

Meeting Notes
FGDC Address Subcommittee
December 9, 2020
Webinar

Attendance (29 Total):

Carl Anderson, URISA
Dierdre Bevington-Attardi, U.S. Census Bureau
Dave Cackowski, U.S. Census Bureau
Lisa Delmonico, U.S. Department of Agriculture
Jonathan Duran, State of Arkansas
Monique Eleby, U.S. Census Bureau
Michael Fashoway, State of Montana
Rich Frazier, U.S. Geological Survey
Michael Garner, U.S. Postal Service
Ben Gurga, Social Security Administration
Ashley Hitt, Connected Nation
Will Lehman, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Steve Lewis, U.S. Department of Transportation
Lynda Liptrap, U.S. Census Bureau
Phil Markert, Department of Homeland Security
James Meyer, State of Arizona
Carlos Olmedo, Puerto Rico Depa
Raúl Ríos-Díaz, iCasaPR
Karen Rogers, State of Wyoming
Dan Ross, State of Minnesota
Andy Rowan, State of New Jersey
Joe Sewash, State of Virginia
Jon Sperling, iCasaPR
Thomas Springsteen, HIFLD/Booz Allen Hamilton
Marilia Valdes, FEMA
Ed Wells, URISA
Martha Wells, URISA
Frank Winters, State of New York
Matt Zimolzak, U.S. Census Bureau

Meeting Summary

National Address Database (NAD) Updates, Steve Lewis (DOT)

- NAD version 5 will be released by the end of January 2021. It contains updates from existing partners and few new counties from Texas.
- Funding is in place for another year and there will not be any down time this year.
- Status map: <https://www.transportation.gov/gis/national-address-database/national-address-database-0>

Address Workflow Subgroup Update, Matt Zimolzak (Census Bureau)

- Group is on hiatus waiting for the NAD Content proposal to be finalized and a few other items that need stakeholder input.

Puerto Rico Address Data Working Group (PRADWG) Phase 3 Report, Greg Hanks, Lynda Liptrap, Dave Cackowski (Census Bureau)

- Recap of Phases 1 & 2
 - Recap of the PRADWG Purpose Statement
 - Phase 1 – Agency Proven Practices in managing Puerto Rico Address Data.
 - Phase 2 – Agency Challenges in managing Puerto Rico Address Data.
- Phase 3 Objective – Identify Agency Goals and Needs – we need to solve address data problems that are impacting federal agencies, especially considering the challenges of hurricanes, earthquakes, and pandemics,
- Phase 3 Foundation
 - We want to build upon findings in previous phases.
 - Agency Use Cases:
 - Mission Planning
 - Disaster Recovery
 - Geolocation
 - Mailing Lists
 - Existing Data Challenges
 - Lack of locatable addresses, at least 20%-40% of PR households lack locatable addresses – There are many rural route type addresses.
 - Addresses aren't consistent or standardized, and don't have qualifiers to make them unique
 - Lack of open or sharable data
 - Legal and Policy Guidelines
 - Geospatial Data Act
 - Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act
 - Actions occurring in Puerto Rico
- Phase 3 Report
 - Participation
 - PRADWG sent a questionnaire to federal agencies and 10 responded.
 - Questionnaire results
 - Needs include:
 - Accurate physical and mailing addresses.

- Island-wide open source data that is regularly updated and locally sourced.
 - A field for Urbanization Name.
 - Land use attributes, and standardized attributes.
 - Standardized data, metadata, and standards for data exchange.
 - Geocoding services.
 - Going Forward
 - Federal Agency Recommendations in Support of Puerto Rico Address Data Goals:
 - Open Address Data
 - Proven Practices
 - Support and Utilize Geospatial Information Resources
 - Address Standards
 - Geocoding Processes and Tools
 - Use of Geographic Entities to Ensure Unique Addresses
 - Support Innovative Partnerships
 - Conclusion
 - Federal agencies share similar goals and needs for the Puerto Rico address data that are common to all missions.
 - Innovative partnerships across public and private sectors will solve persistent difficulties with Puerto Rico address data and structures without locatable addresses.
 - The OPEN Government Data Act and the Geospatial Data Act (GDA) are models for the development of an open address system in Puerto Rico.
- Phase 3 Closeout
 - PRADWG and Address Data Governance
 - PRADWG was a working group of the Address Subcommittee. Its work is complete.
 - Transitioning from the PRADWG
 - Establish a Census Bureau Point of Contact (POC) for Puerto Rico Address Data Stakeholders (Note: POC is Dave Cackowski)
 - Add PRADWG Members to the FGDC Address Subcommittee Distribution List
 - Continue to Include and Add Puerto Rico Stakeholders to the Address Subcommittee
 - Conduct Puerto Rico Address Data Discussions and Presentations as Part of FGDC Address Subcommittee Meetings
 - We have built a great group of collaborators and stakeholders during the PRADWG. Dave Cackowski will report on the status of Puerto Rico's address data in future meetings of the Address Subcommittee..

Puerto Rico Civic Address Vulnerability Evaluation (PRCAVE) Update, Raúl Ríos-Díaz, Jon Sperling (iCasaPR):

- On behalf of the Initiative for *Civic Address Systems Assessment In Puerto Rico* (iCasaPR), Jon Sperling and Raúl Ríos-Díaz discussed and offered feedback on the PRADWG Phase 3 report, “Data Goals and Needs for Federal Agencies in the Use and Management of Puerto Rico Address Data” and focused on the following points in four topic areas:
- **TOPIC 1: Puerto Rico Address Data Objectives:** “... the optimum state of Puerto Rico address data is to have a physical address for every building and location, linked to parcel data.”
 - In 2021, there will be several changes in government leadership at all levels across the Island. As such, it is important to include a bottom-up design to ensure sustainability and coordination on an institutional level in all efforts going forward. By law, 78 “municipios” are the authoritative sources and many will have new mayors and staffing.
 - Capacity building at the local level will be a critical requirement for achieving an optimum sustainable state for address data and desirable linkages between street level and parcel-level data (e.g., completeness, temporal quality, data usability and shareability across agencies and organizations).
- **TOPIC 2: Suggested enhancements to existing documented challenges:** “Because there are so many streets with the same name (Calle 1, for example) within a municipio, having a field for Urbanización/ Neighborhood would be helpful.”
 - It is imperative for Federal agencies to improve existing federal data systems and datasets before addressing changes in Puerto Rico begin. Standardized data will allow agencies to match to addresses that change during renumbering projects.
 - Federal agencies should revise internal and external websites to require a field for Puerto Rico’ urbanization (URB) names for ZIP Codes 006-007 and 009 and also change paper and digital forms and procedures to include standardized URB names. These efforts will require communicating and enforcing downstream data collection processes in some agencies and may involve working closely with their existing government contractors.
- **TOPIC 3: Data goals and needs for existing challenges:** “... the most important data goals and needs are for standardized, unique (non-duplicative), locatable, locally sourced, and island-wide data...”
 - Currently, people in Puerto Rico do not use addressing standards when sharing their addressing information with Federal agencies. Sometimes, the lack of a field for the URB name means they must mix address elements in a single line.
 - Existing low percentages and quality of geocoded data in Federal agencies means they will not be able to update new address data for existing customers without further enhancements to processes and systems.

- **TOPIC 4: Solutions and ideas for improvement:** “Initiate standardized training programs for all agencies that may assist developers and business users to properly enter, correct and collect addresses.”
 - Highlight the importance of capacity building for federal agencies and utilization of US Postal Service (USPS) standards for Puerto Rican style addresses.
 - Promote understanding of Puerto Rico addressing challenges beyond the urbanization issue.
 - Encourage agencies to use software certified with the USPS Puerto Rico CASS certification that was specially designed for vendors that handle Puerto Rico addresses. Most Federal agencies do not require the PR CASS Certification.
- **Conclusion 1: Urbanization names in Puerto Rican styles addresses**
 - Urbanization” names are part of the addressing culture. While all housing and business establishments in Puerto Rico are located within a “barrio”, most Puerto Ricans do not know that administrative and statistical designation, but all Puerto Ricans understand, identify and use URB for location and mailing purposes.
 - Changing repeated street names while preserving the URB name is an achievable goal. Once municipios tackle the challenge of duplicate address number/ street names within ZIP Codes, the urbanization name, like building names, should be retained for data quality and adjudication purposes as well as orientation and, perhaps, data tabulation purposes.
- **Conclusion 2: Perspectives about the future**
 - Currently, there is a lack of funding that can be accessed by data stewards within municipalities to implement addressing renumbering projects, with many initiatives awaiting relatively small amounts of funds to pay for project implementation.
 - Several ongoing addressing projects have been stopped due to the lack of funding to finance low cost items like street signs.
- **Conclusion 3: Perspectives about the future**
 - Most federal agencies achieve less than 25% street-level location accuracy for Puerto Rican addresses. Given current data quality issues with non-standardized input addresses, the number of false positives are significant. As such, in most cases, the address data for Puerto Rico is unusable for federal policy, planning, evaluation, monitoring or research purposes which impacts the housing, health, economic, and environmental well-being of the people.
 - Mailers in Puerto Rico achieve over 97% data accuracy for their mailing addresses. This gap between public entities and private mailers highlight misunderstandings by federal agencies on the existing address data in Puerto Rico.

- For the most part, Federal agencies do not use local Puerto Rican companies with relevant and long-term knowledge of the address data situation across the Island and existing technical capabilities to help resolve their addressing challenges. Procurement challenges exist to this date, as Federal agencies do not engage vendors from Puerto Rico to handle their Puerto Rican style addresses.

NAD Content Recommendations (Conclusion), Dave Cackowski (U.S. Census Bureau)

- To wrap up presenting the NAD Content Recommendations, Section 7 lists the additional outstanding tasks:
 - Incorporate Comments from the Subcommittee
 - Confer with Domain Experts on Specific Questions
 - Integrate Content and Workflow Recommendations
 - Define Domain Table Items
 - Define Data Validation Test Result Items
 - Define Dataset Attributes
 - Define Data Provider Attributes
 - Update NAD Metadata

Action Items

- Continue to review and comment on the NAD Content Recommendations. Please have all comments to Dave Cackowski by COB, Tuesday, December 15, 2020 – Address Subcommittee Members.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 13, 2020 at 11am ET.