




# PA State Geospatial Coordinating Board 2020 Annual Report



A photograph of Independence Hall in Philadelphia, PA, taken during the day. The building is a large, red brick structure with a prominent clock tower. In the foreground, there is a bronze statue of William Franklin on a tall, dark stone pedestal. The statue depicts a man in a long coat and a tricorn hat, with his right arm raised. The scene is framed by trees with yellow and orange autumn foliage. A dark blue banner is overlaid at the top right of the image.

Independence Hall, Philadelphia, PA

# Table of Contents

- 4** About the GeoBoard
  - Mission and Vision
- 5** GeoBoard Leadership Team and Task Force
- 6** 2020 Accomplishments
- 7** Task Force Activities
- 13** Outreach and Website
- 14** Appendix: Membership

# Michael Newsome,

## Secretary



I am pleased to present the State Geospatial Coordinating Board (GeoBoard) annual report for 2020.

The success of the GeoBoard relies on the pursuit of common goals for the benefit of the consumers of geo-enabled data. Members of the GeoBoard represent a variety of stakeholders and perspectives.

During the past calendar year, GeoBoard members promoted the goal of using a single data sharing agreement across authors, approvers, publishers, and consumers of spatial data. Collectively, 53 of Pennsylvania's 67 counties have expressed their written cooperation to share data through this agreement.

GeoBoard members also continued their outreach to educate stakeholders at a variety of events to increase awareness and understanding around the value and impact that spatial data has on business programs. Part of this outreach included a COVID-19 Special Report, which highlighted the use of spatial data technology to support the state and local response to the pandemic.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to the legislature for re-authorizing the operation of the GeoBoard via House Bill 2418 in 2020. We intend to select an executive director in 2021. You can read more about these and other accomplishments throughout the report.

Through the goals in our strategic plan, we remain committed to improving business outcomes from geospatial technologies, including to:

- Create a sustainable business model.
- Facilitate the development of statewide authoritative data sets.
- Ensure and promote public access to geospatial data and services.
- Enhance collaboration, cooperation, and coordination.

I would like to thank the GeoBoard's members for their volunteer-based leadership, experience, and dedication to the mission of the group while coping with the challenges of the global pandemic.

Michael Newsome  
Pennsylvania Office of Administration

# About the GeoBoard

The Pennsylvania State Geospatial Coordinating Board (GeoBoard) was established in 2014 under Act 178 to,

**“Provide advice and recommendations to the Governor and the citizens of this commonwealth on geospatial issues and provide uniform data standards, coordination and efficiency in geospatial policy and technology issues among Federal, State and local government agencies, academic institutions and the private sector.”**

According to Act 178, the GeoBoard has the following powers and duties:

1. Recommend data development priorities and interoperability standards for data sharing across agencies and different units of government across this Commonwealth.
2. Monitor national and state trends, identify issues of potential interest and concern to the Commonwealth, and submit annual reports to the Governor and the General Assembly and other reports as necessary.
3. Define and prioritize strategic opportunities where maps and spatial analysis activities could enhance the business of government and provide more cost-effective services to citizens. This may include recommendations of specific geospatial technology investments in the Commonwealth.
4. Develop task forces as needed to formulate recommended positions or actions. The task force membership may be comprised of board members or designees appointed by the board. The board shall consider any task force recommendations at its next meeting.

## Mission

The GeoBoard shall provide advice and recommendations to the Governor, the General Assembly, and the public on geospatial issues, uniform data standards, coordination and efficiency in geospatial policy, and technology across different sectors.

## Vision

Through the work of the GeoBoard and its partners, geospatial activities throughout the commonwealth will be enhanced through open communication, collaborative efforts, unified planning, and coordinated implementation, resulting in effective and efficient use of geospatial resources.

# Leadership Team

The Leadership Team is an unofficial title given to the collective group comprised of the GeoBoard chair, vice chair, and all task force chairs. The Leadership Team strives to ensure GeoBoard operations comply with the intent of authorizing legislation and with Commonwealth requirements for advisory boards. Additionally, the Leadership Team acts as a focused communication platform by engaging in open dialogue, debate, prioritization, and frequent interaction to advance the mission of the GeoBoard.

The GeoBoard continues to use a procedures framework to help guide governance, operations, and agenda topics.

In 2021, we intend to select an executive director.

# Task Forces

As identified in authorizing legislation, the GeoBoard may develop task forces as needed to formulate recommendations and perform actions. At the board's initial meeting in March 2016, the GeoBoard created three task forces in accordance with the authority set out in the enabling legislation. The current task forces are: Service Delivery, Data Program, and Governance. The GeoBoard formally adopted charters to guide the task force activities. These charters were enhanced and refined in November 2020.

Task force meetings occur as needed, with certain task forces meeting as frequently as twice a month. Task force members are volunteers from within and outside of the GeoBoard, including members from local, county, and state government agencies, academia, and the private sector. Task forces can choose to form one or more working groups to focus on key goals and objectives.



# Accomplishments

The following section highlights the GeoBoard's accomplishments in 2020 and a summary of key agenda items and decisions made by board members.

- March 30, 2020
- June 15, 2020
- August 24, 2020
- November 16, 2020

The following is a brief summary of the key agenda items and decisions made during the meetings.

## March

- Like many events in early 2020, the in-person March board meeting was cancelled. In lieu of the meeting, an update from the February 2020 joint task force was published to board members.
- Task force leaders provided updates.
- Two decisions were voted upon by electronic mail.
  1. Accept the 2019 GeoBoard Annual Report. The report was finalized, issued, and published to the website.
  2. Agree on the State Plane Coordinate System of 2022 proposal. Similarly, the proposal was published to the website.

