



Pennsylvania State Geospatial Coordinating Board

GeoBoard Recommendation Create a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate data exchange and communications between the official State Certifying Officer (SCO) for boundaries within the Governor’s Center for Local Government Services at DCED and the boundary data steward in the Department of Transportation’s Bureau of Planning and Research.

Number 2018Q1 - 3

Sector(s) Public Safety General Government

Cost Nominal

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TBD, PA DCED Center for Local Government Services

Background The US Bureau of the Census and PennDOT each maintain a comprehensive database of civic boundaries for the Commonwealth; these data sets are different, which fact creates confusion in deciding which might be correct. County governments often also maintain their own database which may further confuse the issue. The resolution of the differences is a long-term task which may be facilitated greatly by the MOU in question.

Census seeks to update its boundary files annually and relies on state law (e.g. – Borough Code) that requires municipalities to report any boundary changes to the DCED. To this end they ask that the Governor appoint a State Certifying Official (SCO) within DCED who can respond to questions and reports which Census supplies as part of that annual Boundary and Annexation Survey. At present, the DCED has a limited mapping or database capability as relates to civic boundaries.

The Bureau of Planning and Research (BPR) at PennDOT created and maintains a comprehensive database of boundaries, originally created for cartography and for liquid fuel tax allocation based on roads within each jurisdiction. It has become the de facto civic boundary database for many more applications than originally intended.

The advent of Next Generation 911 (NG9-1-1) will require a singular comprehensive set of civic boundaries to enable call routing and emergency dispatch. To this end it is envisioned that DOT civic boundaries should be the interim data set, as well as creating mechanisms to improve the data over time.

The MOU requested is a first step in improved communication, and links the legal aspects of DCED’s involvement with the GIS technical expertise and commitment of DOT. This will be the basis for increased consistency between the Census and DOT statewide datasets.

Note: Additional background and the long-term recommendation for creation and maintenance of a singular civic boundary dataset can be found in *“The PA State Geospatial Coordinating Board PA Base Map Municipal Boundaries Theme (Draft)”* dated April, 2017. This document is available at: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx