

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE GEORGIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY**

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021  
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM  
HYBRID MEETING

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Billy Hancock, *Chairperson*  
Alex Lee, *Vice Chairperson*  
William Wright, *Secretary*  
Major Robert Balkcom  
Cheryl Greathouse  
Billy Grogan  
Amy Oneacre  
Greg Whitaker  
Steve Nichols  
Kevin Curtin

**Board Members Absent:**

Ted Wynn  
Peter Olson  
Steve Horton  
Michael Wall

The Georgia Emergency Communications Authority held a board meeting on September 14, 2021 at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center, with an option to call into the conference line. A List of Attendees, an Agenda, and the Meeting Presentation are attached hereto and made official parts of these minutes as Attachments #1, #2 and #3. Billy Hancock called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

All board members are present except Ted Wynn, Peter Olson, Steve Horton, and Michael Wall.

Chairperson Hancock welcomed everyone to the meeting and the conference call.

**Roll Call**

**Approval of the Minutes:**

Sheriff Billy Hancock presented the minutes of the June 8th, 2021 meeting for discussion and approval. Cheryl Greathouse asked for a motion for the approval of the minutes; William Wright seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Director's Update**

Executive Director Nix opened the meeting by expressing his condolences to telecommunicators who lost their lives to COVID-19. He provided updates on FY21 vs. FY22 911 fee amounts and GECA funds. He provided that 911 fee collections remain strong and slightly grow. He provided a federal update, specifically about the 9-8-8 Program (the National Suicide Hotline). A national roll-out has been pushed to July 2022. As a part of the 9-8-8 Coalition, GECA and other key players continue to plan best practices for 9-8-8. Executive Director Nix also gave an update on GIS data and discussed the results and findings on the Directors' Academy courses.

*See Attachment #3 for full presentation.*

### **Board Presentations**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for board presentations. There were no board presentations.

### **Old Business**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for old business. There was no old business to discuss.

### **New Business**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for new business.

### *Board Officer Elections*

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for nominations for Secretary. Greg Whitaker made a motion to nominate William Wright, Billy Grogan seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously. Billy Hancock opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chairperson. Cheryl Greathouse made a motion to nominate Alex Lee, William Wright seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously. Alex Lee opened the floor for nomination for Chairperson. Cheryl Greathouse made a motion to nominate Sheriff Hancock as Chairperson, and William Wright seconded the nomination. The motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff Billy Hancock, Chairperson  
Alex Lee, Vice Chairperson  
William Wright, Secretary

### *ARPA Discussion*

Executive Director Nix opened the floor to discuss the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding. The Governor's Office of Planning and Budget developed three categories for funding eligibility: Negative Economic Impact, Broadband, and Water and Sewage Infrastructure. He further discussed the possible projects that could be covered under the grant including NG911 implementation, GIS data work, and cybersecurity assessments. A future called Board meeting would be necessary to approve the grant application.

### **Public Comment:**

Chairperson Billy Hancock opened the floor for public comment. There were no public comments made.

### **Adjournment:**

There being no further business to be brought before the Board, Michael Nix called for a motion to adjourn. Chairperson Billy Hancock made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl Greathouse and William Wright seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:37 AM.

These minutes are hereby approved and adopted this 15<sup>th</sup> day of December 2021.

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Billy Hancock  
Chairperson

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William Wright  
Secretary

Official Attachments:

1. List of Attendees
2. Agenda
3. Meeting Presentation

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2021  
10:00 AM TO 12:00 PM  
HYBRID MEETING

**BOARD MEETING ATTENDEES**

**Board Members:**

Billy Hancock, Chairperson  
William Wright, Secretary  
Amy Oneacre  
Cheryl Greathouse  
Ted Wynn  
Michael Wall  
Greg Whitaker  
Kevin Curtin  
Billy Grogan  
Steve Nichols

**9-1-1 Advisory Panel:**

Daniel Dunlap, Augusta-Richmond County  
Jason Lawson, Troup County  
Lynn Smith, APCO  
Russ Palmer  
Barry Woodward  
John Blalock

**Others Attending:**

Natalie Lee

**GECA Staff Members:**

Michael Nix  
Aleisha Rucker-Wright  
Bess Larson  
Skylar Whitaker  
Pamela Waters  
Amy Ramsey  
Tammy Smith

GEORGIA EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS AUTHORITY

BRIAN P. KEMP  
GOVERNOR



MICHAEL NIX  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**Board of Directors of the Georgia Emergency Communications Authority**

**Tuesday, September 14, 2021**

**10:00 a.m-12:00 p.m.**

***Hybrid Meeting***

**Georgia Public Safety Training Center, Bay A**

**1000 Indian Springs Drive**

**Forsyth, GA 31029**

**Call Information:**

gema.webex.com

Meeting Number (Access Code): 161 409 3025

Meeting Password: GECA2021!

-or-

1-855-282-6330

Meeting Number (Access Code) 161 409 3025

**Meeting Agenda\***

- I. Call to Order/Opening Remarks—Chairperson Billy Hancock
- II. Roll Call—Secretary William Wright
- III. Approval of June 8<sup>th</sup> Minutes – Chairperson Billy Hancock
- IV. Executive Director’s Update—Michael Nix
- V. Board Presentations
  - 988 Transition Presentation – Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (tentative)
- VI. Old Business
- VII. New Business
  - GECA Board Officer Elections

- ARPA Discussion

VIII. Public Comment

IX. Adjourn

\*Meeting Agenda is subject to change



# Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

September 14, 2021  
Board Meeting

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# COVID-19 Losses in Georgia PSAPs

Charles Stull – Jeff Davis County Sheriff's Office – EOW: July 27, 2020  
Sheryl Stull – Jeff Davis County Sheriff's Office – EOW: October 7, 2020  
Alexandria Brown – Augusta-Richmond 911 – EOW: August 15, 2021  
Lisa Miller – Glynn-Brunswick 911 – EOW: August 17, 2021  
Denise Driskell – Jasper County 911 – EOW: August 25, 2021  
Heather Copeland – Brantley County 911 – EOW: September 7, 2021  
Lynn Johnson – Charlton County Sheriff's Office – EOW: September 8, 2021  
Rod Hall – Pulaski County 911/EMA – EOW: September 12, 2021



# FY21 v FY20 911 Fee Amounts

- **+\$6,862,524.16**  
over FY 20

Month	Non-Prepaid	Prepaid	Total
<b>20-Jul</b>	\$ 15,956,795.23	\$ 3,841,143.03	\$ 19,797,938.26
<b>20-Aug</b>	\$ 14,982,912.90	\$ 3,737,011.16	\$ 18,719,924.06
<b>20-Sep</b>	\$ 15,526,469.06	\$ 3,756,743.54	\$ 19,283,212.60
<b>20-Oct</b>	\$ 15,681,167.73	\$ 3,797,049.21	\$ 19,478,216.94
<b>20-Nov</b>	\$ 14,772,455.22	\$ 3,647,464.23	\$ 18,419,919.45
<b>20-Dec</b>	\$ 16,147,425.71	\$ 4,666,124.55	\$ 20,813,550.26
<b>21-Jan</b>	\$ 15,649,965.47	\$ 3,787,581.67	\$ 19,437,547.14
<b>21-Feb</b>	\$ 15,039,027.06	\$ 3,853,057.13	\$ 18,892,084.19
<b>21-Mar</b>	\$ 16,399,323.43	\$ 3,764,425.80	\$ 20,163,749.23
<b>21-Apr</b>	\$ 15,384,232.20	\$ 3,892,204.23	\$ 19,276,436.43
<b>21-May</b>	\$ 15,855,653.98	\$ 3,822,317.32	\$ 19,677,971.30
<b>21-Jun</b>	\$ 15,807,868.90	\$ 3,811,613.33	\$ 19,619,482.23
	<b>\$140,155,541.81</b>	<b>\$34,850,600.32</b>	<b>\$233,580,032.09</b>



# FY21 v FY20 GECA funds

- +\$68,626.10 over FY20

Month	Non-Prepaid	Prepaid	Total
20-Jul	\$ 159,568.36	\$ 38,411.43	\$ 197,979.79
20-Aug	\$ 149,829.56	\$ 37,370.11	\$ 187,199.67
20-Sep	\$ 155,264.93	\$ 37,567.44	\$ 192,832.37
20-Oct	\$ 156,812.19	\$ 37,970.49	\$ 194,782.68
Nov-20	\$ 147,725.01	\$ 36,474.64	\$ 184,199.65
20-Dec	\$ 161,474.72	\$ 46,661.25	\$ 208,135.97
21-Jan	\$ 156,500.21	\$ 37,875.82	\$ 194,376.03
21-Feb	\$ 150,390.72	\$ 38,530.57	\$ 188,921.29
21-Mar	\$ 163,993.67	\$ 37,644.26	\$ 201,637.93
21-Apr	\$ 153,842.75	\$ 38,922.04	\$ 192,764.79
21-May	\$ 158,556.08	\$ 38,223.17	\$ 196,779.25
21-Jun	\$ 158,079.11	\$ 38,116.13	\$ 196,195.24
	<b>\$ 1,872,037.31</b>	<b>\$463,767.35</b>	<b>\$ 2,335,804.66</b>

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY21 Budget</b>	<b>YTD Expenditures (as of June 30)</b>	<b>% Spent YTD (as of June 30)</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	\$813,701.18	\$648,219.16	80%
<b>IT and Equipment</b>	\$50,000.00	\$35,188.86	70%
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	\$27,765.00	\$34,000.00	122%
<b>Regular Operating</b>	\$133,400.00	\$65,038.23	49%
<b>Telecomms</b>	\$81,500.00	\$27,771.57	34%
<b>Contracts</b>	\$134,000.00	\$108,843.92	81%
<b>Grant Match Requirements</b>	\$126,412.85	\$278,492.12	220%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,366,779.03</b>	<b>\$1,197,553.86</b>	<b>88%</b>

<b>Category</b>	<b>FY22 Budget</b>	<b>YTD Expenditures (as of Aug. 31)</b>	<b>% Spent YTD (as of Aug. 31)</b>
<b>Personnel</b>	\$1,194,099.00	\$95,853.85	8%
<b>IT and Equipment</b>	\$30,050.00	\$15,737.89	52%
<b>Motor Vehicles</b>	\$168,000.00	\$0	0%
<b>Regular Operating</b>	\$107,300.00	\$17,930.95	17%
<b>Telecomms</b>	\$66,500.00	\$7,316.20	11%
<b>Contracts</b>	\$137,800.00	\$1,912.17	1%
<b>Grant Match Requirements</b>	\$175,000.00	\$0	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,878,749.00</b>	<b>\$138,751.06</b>	<b>7%</b>



# Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

## General Updates

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## 9-8-8 Planning

- In October 2020, the National Suicide Hotline Designation Act of 2020 was signed and became law.
- It designates 9-8-8 as the new national suicide and mental health crisis hotline number.
- 9-8-8 transition will occur NLT July 16, 2022
- The Georgia 9-8-8 Coalition is meeting monthly to discuss the state's transition.
  - Michael Nix
  - Aleisha Rucker-Wright
  - Pamela Waters
  - Shandel Graham, Macon-Bibb 911
  - Barry Woodward, City of Decatur 911



