

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PlanGraphics undertook a rapid and comprehensive examination of the data requirements and associated needs of the KGIS user community, including City and County government, KUB, other governments, the private sector and the general public. In doing so, PlanGraphics sought to identify the data requirements of the user community, whether or not they were being met and what gaps resulted from unfulfilled data and information needs. PlanGraphics undertook this assessment with an additional objective of reducing costs where it could be accommodated while sustaining the benefits being derived by the various KGIS user constituencies.

In undertaking the assessment PlanGraphics interviewed more than 125 individuals from City and County government and KUB, a dozen more targeted interviews of government and KUB management, a cross section of external users and incorporated the responses from more than 200 respondents to an on-line survey targeting KGIS users. We examined the practices of KGIS in the context of GIS best and emerging practices and sought the opinions of other GIS industry experts.

And while the bulk of this summary section addresses the opinions of KGIS users relevant to their data usage and needs we have also reached a number of important conclusions and recommendations, which are presented in a subsequent section of this document, in the form they were presented to City, County and KUB study participants.

As one of the nations oldest and most successful multi-participant, multi-jurisdictional GIS, KGIS continues to serve as a benchmark for other systems across the US and elsewhere. More importantly KGIS has become inextricably interwoven in the business processes of government, KUB, the private sector and the general public. Its benefits of lower cost of business, higher efficiencies and improved timeliness of data and analysis have become largely internalized within government and KUB and in some instances buried from view or taken for granted by the current user experience and expectations.

PlanGraphics found that KGIS investments in certain data are considered essential by more than eighty percent of its users. These include:

- Street and building addresses
- Aerial photography
- Parcel and subdivision location and information
- Ownership information
- Building location (footprints) and
- Contours and elevation data

There are no other sources of these data that are as reliable and as accurate the information collected and maintained by the KGIS user community. A few notable facts

emerged from our study regarding these essential data:

- though the KGIS organization is the most visible representative of the GIS; the data that it houses is the result of multiple collaborations involving city, county and KUB entities, each adding value to the collection, validation, extension, maintenance and distribution of the information
- there are other public and private sources of some of the same types of data e.g., Google, Bing, CourthouseDirect.com et. al., however, none provide the consistent and high level of accuracy that KGIS is respected for, few have the provenance to sustain legal scrutiny nor can they be influenced by the specific needs of the KGIS user community
- the accuracy of the planimetric and topographic data, and in particular, the vertical accuracies far exceed other sources and, in themselves, contribute significant cost avoidance and savings to the engineering, public works, utility, real estate, development and related functions of both the government and the private sector

PlanGraphics did establish that there are indeed areas where cost savings can be achieved and other areas where additional benefits can be reaped. The most significant of the monetary benefits can be derived by leveraging the six-year investment recently committed by the County on behalf of the Property Assessor. This decision can lead to biannual updates of aerial photography and mapping quality imagery, as well as serve a foundation for the mapping of terrain and other 3D features that are highly sought by the users of KGIS. Over an 8 year budgeting horizon (reflecting the 7+ years of benefits to be accrued by the Property Assessors' photography contract with Pictometry; KGIS would realize improved currency and timeliness of its photographic and digital base maps at a cost savings and reductions expected to range from \$727,000 to \$1.3 million.

As importantly, we also identified a host of additional opportunities where costs could be reduced and, conversely, where significant benefits could be realized by the expenditure of additional small sums, the reallocation of staffing resources or the institution of new procedures and communication venues.

The following presentation addresses both the technical and the institutional observations and recommendations leading to those cost savings and incremental benefits.