

GEOCONNECTIONS REPORT

National Ground Transportation [Network] Advisory Node (NGTAN)

The National Ground Transportation Network Data Study, commissioned by the GeoConnections NGTAN, was prepared by Geoplan Consultants Inc. and released on 30 April 2001 as a 110-page report. This study was commissioned in order to identify data models, data dictionaries, and metadata within the ground transportation data communities that incorporate existing and emerging national and international data standards and applications and to make recommendations on how to provide for integration, harmonization, and/or converging data models in order to create a broad national ground transportation network. An executive summary of this report is available in English on the GeoConnections web site at: <http://cgdi.gc.ca/docsIndex.cfm?lang=en> (scroll down to Reports/Studies). This same document is available in French at: <http://cgdi.gc.ca/docsIndex.cfm?lang=fr>.

An review of various existing and/or emerging transportation data models resulted in a recommendation that that GeoConnections fund a follow-on study to investigate in depth the technical features of two emerging data standards (NCHRP 20-27(3) and GDF 4.0), with the specific objective to make recommendations regarding the harmonization of these standards in support of the National Ground Transportation Network (NGTN). Another interesting recommendation of the Geoplan Study is that within the context of the NGTN, a core set of common attributes should be defined as the basis for the data model, with additional attributes being provided as "value added" enhancements at a future date and / or through third party suppliers.

In December 2001, members of the Advisory Node were advised by Mr Sylvain Lemay (Elections Canada) that "related activities have been taking place within a joint federal/provincial (Land Information Ontario)/municipal pilot project, building on the momentum of the Geoplan report, to see how roads data can be ported up at different levels." Again in December, Mr Sylvain Latour (Natural Resources Canada) observed that GeoBase (see Grace Welch's report on the GeoConnections Policy Node) is "what the Transportation Advisory Node wants to do on roads PLUS the other layers identified as Framework. The relationship between the two is quite clear; one is just a broader initiative with a name." The federal/provincial pilot project's objectives are to investigate how municipal data could be raised to the provincial, then to the federal level, and to use this as a test for a linear referencing system-based model. The results of this pilot project are being compiled at present, and a report will be released in early summer, Advisory Node members will be asked to review this report and to provide feedback. A meeting of the Advisory Node is being planned for June 2002.

Submitted by:

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