# 9-8-8 and 9-1-1

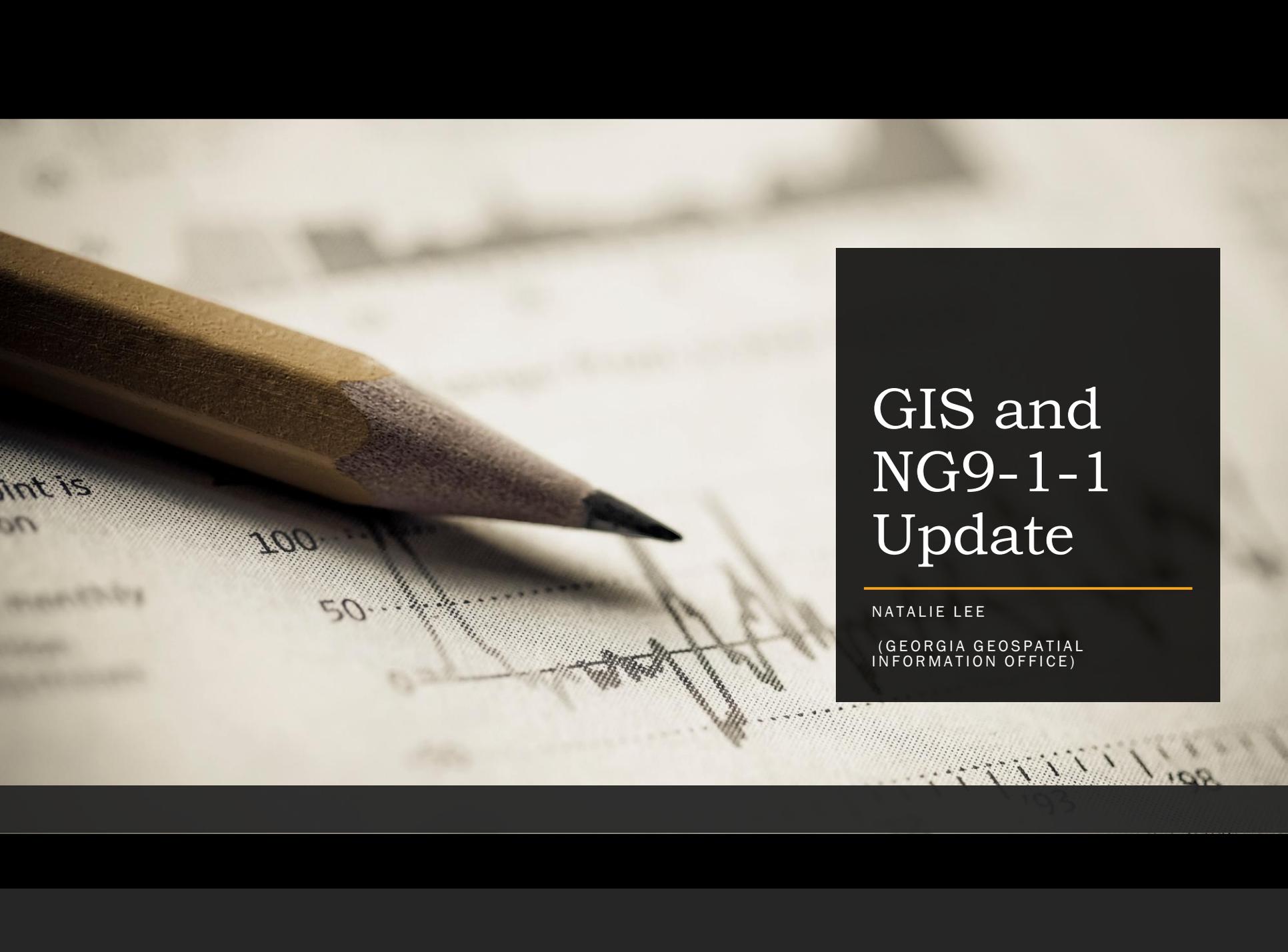
- Staffing and Call Volume
  - Our 911 telecommunicators may only have a few seconds to get the necessary information from the caller and dispatch before disconnecting and answering next call
- Trusting the caller
  - Depending on the type crisis a caller may be in or person around the caller may be in, they may not tell the truth or be able to tell the truth (weapon accessibility, etc.)
- Training/Policy/Procedure
  - A lot of “what ifs”
    - A caller/person in crisis doesn’t want to be transferred
    - There will most likely be a delay in mobile response team response times.
- Possibility of escalation
- **Liability, liability, liability**



# Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

## Federal Grant Updates

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# GIS and NG9-1-1 Update

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NATALIE LEE

(GEORGIA GEOSPATIAL  
INFORMATION OFFICE)

# Updates

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- Georgia Geospatial Data Standards and Best Practices for NG9-1-1
  - Public Comment period closes Sept 14<sup>th</sup>
  - GECA Board must approve. We can make modifications (if needed) by September 18<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) and send them to the Board.
  
