

## Council on Open Data

November 10, 2015

1:00PM - 3:00PM

Maryland Transportation Department (MDOT)  
7201 Corporate Center Drive, Hanover, MD 21076  
Harry Hughes Conference Room, Lower Level

### **Introductions (Barney Krucoff, State GIO)**

- Low turnout may be due to changing the meeting date/time at the last minute
- Luis Estrada (DoIT Deputy Secretary) and Luis Luna (GOPI Director) are in attendance

### **Agenda (Barney Krucoff)**

(Slides Available)

- Luis Luna to talk about GOPI's progress and how it might affect this Council
- Maryland received a "D" on public information which was above average, go over criteria
  - Came out yesterday
- Progress made and completed on joint search between two data portals
- Show improvements that have been made, including: imagery for download, previously only available as service and improved metadata links from web map template
- Dataset Freshness Dashboard, keeps an eye on the update cycles and reports back
  - Track whether we are following the update cycles listed in the metadata
  - Want to make this information public, along with annual report, in January 2016
- Report on Open Meeting Calendar, called for last year by this Council
- Office of the Attorney General (OAG) update based on discussions from last Council meeting
- Spend most time on the annual report, due 1/10/16
  - This is the only meeting scheduled between now and then, we can schedule another if needed
  - Not complete, will go over two main parts today:
    - Accomplishments from the previous years
      - Want to include those that agencies think should be added to the report
    - Recommendations for the next year
      - What we hope to do next year, opportunities, put forth goals

### **Update on Governor's Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI) (Luis Luna, GOPI Director)**

- 4 weeks ago yesterday, Executive Order signed by Governor, naming Luis as Director of GOPI
  - Takes the place of StateStat
  - Monitor that agencies are doing what they said they will do
- Analysts: Amber Ivey and Pat Bushier
- Meet with agencies over the next few weeks and will continue meetings during the next month
- Use open data to determine the results and outcomes of work being done by the agencies
- Understand in real time what is being accomplished

- Talk specifically about the Open Data Act at these meetings and stress encouragement of use
- GOPI will be a big consumers of open data and will make sure all agencies they work with are aware of the importance of this resource
- New URL: <http://performance.maryland.gov>
- Welcome everyone to watch progress in the months ahead

## Update on GIS Software and SaaS Contract (Barney Krucoff)

- Purchased for entire state government through DoIT
- Current contract with Esri
- Existing contract was not extended by BPW
- Emergency contract was entered into in October for 6 months
  - 3 month option would have to be approved by BPW or at least reported
- Justification for emergency was that MEMA and other agencies use software for emergency awareness, MSP uses it for public safety, would have been inconvenient to end support for cloud portion for all agencies
- An RFI was out on the street and DoIT received 12 responses
  - A review panel includes members of the Council
- An RFP is expected to follow, but not yet sure, based on results of RFI review
- This is the software that powers <http://data.imap.maryland.gov>

**Question:** Why was the existing ELA extension not approved?

- Because of sole source arrangement
- Also because Former Governor O'Malley was paid, by Esri, for a series of speeches and this information came up during three BPW meetings when we asked to exercise the option
- We are receiving a decent price for the ELA, but it is desirable to see competition
- Will need to determine how many of the RFI submissions are serious competition
- Need to determine how to factor in the value of training that staff have, customizations and integrations that have been invested in the existing resources
- Determine the cost of change and factor in decisions moving forward
- Board of Public Works (BPW) deferred a decision during three meetings until the contract expired and so emergency was entered into to continue maintenance of existing software products
- We would have to consider all the functionality changes and training that would be necessary, if the software provider changed
- Compare roughly server software to server software, desktop software to desktop software, etc

**Question:** Could respondent be a third party vendor with Esri as a part of the team?

- Yes, expect this is the case because there are not 12 other software providers
- There is a mix of the 12 respondents of providers, third party providers, service providers, etc.

