

# Minnesota NG9-1-1 GIS Project FAQ

## What is this project about?

The Minnesota Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) GIS Data Project is an effort to upgrade the state's emergency 9-1-1 system with GIS data from local partners such as counties and Indian tribes. For 9-1-1 callers, the new GIS data and system will result in improved address verification as well as faster and more accurate emergency response to their location. Ultimately the goal is to save more lives.

## What can be expected from the state?

Beyond managing the project the state is also responsible for collecting, standardizing and aggregating data from the local partners into statewide NG9-1-1 GIS datasets. The state is also assisting local partners with data development and validation and is developing the GIS data standards with their input.

## What are the expectations from the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and GIS Point of Contacts (GIS POCs)?

The PSAPs are responsible for managing the communities 9-1-1 services and communicating with the appropriate response agencies, local/regional/state agencies, MSAG Coordinators, Address Authorities, and GIS Point of Contacts to ensure accurate, timely call routing and location identification. The PSAP Manager will need to communicate and support the GIS POC on a consistent basis in order to proceed through the various data preparation phases (Community Name Validation, Street Name Validation, Address Validation, etc.) of the NG9-1-1 project.

PSAPs and GIS POCs are responsible for providing GIS data such as road centerlines, emergency service zones and site/structure address points to the statewide NG9-1-1 system because their data is more current and correct than anything the state can provide. The GIS data must be kept up-to-date and compliant with the state standard. Of course, the state will assist its local partners in whatever ways it can to help them meet these expectations.

## Isn't this just another "unfunded mandate" for counties from the state?

No. Funds are currently provided by the state to local partners for their 9-1-1 systems. In addition to upgrading equipment such as radios and computers, the money may also be used to develop their NG9-1-1 GIS data. Also, every year the Statewide Emergency Communications Board (SECB) makes \$1 million in grants available to those local partners especially in need of financial help for their 9-1-1 systems. Several are receiving such aid earmarked for development of their NG9-1-1 GIS data. Additionally, a federal grant is being made available to States, Tribes, and Territories for the expressed initiative of increasing the adoption of NG9-1-1 technologies. While the official amounts have yet to be shared, we are planning on using the majority of the available funds for GIS data collection.

### What are the data maintenance expectations for PSAPs and GIS POCs?

Once the state has received the fully validated NG9-1-1 data (road centerlines, address points, and emergency service zones) that meet or exceed the Minnesota NG9-1-1 Data Standards, the county will then be responsible for their maintenance and any future updates. The state can provide assistance to the county to upload its data to the NG9-1-1 portal, but it will be the county's responsibility to keep it correct and up-to-date. The state will request regular updates of the data and the PSAP should expect that the data will be shared with other organizations to meet the needs in the delivery of services for NG9-1-1.

### What is the status of the project and when is it going to be done?

Currently the project is in a data preparation phase whereby the state is actively working with its local partners to develop and improve their data to meet the NG9-1-1 GIS data standards. By June 30, 2019 the state hopes to have moved the majority of the local partners to the data maintenance phase where their data follows the data standards and is used to regularly update the statewide datasets.

### Can I use E911 funds for updating Pictometry for my county?

It is our desire at this time that the PSAP's emphasis for spending E9-1-1 funds focus first on completing the Data Preparation phase of the statewide NG9-1-1 GIS Project and not use public money to purchase pictometry image products some of which are proprietary and require licensure for use.

### What if I have more questions or need more information?

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety/Emergency Communication Networks Division (DPS/ECN) is overseeing the state's overall [NG9-1-1 deployment](#). The DPS/ECN webpage that contains NG9-1-1 GIS information such as project newsletters can be found [here](#).

The [Minnesota Geospatial Information Office](#) (MnGeo) is the state agency responsible for NG9-1-1 GIS data development, collection, standardization and aggregation as well as helping write the data standards.

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