- Aggregation and Validation Portal
  - Baselineing (getting a first pass of readiness) communities is underway
  - Draft of Tools 1 page flier is available for review
  - Dashboard will reflect status and be posted on our website
  
- Data Mitigation Pilot
  - Working group has recommended communities for participation
  - Would like GECA Board to vote on selection
  
- Outreach/Workshops:
  - October 20 – Virtual, Full Day (4 hours of content with breaks, 10-3pm) Technical workshop  
*Unwrapping Georgia's Geospatial Data Standards and Best Practices for Next Generation 9-1-1*

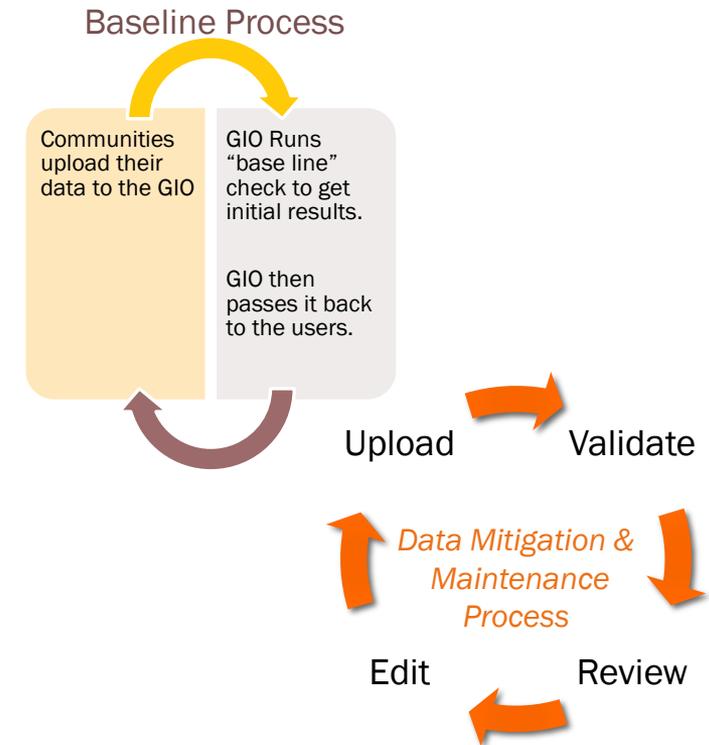
# Aggregation and Validation Portal

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## Why build TOOLS once, for all to use?

TOOLS and infrastructure required for NG9-1-1 DATA management and deployment are neither easy or cheap, which is why the GIO will build them, for all to use, saving local governments and state agencies from reinventing the wheel and wasting taxpayer dollars

- **Reduces Cost:** pay for them *once*, let all 700+ Georgia cities and counties use them
- **Ensures Alignment:** ensures everyone is on a common path, moving toward a shared goal
- **Improves Transparency:** Enables all to measure and report of success along the way
- **Facilitates Collaboration:** Provides framework to address jurisdictional DATA gaps and overlaps
- **Provides better/safer infrastructure & tools:** continuous access to best-in-class resources
- **Protects the Investment:** Invest ONCE, use many ways.

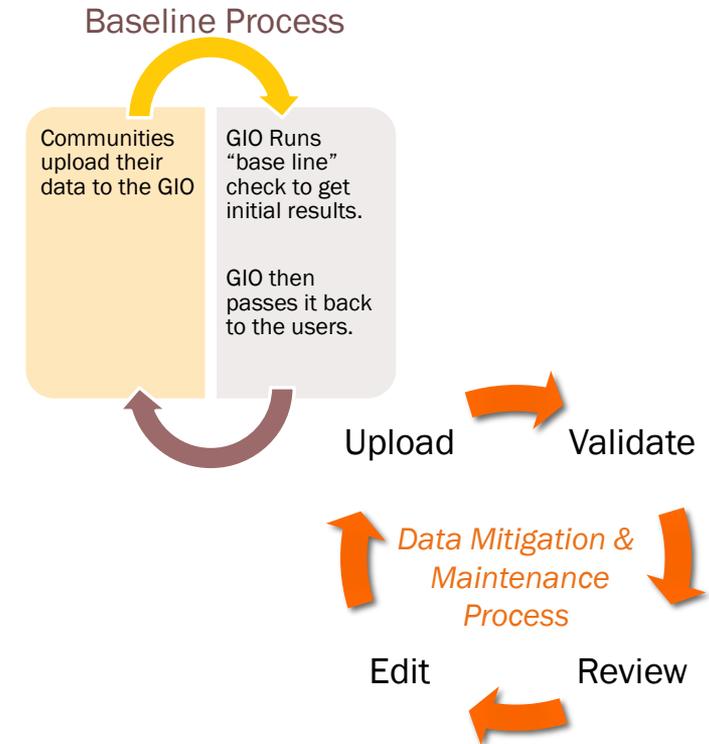


# Aggregation and Validation Portal

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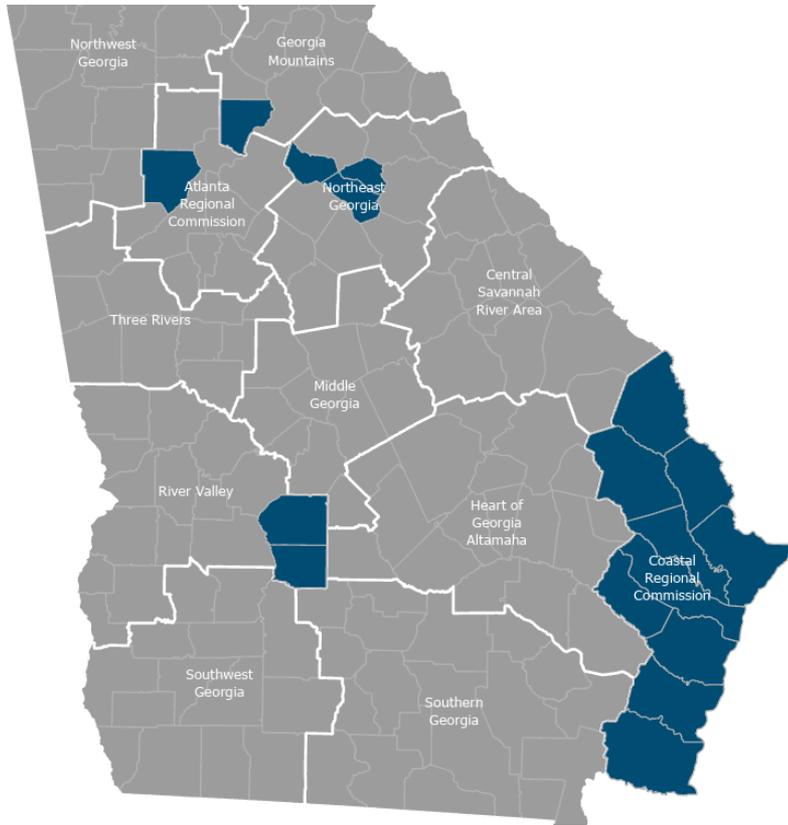
## What do they do?

- Enable 'baselining' of your existing data 'as-is' to determine if your DATA is ready for the new demands of NG9-1-1, a measure we call 'Readiness'
- Identify and pinpoint exact problems
- Measure progress over time as you make improvements to your DATA
  
- NOW: submit your data, the GIO runs the first report for you and returns the results
- Fall: Stakeholders will receive training on the tools
- Winter: Stakeholders will use the tools themselves as much as they want



# Data Mitigation Pilot

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**Goal:** Practice the Phased Approach as identified in the Geospatial Data Standards and Best Practices document by employing recommended steps to bring data up to speed.

**Recommended focus areas (in blue): (Would like GECA Board to Approve):**

- Barrow/Athens/Oconee
- Crisp/Dooly
- Coastal Regional Commission
- Cobb and Forsyth (perhaps expand to include coordination with Roswell, Fulton, Alpharetta)

**Timeline and Resources:** beginning Fall 2021 extending to March 2022, using Federal Grant Funds.

**Scope:**

- Collect, validate, map existing data
- Perform Boundary Workshops to build/shore up the jurisdictional boundaries between communities and their neighbors
- Guide Communities in developing a data flow and feedback loop for data (How do we do things now? How might we do things better?)
- Perform data mitigation to improve the quality of road centerlines, site structure address points utilizing the Georgia Geospatial Data Standards and Best Practices for NG9-1-1.



# RFP Development

- Held a NG911 Strategic Planning Workshop for the Board on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at GPSTC.
- Presented at the Fall APCO/NENA conference last week with a townhall/workshop discussion as a kick-off for the previously announced Fall NG911 Workshops.
- Securing locations for the regional meetings now but they will be held in October and November.
- RFP Steering Committee will begin to meet soon to develop and recommend the ESInet/NGCS RFP requirements.



# Georgia 911 Directors' Academy

- Held two pilot courses in May and July with over 30 participants in attendance.
- Additional pilot offerings will be September 27<sup>th</sup>-October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup>-December 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- Course updates and revisions have been made between each pilot and the course will continue to be revised as we get more feedback from course participants.
- After the pilot offerings, GECA and GPSTC staff will review the course material, determine what could be presented online, and continue with semi-annual offerings of the Academy in 2022 and beyond.



# Training Block Grants

- GPSTC continues to schedule APCO/NENA courses across the state.
- 911 Centers have 100+ online courses available to help train for NG911.
- Will be opening the grant to secondary PSAPs (university police and police departments who provide their own dispatch) and allow PSAPs that have spent/will spend their allotted \$10,000 to submit additional spend plan and use additional training dollars.
- Roughly \$75,000 has been reimbursed, but that number will increase in the coming months.
- Additional courses are being reviewed by the Training Committee currently to determine their applicability to NG911.



# Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

## Legislative Discussion

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# Budget Reconciliation

- U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Energy and Commerce included \$10 billion in grants to states to fund NG911 implementation.
- Rep. Eshoo of California has introduced an amendment to the bill to be voted on by the Committee.
- Underlying text makes money available through Sept. 2026 and amendment to Sept. 2030.
- Stresses “interoperability, reliability, and the use of commonly accepted standards.”
- “[T]he eligible entity has established or has committed to establish not later than 3 years after the date on which the funds are distribute



# Budget Reconciliation

- “[T]he eligible entity has established or has committed to establish not later than 3 years after the date on which the funds are distributed to the eligible entity, a sustainable funding mechanism for Next Generation 9-1-1 and effective cybersecurity resources.”
- Committee Print appropriates \$80 million for the establishment of a NG911 Cybersecurity Center and \$20 million for a Public Safety NG911 Advisory Board.



## SB 76 – NG911 Bill

- Met with Senator Albers on Sept. 2 to discuss next steps for SB 76.
- Looking to hold hearing(s) on SB 76 during the Redistricting Special Session in early November
- Legislative Committee will hold its first meeting by the end of the month to discuss the recommended changes from earlier this year and any additional changes the Committee would recommend to the Board.



## SB 84 – POAB Bill

- Submitted communications officers demographics (age and gender) to the actuarial consulting firm for their review.
- 4,159 POST-certified communications officers
  - Female: 3379 (81%)
  - Male: 780 (19%)
  - Average Age: 39.69
- This information will be used to determine cost of adding communications officers to POAB.
- Firm has until November 1, 2021 to submit to Department of Accounts and Audits.



# Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

## Officer Elections

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# Georgia Emergency Communications Authority

## ARPA Discussion

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## ARPA Discussion

- Applications are due October 31, 2021
- Considering NG911 implementation costs for at least 3 years
- Estimated cost of NG911 implementation is approx. \$15 million annually (decrease since first of the year)
- Determining costs for GIS data mitigation, imagery, and staff and cybersecurity assessments currently
- Will have full proposal to the Board by October 1<sup>st</sup> for review and then called meeting in October for comments, edits, approval and submission by October 15<sup>th</sup>.