iowaccess/index.htm>.

Citizens can contact lowAccess staff through its e-mail address, iowaccess@max.state.ia.us, or by calling Amy Campbell, State Public Policy Group, 515-243-2000.

lowAccess projects

Following is a brief overview of the goals of each of the 14 lowAccess projects:

(1) Citizen information network (CIN)

- Use Internet to create an information network—a single electronic government gateway that would give customers the ability to access multiple levels of government seamlessly, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
- Provide user friendly interface for accessing government quickly and easily.
- Provide technical assistance to facilitate development of home pages by various government entities.
- Develop necessary standards for the successful implementation of the CIN.

(2 and 3) Internet training and materials

- Test and evaluate Internet training materials in a series of pilot projects, targeting the general public and government employees and decision makers from all levels of government.
- Provide guidance to Arizona State University in the development of an Internet training video.

(4) Internet pilot project for Indian Hills Community College

- Implement a project to demonstrate various Internet services that provide training for government agencies, students, and citizens at Indian Hills

Community College county centers in Albia, Bloomfield, Corydon, and Oskaloosa.

- Will provide rural communities with access to the Internet.

(5) Online local government budget and tax information system

- Develop an online budget and tax information system for counties, cities, and school districts to allow all local government budget transactions to be completed electronically, via the Internet if available (in those areas of the state without access to the Internet, budget transactions will be completed using diskettes or through a dial-up model).
- Make available to the public (via the Internet) all budget information from local jurisdictions by the year 2000.
- Property valuation data will also be available and exchanged electronically.

(6) Online housing information and finance services

- Develop an easy-to-use, concise, electronic information clearinghouse of housing and finance services available through national, state, and local governments and private entities.
- The target populations includes any person with a question about housing and finance services available. This could include both the general population (citizens) and industry professionals.

- Provide real-time access to available housing by county and city, current interest rates, and eligibility requires for various housing programs.

(7) First stop business and professional license center and regulation guide

- Develop and implement an efficient and convenient electronic information system for citizens, businesses, and governments to apply for professional and business licenses and operating permits; obtain project-specific regulatory guidelines and agency contacts; and identify and select appropriate business and community economic development project assistance.
- This project targets businesses, counties, cities, businesses that start or expand each year, and individuals who apply for or renew their professional licenses each year.

(8) Iowa geographic information systems (GIS)

- Construct the infrastructure needed for all levels of government, the educational sector, and the private sector to take full advantage of GIS and related technologies.
- Formalize a coordinating body, hire staff, manage an enhanced data clearinghouse, and conduct a statewide GIS training and educational effort.
- The focus of this project is building networks and partnerships that will overcome barriers to the use of GIS.

continued on page 6

LowAccess projects

continued from page 5

(9) State tax and wage reporting system (STAWRS)

- Develop and test a system that will allow employers to electronically submit employer/employee wage tax reports, including tax withholding, unemployment insurance tax, social security, and wage requirements.
- The result will produce a single report that an employer may obtain and submit electronically to a single state agency. That information is then taken by the state and redistributed to the appropriate agency—Iowa Workforce Development, Iowa Department of Revenue and Finance, and the Internal Revenue Service.

(10) Electronic commerce business plan

- Members of federal, state, local governments, and the private sector will work together to finalize a plan for future electronic commerce projects serving Iowans.
- The final product, an Intergovernmental Electronic Commerce Business Plan, will contain (1) a guidebook, (2) an initial list of proposed intergovernmental electronic commerce applications, and (3), recommendations for an ongoing process and lead agency to sustain the business plan.

(11) Electronic environmental permitting

- Establish electronic means of accepting air operation (Title V) permit applications and air construction permits.

- Provide the capability for applicants to use the Internet to track the status of operating and construction permit applications.

- Over 2,100 of Iowa's largest businesses will be directly affected through this project.

(12) Automated booking station

- Provide a method of automating the booking process, which includes electronic transfer of images and data for the largest counties in the state (based on population).

- The project will include the capability to electronically capture fingerprints and demographics, so that criminal histories and other information can be transferred from a central database managed by the Iowa Department of Public Safety to the remote booking site in a city or county.

- Three pilot sites have been selected: Polk County, Scott County, and Linn County.

(13) Integrated client information for human services

- Establish a pilot computerized, consumer-friendly information and referral and limited enrollment system that would provide all members of the pilot community with direct, private, and anonymous access to information about community resources, and the limited ability to enroll for services from an array of sites in the community.

- The system will include the following types of information: child/dependent care, health and mental health care, housing, transportation, federal benefit programs, and public and private human services.

(14) Service information and enrollment system

- Develop a data information system that links the counties' individual data systems to current state systems.
- Will provide technical assistance for counties to develop uniform reporting for mental health services in Iowa.

IGIC steering committee members

The Iowa Geographic Information Council Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from Iowa's GIS user community, including federal, state, and local governments; universities; businesses; and nonprofit organizations.