## Report from Center for Public Integrity (<http://www.publicintegrity.org>) (Barney Krucoff)

(Slides Available)

- Report on website that shows MD got a grade of "D" as it relates to state integrity

- No state scored better than a “C”. Maryland’s score ranks 23rd out of 50.
- This group cares about public information access, on this aspect we got a “F”
- Might want to formulate a response to the group
- Both the Baltimore Sun and the Washington Post have responded, so we could also respond
- Click on the individual aspects of each topic that was graded (“YES”, “NO” or “MODERATE”)
- Ombudsman and appeals board were not fully taken into account pertaining to recent actions
- Open Data law to publish data online in an open format exists, but MD was given a “NO” -- inaccurately stating law does not require data to be open
  - Says efforts are under way, says law does not require data to be open
    - Do not agree with this statement, we have factors to close datasets that qualify, but all other datasets must be open
  - Legislature would have to list individual datasets specifically to make open in order to get recognized as “YES?”
    - Naming specific datasets would require regular revisions of the law itself and is not advised
- Report cites Common Cause as source of information, and that information was provided in February 2015.

**Question:** Is this legitimate enough to respond to?

- It has been picked up by the Baltimore Sun and the Washington Post and so legitimate enough
- Barney Krucoff recommends we respond and clarify
- Common Cause has indicated their responses as a call to do more
- Statute is to speak on the fact of the law
- Appropriate to reach out to Common Cause and website owners and indicate corrections and ask for clarification in the next release of these grades
- Common Cause is not a member of this council, but have attended meetings
- Barney to discuss report with Common Cause and pursue any formal response with upper management at DoIT

**Comment:** Some advocacy groups...

- Want emails to be public information, getting an “A” for them means no shred of letter/email, etc. is public within government
- Need to be realistic about their expectations
- More concerned that they did not recognize our laws that are in place, but instead stated that the law was not in place
- What matters for this Council is to continue to move our initiatives forward, as we have been doing
- Perhaps send a letter to this organization and Common Cause personally

**Update on Joint Search between [data.maryland.gov](http://data.maryland.gov) and [data.imap.maryland.gov](http://data.imap.maryland.gov) (Josh Exler, DoIT/ESRGC)**

(Slides Available)

- Integrated search of two separate data sites (Open Data Portal and MD iMAP)
  - Non-spatial and spatial datasets
  - Now a single interface to search both sites

- Go to <http://data.maryland.gov> and find all data from both sites
- There are a number of other “external” data sites, which are all linked through the Open Data Portal, but the data is not hosted on the Open Data Portal
- Metadata has been embedded from the original source in the Open Data Portal entries
- Link to the direct layer from the other source locations, such as MD iMAP
- Good first step for integrating the sites, but looking for ways to do this better
- There are two separate websites which has to do with the history of the programs
- From the outset we would have made a single site and the end goal is to do so
- This is a huge step in the right direction
- Hope this creates an easier way for anyone to find the state’s open data in a single location
- Minimal loss of integrity concerning the copying over of metadata
- MD iMAP will be scanned monthly for new layers that have been created, deleted or modified, this includes the metadata for each layer

**Comment:** Thank you for the training that MVA has received concerning ArcGIS and MD iMAP

- Very pleased with the customer service of Jeyan Jebaraj and resources made available

**Comment:** Thanks to Josh Exler for writing the scripts involved with pulling the search functions together in the Open Data Portal

## **MD iMAP New Open Data Capabilities (Julia Fischer, DoIT)**

- Can now download imagery by very specific areas
- Template within MD iMAP. Provides common tools and functionality. This is the most recent addition to the website in terms of increasing functionality.

