

# Virginia Administrative Boundaries Workgroup

## Draft Charter

### Introduction

The [GIS Strategic Plan 2010-2015](#) identified two Strategic Initiatives that pertain to the development and use of **administrative boundaries** for the Commonwealth.

**Initiative 1:** Develop and maintain geospatial standards

**Initiative 5:** Provide framework basemap data layers to augment the current orthophotography and road centerlines data layers

The **Virginia Administrative Boundaries Workgroup** is intended to be a forum for analyzing the current state of Commonwealth administrative boundary datasets; for fostering development of new resources for administrative boundaries when gaps are identified; and for guiding appropriate standards for and usage of available administrative boundary datasets. Stakeholders to be included in the group include federal, Commonwealth, local and regional governments; academia; non-profits; and the private sector.

Through meetings, workshops, and policy development the Virginia Administrative Boundaries Workgroup will seek the following:

#### *Outcomes:*

- *Create data standards for the most common data elements*
- *Ensure data interoperability through common and accessible technology*
- *Ensure that Virginia administrative boundary datasets are positioned to support emerging Next Generation 911 technology*
- *Address data sharing concerns and identify solutions*
- *Discover and document the issues surrounding authoritative boundaries and GIS representations*
- *Coordinate data sharing workflows between authoritative data sources and customers such as the US Census*

#### *Implementation Priorities*

- *Create data standards for common data elements*
- *Identify methods for data sharing*
- *Document relevant issues related to authoritative administrative boundaries*

#### *Initiative Tasks:*

- *Establish a stakeholder driven Workgroup for this initiative*

- *Identify the specific datasets in the Commonwealth that are currently available relevant to administrative boundaries*
- *Establish standards for the format in which datasets will be stored, exchanged, and updated relevant to administrative boundaries in the Commonwealth*
- *Coordinate development and maintenance of administrative boundary datasets with respect to the US Census BAS program*

## **Definitions**

### Administrative Boundaries:

Boundaries that delineate geographic areas for uses such as governance and the general provision of services (e.g., States, American Indian reservations, counties, cities, towns, etc.), administration and/or for a specific purpose (e.g., Congressional Districts, school districts, fire districts, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, etc.), and/or provision of statistical data (census tracts, census blocks, metropolitan and micropolitan statistical areas, etc.). Boundaries for these various types of geographic areas are either defined through a documented legal description or through criteria and guidelines. Other boundaries may include international limits, those of federal land ownership, the extent of administrative regions for various federal agencies, as well as the jurisdictional offshore limits of U.S. sovereignty. Boundaries associated solely with natural resources and/or cultural entities are excluded from this theme and are included in the appropriate subject themes.

<http://www.fgdc.gov/initiatives/portfolio-management/themes>