



Kentucky Geographic Information Advisory Council

Meeting Agenda

April 15th, 2026 :: 10:00am – 11:30am

Virtual Meeting

- I. Call to Order – Welcome – *Chair*
- II. Council Business
 - A. Roll Call – *Carney*
 - B. Approval of Minutes – *Chair*
 - C. NSGIC 2025 Geospatial Maturity Assessment Update – *Anness*
 - D. Subcommittee Reports
 1. KyFromAbove Technical Advisory Subcommittee – *Anness*
 2. Public Buildings & School Safety Mapping Layer Standards Subcommittee – *Anness*
 3. GeoAI Subcommittee – *Biddle*
 4. WRIS Technical Advisory Committee – *NTR*
 - E. Next Generation 911 Status Report – *Harding*
 - F. GIS Data Sharing Report
 1. PVA Parcel Data – Availability & Update Status – *Gordon & Caufield*
 - G. Legislative Items Report
 1. 2026 Regular Session – HB500 & HB731
 - H. KyFromAbove Program Report – *Anness*
 1. Imagery Program Update
 - a. Phase4 Funding Status
 2. LiDAR Program Update
 - a. 2026 Acquisition Status
 - b. 2027 Acquisition Planning
 - I. New Kentucky-specific Tools, Apps, & Maps – *Anness*
 - J. KAMP Announcements – *Biddle*
 - K. New Business – *Chair*
- III. Adjournment

Geographic Information Advisory Council (GIAC) Minutes – January 21, 2026

Virtual meeting via *Microsoft Teams*

Members Attending:

1. Jim Barnhart (*Commonwealth Office of Technology*)
 2. DJ Biddle (*Kentucky Association of Mapping Professionals*)
 3. Randy Bridges (*Legislative Liaison*)
 4. Matt Crawford for Doug Curl (*Kentucky Geological Survey*)
 5. Robert Hackworth (*Kentucky Department of Education*)
 6. Charles Higginbotham (*Tourism, Arts, and Heritage Cabinet*)
 7. Will Holmes (*Kentucky Transportation Cabinet*)
 8. Roderick Jones (*Council on Postsecondary Education*)
 9. Watson Harding for Josh Keats (*Kentucky Office of Homeland Security*)
 10. Jeffrey Kelley (*Kentucky Property Valuation Administrators Association*)
 11. Whitley Keltner (*Kentucky League of Cities*)
 12. Kevin Jones for Haldane Lamberton (*Department of Military Affairs*)
 13. Kim Morrow (*Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts*)
 14. Jeremy Rogers (*Cabinet for Health and Family Services*)
 15. Meghan Sandfoss (*Kentucky Chapter of the American Planning Association*)
 16. Aaron Jones for Matt Sawyers (*Department for Local Government*)
 17. Ben Shinabery (*Kentucky Association of Professional Surveyors*)
 18. Daniel Skillman (*Kentucky Board of Registered Geologists*)
 19. Alex Tietz (*Energy and Environment Cabinet*)
-

I. Call to Order/Welcome

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Barnhart.

II. Council Business

A. Roll Call

Quorum was confirmed by Katie Carney with 19 members or their designees in attendance.

B. Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the October 16, 2025, meeting were previously provided to members for their review. Motion entered by Jeff Kelley to accept minutes as written and distributed, motion seconded by Will Holmes, none opposed, minutes adopted.

C. NSGIC 2025 Geospatial Maturity Assessment

Mr. Anness announced that the Geospatial Maturity Assessment is performed every two years. There was hope that the grades would have been published by the end of 2025. The grades have not been made public yet and he further explained how they were scored and the regularity of the assessment.

Mr. Anness discussed the ortho imagery leaf off category and the address category. He explained that there is still debate happening regarding the ortho,

leaf on category because east of the Mississippi, leaf on imagery is not as valuable. Mr. Anness stated that there are some issues with the transportation category questions and Kentucky still has some work to do on parcels, which are categorized as cadastre.

Mr. Anness believes that all grades and the overall grade for Kentucky will be finalized prior to the next GIAC meeting.

D. Subcommittee Reports

1. KyFromAbove Technical Advisory Subcommittee

Mr. Anness announced that the subcommittee recently met, and it continues to discuss planning for lidar, lidar funding and imagery funding. There has been discussion about whether there is still a need for oblique imagery or just keeping ortho imagery up to date. There may be another meeting prior to the next GIAC meeting.