## **Update on Dataset Freshness Dashboard (Josh Exler)**

(Slides Available)

- <https://data.maryland.gov/Administrative/Dataset-Freshness-Report-for-data-maryland-gov-As-sa-m4-nffa>
- Evaluate whether all data on the site is up to date, being updated as indicated
- Sharing link and granting access to state users, anyone in agency, anyone who manages a dataset should be able to access this information
- Goal is after having 2 months to review and update data, after which time this information will be made live to the public
- Report on the state of data on <http://data.maryland.gov>
- Working to add to the report the state of data on MD iMAP as well
- Calculated weekly (“YES”, “NO”, “N/A”, “Better Metadata Needed” options)
- Update frequency is included for each data layer that is submitted
- Option available to include additional detail for datasets that are updated on an unusual cycle (i.e.: Every three weeks, etc.)
- Dataset owner is listed for each, internal version will have usernames, but the public facing version will include agency responsible, not the owner’s name
- Want to allow users to be able to see how they are doing on their own datasets

- Sending out links as part of the follow up, grant all state owners access, TBD to make live
- Report is generated by DoIT automatically, but the generation takes approx. 1 hour each time. Therefore, the report doesn't recalculate when a user loads it. DoIT is updating it weekly, planning on more frequent updates (working toward a goal of real-time updating if possible) as Socrata improves its APIs.

**Question:** Does the dashboard include external datasets or only the datasets with data hosted on Socrata?

- Does not include charts, maps
- Does include datasets internal and external to the Open Data Portal, does include MD iMAP data
- Does not include federated data from other county and municipal partners
- Code has been provided to other partners to determine how up-to-date local data is that is searchable in Open Data Portal

**Question:** Does the dashboard only assess public facing datasets? What about datasets that are temporary or being used for testing?

- Does not include private datasets

**Question:** How would the public ping/provide notification to update data that is expired?

- Users can comment on datasets, discuss feature, can comment on individual cells
- These comments go to the owner and administrators, get a direct email

**Question:** If a view is created, will this also be updated?

- Views are based on underlying data and will be updated as data included in the view is updated
- Only the source data, not the view, will be tracked as up-to-date

## **Open Meetings Calendar (Barney Krucoff)**

- Recommended last year in annual report, now available on <http://Maryland.gov>
- Put in meeting notice to meeting register, as required, but calendar created to include open meetings, including boards, etc.
- Can also put not "official" open meetings, including parades, etc.
- There is a web form to fill out and submit an event for the calendar
  - If event is approved by DoIT Web Team, it will be added to the calendar
  - Agencies do not have to maintain a separate calendar on agency website
  - Can use this calendar and embed a filtered view on an agency website
  - RSS feed also available for subscription

**Question:** How was it created, part of SharePoint?

- Not sure, will have to find out and return this information later

## **Dataset for Agency Contact Information & PIA Contact Information (Josh Exler)**

- Populating specific dataset with information for Maryland state agency contacts
- Agencies now required to designate an individual to respond to PIA requests

- This information is being submitted by Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and this information is included into this dataset
  - PIA representative name, office address, email and phone number
- Linked from the home page of <http://data.maryland.gov>

## **Open Data Council's Annual Report for 2015 (Barney Krucoff & Josh Exler)**

- Law requires that we submit an annual report on January 10<sup>th</sup> of each year
- Include activities and recommendations for the upcoming calendar year
- A copy is delivered to the Governor and Legislators
  - Report can include recommendations for actions for the Governor and/or for the Legislation
  - Last year we recommended the Governor rescind existing Executive Orders, which were in conflict with the new Open Data law and this recommendation was completed
- Can schedule another meeting, if needed, or make changes to report based on comments today and send out for review by everyone via email
- Could vote to approve the annual report, but rather send out after no objections
  - Do not have something setup to monitor and administer voting
- Two key tables for review:
  - Accomplishments for 2015
  - Recommendations and goals for 2016
- Open to changes and additions to these tables and backup materials related to each item in the tables

## **Council on Open Data Major Accomplishments -- 2015 (Draft Annual Report Page 2)**

#1: Maryland modified State Government Section 10-901 through 10-905, "Automated Mapping -- Geographic Information Systems."