CHAIR (ex officio):

David Plazak

Transportation Policy Analyst
CTRE, Iowa State University
2625 N. Loop Drive, Suite 2100
Ames, IA 50010-8615
voice: 515-294-8103
fax: 515-294-0467
e-mail: plazak@ctre.iastate.edu

SECRETARY (ex officio):

Reg Souleyrette

Associate Director
CTRE, Iowa State University
2625 N. Loop Drive, Suite 2100
Ames, IA 50010-8615
voice: 515-294-8103
fax: 515-294-0467
e-mail: reg@iastate.edu

CITY:

David Pahlas

City of Decorah Water Department
P.O. Box 138
Decorah, IA 52101
voice: 319-382-5171
fax: 319-382-8551

CITY:

Dan Holderness

City Engineers Office
City of Coralville
1512 7th Street
Coralville, IA 52241
voice: 319-351-9069
fax: 319-351-5915

COUNTY:

Harold Jensen

Story County Engineer
900 6th Street
Nevada, IA 50201
voice: 515-382-7356
fax: 515-382-7369
e-mail: hmjensen@aol.com

COUNTY:

Mark Kistler

Johnson County Deputy Auditor
P.O. Box 1350
Iowa City, IA 52244
voice: 319-356-6078
fax: 319-356-6086

STATE:

Mike Elliot

Iowa Department of Public Defense
Emergency Management Division
Hoover State Office Building, Level A
Des Moines, IA 50319
voice: 515-281-3231
fax: 515-281-7539
e-mail: melliott@max.state.ia.us

STATE:

Bernie Hoyer

Iowa DNR Wallace Building
Des Moines, IA 50319
voice: 515-281-5815
fax: 515-281-8895
e-mail: bhoyer@gsbth-po.igsb.uiowa.edu

STATE:

Bill Schuman

Iowa Department of Transportation
800 Lincoln Way
Ames, IA 50010
voice: 515-233-7770
fax: 515-239-1828
e-mail: wschuma@max.state.ia.us

FEDERAL:

Harry Bottorff

Rock Island District Corps of Engineers
Clock Tower Building
P.O. Box 2004
Rock Island, IL 61204-2004
voice: 309-794-5403
fax: 309-794-5710
e-mail: bottorff@ncrsun1.ncr.usace.army.mil

FEDERAL:

Cory Brockman

Natural Resources Conservation Service
Federal Building
210 Walnut, Suite 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180
voice: 515-284-4353
fax: 515-284-4394
e-mail: cbrockma@aquia.ia.nrcs.usda.g

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Tom Kane

Executive Director
Des Moines Area Metropolitan
Planning Organization
602 E. First Street
Des Moines, IA 50307
voice: 515-237-1366
fax: 515-237-1303
e-mail: tkane19@ecity.net

REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

Stu Turner

Siouxland Metropolitan Planning Council
400 Insurance Centre
P.O. Box 447
Sioux City, IA 51102
voice: 712-279-6286
fax: 712-279-6920
e-mail: simpco@pionet.net

UNIVERSITY:

Joyce Baker

Data Archive Manager
Iowa Social Science Institute
345 Schaeffer Hall, University of Iowa
Iowa City, IA 52242
voice: 319-335-2371
fax: 319-335-2070
e-mail: joyce-baker@uiowa.edu

UNIVERSITY:

Kevin Kane

Manager, GIS Support and Research Facility Lab
218 Durham Center
Iowa State University
Ames, IA 50011
voice: 515-294-0526
fax: 515-294-1717
e-mail: kkane@iastate.edu

UNIVERSITY:

Vacant

University of Northern Iowa
Cedar Falls, IA 50614

COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Terry Brase

Agriculture and Food Technology
Hawkey Community College
1501 E. Orange Road
Waterloo, IA 50704
voice: 319-296-2320
fax: 319-296-2874
e-mail: agfdtech@forbin.com

COMMUNITY COLLEGE:

Roger Patocka

Iowa Lakes Community College
300 S. 18th Street
Estherville, IA 51334
voice: 712-362-7950
e-mail: rpatocka@ilcc.cc.ia.us

PRIVATE:

Randy Hertz

Hertz Farm Management
P.O. Box 500
Highway 30 East and 11th Street
Nevada, IA 50201-0500
voice: 515-382-6596
fax: 515-382-3762

PRIVATE:

Robert Newcomer

President
Newcomer Engineering Inc.
116 North Main
Moulton, IA 52572
voice: 515-642-3909
fax: 515-542-3908

UTILITIES:

Brian Miller

Water and Gas Engineer
Cedar Falls Utilities
P.O. Box 769
612 E. 12th Street
Cedar Falls, IA 50613
voice: 319-266-1761
fax: 515-266-8158

Want to get on our mailing list?

If you want to be added to the mailing list for **coordinated GIS**, or to add a colleague to the list, fill out the following information and mail this page to the address listed below. You may also telephone Sharon Prochnow at 515-294-8103 or fax your mailing address to 515-294-0467.

Remember: coordinated GIS is now on line at <http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/>

Name/Title _____

Business or agency _____

Address _____

Work phone _____ Fax _____

E-mail _____

Clip and mail to the following address: Center for Transportation Research and Education (CTRE)
coordinated GIS mailing list
2625 N. Loop Drive, Suite 2100
Ames, IA 50010-8615

We want your e-mail address!

The IGIC is developing a group e-mail address list. Please help us reach you by e-mail with announcements, updates, etc., by adding your e-mail address to the group list.

To get on the e-mail address list, contact Reg Souleyrette or David Plazak (their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses are listed on page 7).

To send a message to everyone on our e-mail address list, address your message to **igic@iastate.edu**.

Thanks for your help!

P486-1066

coordinated GIS

Center for Transportation
Research and Education
Iowa State University Research Park
2625 N. Loop Drive, Suite 2100
Ames, IA 50010-8615

Do not forward
Address correction requested
Return postage guaranteed