2. Public Buildings and School Safety Mapping Layer Standards Subcommittee

Mr. Graham announced that the subcommittee will meet on February 18. The invitation and links for the members to review will be sent shortly.

3. Kentucky Trail Data Standard Subcommittee

Mr. Hogue stated that the subcommittee met recently to reach a consensus about six new fields for inclusion in the trail head feature class. The information is included in the packet. The new fields will be used to identify the types of activity allowed on the association trail. The new trail features will be an extension. The benefit will be from a mapping perspective and labeling trails and trail heads similarly. The updated field data collection template is on BOX and can be downloaded. Mr. Hogue expressed his appreciation for the work of the subcommittee.

Mr. Anness commented that anyone can use the standard and provide the information to the Division of Geographic Information and then the USGS harvests the trail data from DGI.

Mr. Anness asked to receive GIAC approval of the new fields for the trail head features. Mr. Kelley moved to adopt the updates to the Kentucky Trail Data Standard. Mr. Higginbotham seconded the motion. After a roll call vote, of 17 yes votes and no nay votes, the fields were approved for inclusion.

4. GeoAI Subcommittee

Mr. Biddle stated that there was nothing new to report. However, if you are a current member, to please review the email circulating for planning the next meeting. He added that the subcommittee is looking for additional members to review lots of content from different angles.

5. Water Resource Information System Technical Advisory Committee

Mr. Anness stated that he has spoken with the executive director of the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA). The authority will soon advertise an open GIS position. KIA is also getting ready to transition to ARC GIS Pro and they will wait to advertise and fill the position until after the transition.

E. Next Generation 911 Status Report

Mr. Harding stated that there are currently seven counties live on NextGen911. The migration schedule will pick up to add two counties per week with a goal of 50 percent completion by the end of the calendar year.

Mr. Harding informed members that Rapid Deploy is a basic map program provided to 911 dispatchers. The program pings the caller's location and then it brings in all the stored GIS data provided by the Commonwealth.

Mr. Harding informed members that a pilot project has been deployed. It is a mobile application for first responders. The program brings in topographic data once the victim's location has been determined.

Mr. Harding shared his screen and provided an overview of the NextGen911 maps of the completed counties.

Mr. Holmes asked if the rapid deploy and the field mobile app includes aerial photography. Mr. Harding responded that yes, that is enabled for dispatchers and the mobile app. Mr. Holmes asked a follow-up question regarding if the elevation data is derived from lidar. Mr. Harding responded that the Kentucky topo base map is being utilized.

Mr. Holmes commented that he is receiving inquiry from his leadership regarding use cases and examples of the value with statewide imagery. He added that the use case presented by Mr. Harding is extremely valuable in explaining the need for statewide imagery. If every statewide imagery utilization division had to negotiate separately for imagery of their particular area and need, it becomes an extremely hard ask due to the individualized cost.

F. GIS Data Sharing Report

1. PVA Parcel Data – Agency Data Sharing Agreements and Availability Status
Mr. Caufield confirmed that there are currently 108 counties that parcel data has been received from. PVAs has expressed interest in entering into a formal agreement for data sharing.

G. Legislative Items Report

1. Budget Review Interim Joint Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel, and Public Retirement.
Mr. Anness informed members that on November 5, 2025, DGI gave a presentation on KyFromAbove. In the presentation, they told legislators that to maintain the program at its current level, funding would need to be \$6.15 million per year for a three-year rotation.

During the committee meeting, Senator McDaniel raised the point about the private sector using the data for free and inquired why they are not paying for it. Mr. Anness responded to Senator McDaniel that if the private sector would have to pay for this data, then the private sector would filter the cost down to the public agency that has contracted with the private company.

2. 2026 Regular Session – HB 304

Mr. Anness informed members that the \$6.15 million per year is in the executive branch budget bill that has been introduced by House Democratic leadership. However, the majority party will introduce their own version of the executive branch budget, and it is uncertain as to whether any funding will be included.

H. KyFromAbove Program Report

1. Imagery Program Status

Mr. Anness expanded more on the status in addition to the legislative update details.

a. Funding Status

Mr. Anness stated that without legislative funding, the imagery program cannot continue.