- Last year Council recommended and General Assembly followed this recommendation

#2: The Department of Information Technology (DoIT) created a joint search for Maryland's two open data sites: MD iMAP and the Open Data Portal.

- Results demonstrated at this meeting

#3: The State Department of Assessments and Taxation (SDAT), Department of Planning (MDP), and DoIT made mass records for real property assessment records from SDAT and MDP available for the first time.

- Real Property records are freely available
- Have been available for sale and for individual record query in the past, but want to make it clear now fully available (i.e., all records in one place, instead of viewing one record at a time) for download

#4: State agencies published new datasets on [data.maryland.gov](http://data.maryland.gov) and [data.imap.maryland.gov](http://data.imap.maryland.gov).

Agencies also created new [dashboards](#) and [maps](#) to help the public explore the data.

- Take credit for some of the more significant datasets that were published this year
- Some of the favorite datasets, dashboards and tables added this past year



- Most recent spending dataset, GOCCP crime by county, PIA contacts, SDAT data
- Examples: [Give Maryland Dashboard](#) and [MEA Smart Energy Investment Dashboard](#)

#5: DoIT launched the Dataset Freshness Dashboard to automatically find data that require updates.

- Demonstrated at this meeting, in progress

#6: DoIT made it easier for local governments to share their public data by providing free access to [MD Geo Share](#) for publishing map data and microsities for publishing alphanumeric data.

- Tied to Esri contract, online SaaS function where locals can publish data onto MD iMAP
- Can take data being served out, list a service and add it in
- Socrata has similar offering, for local jurisdictions with fewer than 100,000 in population
  - Can establish a Socrata microsite, riding the state's contract and post up to 50 datasets
- MD Geo Share, most data is emergency management related and is private, but does not have to be private, local jurisdictions can share information with a state agency or with the public

#7: DoIT made it possible for citizens and firms to [download Maryland aerial imagery](#) to their own systems.

- Aerial imagery, from many collection years, including specialty imagery, is available for download
- Downloads can be obtained for [focused areas](#) or [pre-defined areas](#) via the MD iMAP Portal
- Example of saving money by offering some of the imagery to the locals without requiring them to pay for their own separate copy

#8: The Secretary of State and DoIT created an [online open meetings calendar](#) and RSS data feed. These more modern interfaces supplement but do not replace the traditional Maryland Register based notifications.

- Results demonstrated at this meeting

#9: [data.gov](#) and [GIS Inventory](#) consuming services from MD iMAP

- MD iMAP data is now federated into national level repositories of data discovery and open data

### **Council on Open Data Recommendations and Goals -- 2016 (Draft Annual Report Page 13)**

#1: The Department of Budget and Management (DBM), DoIT, and state agencies should collaborate with the Governor's Office of Performance Improvement (GOPI) to open and publish Managing for Results (MFR) data and other datasets identified by GOPI.

- Publish performance management data
  - Will also be able to look at change over time, which agencies' budgets are growing, which are shrinking, will be facilitated through an interactive dashboard
  - Two sets of performance data historically collected, Managing For Results (MFR) and GOPI (monthly) will both be collected
  - GOPI goal is to eliminate the duplicitous work involved reporting to both the Governor's Office and MFR. The metrics for these two programs will be consolidated as much as possible.
  - If there is something being used for performance improvement should be open information

- Want to know how many clients are being served, how often, how well, anything being used to grade performance

#2: GOPI should monitor agency and gubernatorial initiatives and identify opportunities to make data public.

- GOPI should monitor existing and new data sources for open data opportunities
- For example: heroin task force
  - Generated new data, GOPI to monitor this activity
  - MFR would look back a year
  - New things would come up in performance improvement setting first

#3: DoIT should develop and provide regular training sessions for agency staff on how to make data public.

- Offer free training of these tools and resources to state agencies
- Do not have a regular program of training for the open data resources, goal for next year
  - Contracted out to give classes and offer training formalized of the state's GIS resources

#4: The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention (GOCCP) and DoIT should develop a dashboard to help citizens analyze crime data by county.

- Interested in a dashboard with years of data, this shows trends of data
- For example: How is this community doing?, How is this police force and county doing?, What are changes, up or down, by official type 1 and type 2 crimes published by FBI?

#5: DBM and DoIT should publish Maryland's Operating Budget as open data and develop an interactive dashboard to help citizens explore budget data.

- Now in a .pdf, but want to instead include in dashboard, down to object level, same as budget book level now available

#6: DoIT should incorporate a statewide dataset inventory into Maryland's Information Technology Management Plan.

- Agency CIOs asked to update this plan annually, get more data inventory into this plan
- Have two questions in, but want to increase and have more regular data coming out of this plan

#7: DoIT, with input from the Council, should report on the costs and benefits of a potential statewide Public Information Act (PIA) tracking database.

- If request is received, was it logged, lawyer might keep a list, there is no list at DoIT that is shared and definitely not one that goes across the state
- Could DoIT track them all and know the kind of information that citizens are looking for, the turnaround time, etc.
- Asking for numbers around costs

#8: DoIT, with input from the Council, should evaluate open source alternatives to Maryland's current open data portals.



- Both are Software as a Service (SaaS) and both, if the bill is not paid, will turn off and if using APIs, those will break also, if bills are not paid
- Know from the Board of Public Works (BPW) reaction that we need to study alternatives to how we do this
- Part of this is Request For Information (RFI) that is on-going and would include open data and GIS
- Does not say we have to switch, just have to study this

#9: The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) and DoIT should leverage new provisions of the PIA to encourage agencies to identify additional datasets for publication as open data.

- Agencies are required to start posting lists of data they have, on their websites, as per updates to PIA legislation which went into effect Oct. 1st.
- If agencies are posting and making data available for PIA requests, want to consolidate and work with agencies to determine if data can be public all of the time, or rather if PIA requests always have to be made to get this information exposed

#10: DoIT should make full address points and LIDAR imagery available to the public on the open data portals.

- Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) as a raster dataset with services available for entire state
- Flown out of an airplane, there is a measure based on surface of the earth
  - Can extract terrain, telephone poles, buildings
  - Can be very big data, cannot download the state's data currently
- We pay Eastern Shore Regional GIS Cooperative (ESRGC) to distribute the data, upon request
- Add some similar capabilities to download the LiDAR, like download of the imagery data
- LiDAR data is 3D data and will include some capabilities and accessibilities in the future

**Question:** Open data that is perplexing and keeps growing, is there any way to solicit to academics to bring open data out and discuss in a way that this is how Maryland is using data, opening up data and let people understand all aspects of how this is being done?

- Documentation of the entire program, show how Maryland is handling it, tackling this phenomenon
- Understanding given to the public that this is the era we are in and academia is not paying attention to what is going on
- If someone called us and was doing a study, we would help them

**Question:** Is there a comprehensive data inventory for the state?

- Included in the list as bullet #6, DoIT to include inventory in the management plan
- Issues about whether this should be a separate data call to the CIOs, want to incorporate into management plan for the future
- Prior years templates, there were sections for tell us about major IT projects, future, other projects and future other projects, now it is just all projects
  - Provide information, including dates about a specific projects or information systems
  - There are questions about whether it is available as open data or not
- There was a questionnaire that went out previously, does not include a complete dataset specific call within the plan call for information

- Find out what else is out there that could be open
  - What is the most valuable to liberate and what is the easiest to liberate
  - Come up with a plan to live up to the requirements of the law, up to the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) wall that exists
- Plans are due in in early December, responses might include some justifications and examples, can summarize for next Council on Open Data meeting, start there
- Not opposed to separate, comprehensive survey going out
- Plan is better used to find projects and what datasets are coming out of projects, see how much we get out of existing system
  - Improved the process, by adding data questions, more structured and sortable