2. LiDAR Program Status

Mr. Anness presented Phase 3 acquisition details. Mr. Anness stated that funding for Phase 3 will be primarily provided by USGS and that COT will also provide a little for the 2026 acquisition.

a. 2026 Acquisition Map

Mr. Anness presented to members the acquisition map within the packet of information distributed prior to the meeting.

b. 2027 Acquisition Planning

Mr. Anness informed members that the oldest counties would be collected first and then other river towns. The initial river towns will include those along the Ohio River and then within Eastern Kentucky.

c. LiDAR Specifications Update

Mr. Anness stated that DGI is still struggling to get specifications updated to match the new USGS release. He added that Kentucky cannot request funding without meeting their expectations. Mr. Anness announced that hopefully the specifications update will be completed and ready prior to the next GIAC meeting and if so, it will be considered for a vote to adopt.

I. KyTopo Map Series Phase 2 Elevation Data Update

Mr. Shearer provided members with a copy of the [presentation](#) via the meeting's chat. He stated that the background for the project began about 10 years ago with phase one LiDAR elevation data. That data, along with contributions from other state agencies, such as KYTC, produced the first Kentucky-centric topographic map series. The current goal is to produce a statewide topographic base map series for Kentucky using Phase 2 lidar elevation data, slated for a full release this Spring.

His presentation gave visual examples of lidar elevation products and cartographic styles used in the upcoming map series and online services. With over twice the resolution of Phase 1, the latest elevation layer will give the most detailed representation yet of Kentucky's topography. The contour, spot elevation, and shaded relief layers derived from Phase 2 will be incorporated into all base maps and online services that use elevation. For the KyTopo Map series, which is a fixed-scale raster product, minor stylistic changes were made to the color scheme, typography, and symbology to enhance readability.

J. KAMP Announcements

Mr. Biddle stated that the first quarterly KAMP meeting will be held virtually on February 4.

Mr. Biddle provided the members with additional links for KAMP.

<https://kamp.wildapricot.org/event-6473176/Registration>

<https://kamp.wildapricot.org/event-6473149?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=1/21/2026>

<https://kamp.wildapricot.org/event-6473176?CalendarViewType=1&SelectedDate=1/21/2026>

K. New Business

Chairman Barnhart opened the floor for any new business.

Mr. Anness informed members that Kentucky State Parks has an additional GIS staff member. He reminded members that Kentucky Infrastructure Authority will soon have a GIS position open. Mr. Anness announced and thanked Jenny Schenkenfelder for her service to the Commonwealth and provided congratulations on her upcoming retirement at the end of January. He stated that the Economic Development Cabinet will be filling her position within a few months.

III. Adjournment

Mr. Barnhart thanked everyone and expressed his appreciation for the collaboration and attendance during today's meeting. With a motion made and seconded to adjourn, the meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT 2025

Kentucky Report Card

Overall Grade: B+

COORDINATION

GRADE: A+

STATE-LED THEMES

GRADE

Address

A

Cadastre

D

Elevation

A

Orthoimagery Leaf-Off

A

Transportation

B-

NG9-1-1

A

FEDERAL-LED THEMES

GRADE

Geodetic Control

A-

Government Units

A

Orthoimagery Leaf-On

C+

METRICS:

A - Superior

C - Average

F - Failure

B - Above average

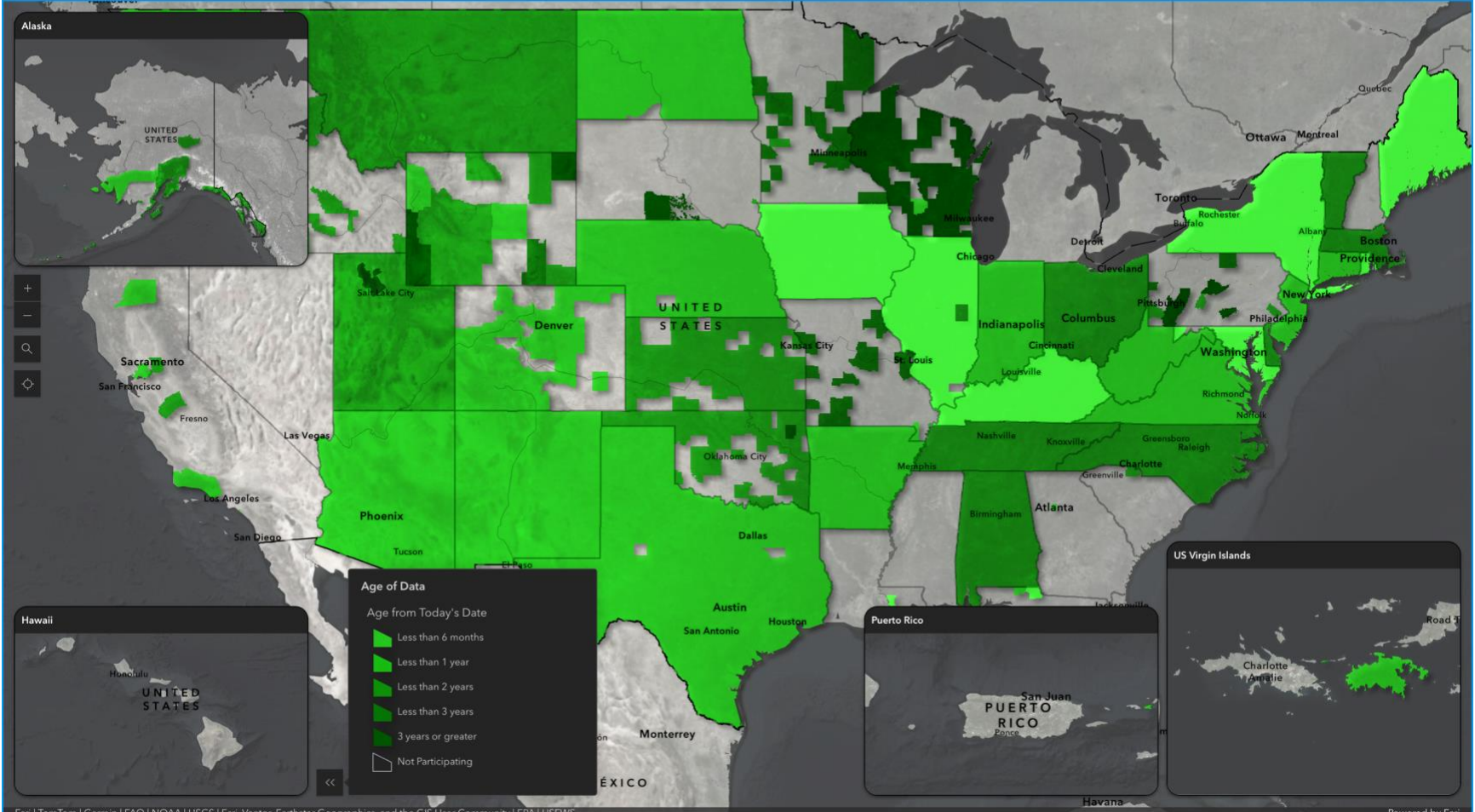
D - Below average

N/A - Not Applicable

The National States Geographic Information Council Geospatial Maturity Assessment provides NSGIC members and other partners with a summary of geospatial initiatives, capabilities, and issues within and across state governments. The NSGIC GMA now produce report cards for each state on central data themes and coordination topics. The assessment is performed every two years.



USDOT National Address Database (NAD) Map, Age of Data Retrieval by County or Local Partner from Today's Date



2026 Regular Session:

Excerpts regarding KyFromAbove funding from the Executive Branch Budget Bill (HB500)

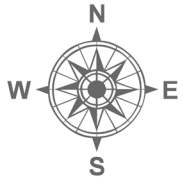
Six million per fiscal year for KyFromAbove Program: Funding assumes a three-year refresh cycle, or funding for two-thirds of the state.

001. Kentucky from Above

Investment Income	6,000,000	6,000,000
-------------------	-----------	-----------

PVA-Specific Language in the PVA portion of the Budget Bill:

(3) Use of Statewide Aerial Mapping System: Notwithstanding any statute to the contrary, each Property Valuation Administrator shall utilize the Commonwealth’s statewide aerial imagery and mapping program, KyFromAbove, as the source for aerial mapping and imagery services used in the administration of property tax assessment functions. All Property Valuation Administrators shall transition to use of the statewide system on or before June 30, 2028. The Commonwealth Office of **Technology** shall ensure coordination, technical assistance, and implementation support to facilitate compliance with this requirement.



KyFromAbove Elevation Data

2027 Phase 3 Acquisition Areas

- Existing Phase 3 QL2 Elevation Data
- Phase 3 2027 QL2 Elevation Data

Total Square Miles: 2913

Total Project Cost: 495,828