**Comment:** Draft Annual Report Page 20, PIA recommendations

- Excellent summary of struggle with topic last year, but recommendation on page 13 is more specific, have not satisfied the general concept of PIA tracking system
- Should we report on costs and benefits or is this putting the cart before the horse?
- Need to get scheme of PIA database before making recommendations about costs and benefits
- Rephrase page 13 to match what is written on page 20, “reconvene or rethink this topic”
- Have we given thought to giving companies an opportunities to show their software/tool of how to accomplish this?
- Some of the confidentiality is outside of vendor discussion
- Perhaps vendors have experience with other states or other clients that might be able to help with some of the issues that face each, including costs and benefits
- Asking for this database has resulted in push back that request is unwieldy and costly
- Need to have both conversations and costs and benefits second

**Comment:** Appreciate incorporating the operating budget, this this is helpful

- Not here, but not the work of this Council, we have all of this data available, but who knows about it?
  - Is this only internal, or does the information about this data go out beyond internal representatives?
- Should DoIT be doing something more to let people know about the great amounts of data we have
- Let people know what the state is doing, instead of answering one at a time, improve messaging
- Outreach goal, we do some outreach out of the DoIT office, for example speaking engagements, want to reach more librarians and academics, who are the people who help other people use data

**Suggestion:** Make competition based on using the datasets and offer scholarships as part of the marketing and outreach efforts

- There has been a competition at UMD
- Held competition under former Governor for Chesapeake Bay apps, got a location for a weekend, invited teams
  - This is a lot of work, got some results, catered to younger people to get together and code

- Come up with representative from Council or DoIT could go to hack-a-thons and tell them about the data available
- Include a template to a more data-oriented audience, some technical specifications that could go out to any event
- Part of what is not working with hack-a-thons is that it is too focused on people who understand technology and data
- Want to reach a broader audience of people who do not know what is out there
- Hack-a-thons include a limited audience, broader outreach campaign is ideal
- Related to publicity for open data: How many people know about [Maryland.gov](http://Maryland.gov)?
  - Was not aware of this being available until started working for the State of Maryland
  - How does the message go out instead of stumbling on it?
- [data.gov](http://data.gov) umbrella solutions are really useful
- Montgomery County have done some hack-a-thons and some focused groups
  - Meetings with citizens to find out what their needs are
  - They do not know what data is available, but have specific problems they want addressed
  - Talk about bringing the data that is needed to answer these questions
- Making data available is one thing, but providing constituents with solutions is not something that DoIT is in the best position to provide, perhaps as a joint effort, working with another agency
- Some hack-a-thons include subject matter experts, code people and government people, to serve and work in partnership
- “Civic hackers” go in and solve problems with data that is made available
- Idea of app contests is not new, there are plenty of them available
- Talk with PIO and management and add goal related to outreach
- [challenge.gov](http://challenge.gov) website where you can post problems and people provide solutions

**Comment:** Should calendar be by CY or FY so it is in line with strategic plans, budgets, etc.?

- Corresponds with start of General Assembly and written into law that report is due January 10th
- Published by end of CY, but includes information from the closed FY

**Comment:** Previously done competitions/hack-a-thons, is this an accomplishment for the report?

- 2014 accomplishment

**Comment:** Want to make sure we include smart goals, but do not want to overcommit

- Short-term goals and long-term goals, if we cannot commit to delivering all recommendations
- Some of the recommendations listed have been started on
- Want to make sure all are achievable and we are not over committed
- Biggest gap was inventory and meetings calendar, took longer than anticipated
- Dataset Freshness Dashboard and calendar closed off many of the remaining recommendations and goals from last year’s report

**Question:** Do we need to meet again in December or sufficient edits facilitating annual report editing over email?

- No meeting is necessary

- Will send out the latest report draft the first week in December
- Council members will have a couple of weeks to look at it and send feedback
- Final version will be published and submitted on January 10, 2016

## **Next Meeting**

**Date:** TBD

**Location:** TBD