## June

- The meeting was conducted by teleconference.
- An update from the May 2020 joint task force was provided.
- Task force leaders provided updates.

## August

- The meeting was conducted by teleconference.
- An update from the July 2020 joint task force was provided.

## November

- The meeting was conducted by teleconference.
- An update from the October 2020 joint task force was provided.
- Enhanced and refined task force charter documents were agreed upon and published on the board member area of the website.

Details about the 2021 board meetings and supplemental material are available on the website. A link to the site is provided later in this document.

# Task Force Activities

This section highlights the activities and important accomplishments of the three task force groups associated with the GeoBoard.

## Service Delivery Task Force

**The Service Delivery Task Force (SDTF) continued with activities that focused on outreach and collaboration to improve spatial data.**

### Data sharing success

The Service Delivery Task Force (SDTF) continued to reach out to counties regarding the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Multi-Party Geospatial Data-Sharing Agreement. This additional outreach resulted in several counties signing the agreement, as well as sharing data for the base map. The base map refers to a collection of GIS data and/or orthorectified imagery that form the background setting for a digital map. To date, nearly 80% of Pennsylvania counties have signed the data sharing agreement with the goal of having all 67 counties signed in the next 12 months. Many of these counties continue to share data in a variety of ways to help build Pennsylvania's base map, which is exciting and extremely beneficial for citizens and the communities in which we live.

The Pennsylvania GIS Data Sharing Status map can be found at the following link:

<https://pasda.maps.arcgis.com/apps/View/index.html?appid=64d2c828f7254947927e56afa5678772>

### COVID-19 Report.

The SDTF played a large role in gathering and presenting information for the GeoBoard's COVID-19 Special Report. This report detailed how geospatial technologies were helping to address and respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many counties, agencies, and organizations throughout Pennsylvania provided feedback entailing how they used GIS to develop dashboards, hubs, surveys, and applications to compile and analyze data as well as serve out information that helped communities better manage the presence of COVID-19.

## Statewide Imagery and LiDAR.

SDTF continues to collaborate with PEMA on publishing and creating awareness of the statewide imagery. As of December 2020, 36 counties were made available through Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access (PASDA). New light detection and ranging (LiDAR) for Pennsylvania was captured in 2019 and will be made available via PASDA in early 2021. In addition, LiDAR has become much easier to locate with the development of the PASDA LiDAR Navigator. The development of this application was the result of the user feedback survey initiated by the SDTF in 2018/2019.

## Support of Base Map Initiative.

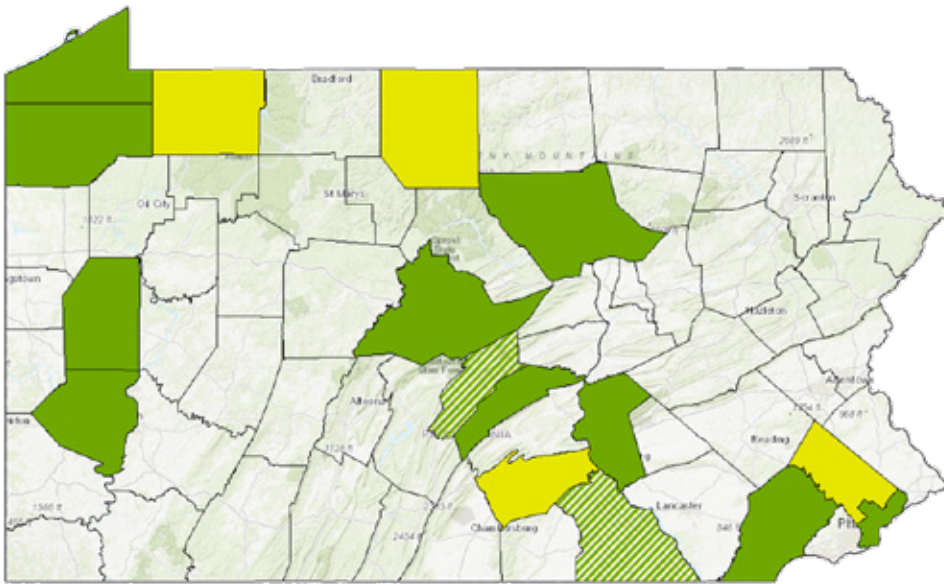
The SDTF is working in collaboration with the Data Task Force to ensure access to PA base map data. The base map data is hosted by PASDA and is accessible via a link on the PA GeoBoard website ([https://www.pasda.psu.edu/basemap\\_nsd\\_i.asp](https://www.pasda.psu.edu/basemap_nsd_i.asp)). In 2020, there were more than 12,000 users of the base map page.

## Portal to Portal Initiative

Another outcome of the SDTF user feedback survey initiative was the Portal-to-Portal (P2P) initiative. P2P allows for the synchronization of data between disparate locations in an automated fashion to occur to keep data relevant and accurate. The pilot portal to portal connection was undertaken with the PA Turnpike Commission and completed successfully in summer 2020. The second phase included outreach to pilot counties. The first county to work with the initiative was Cumberland County. The P2P connection was successfully completed in fall 2020.

## Additional Activities of the Task Force





The SDTF sponsored a metadata informational seminar for county GIS professionals. More than 20 people attended this seminar that covered the basic requirements for geospatial metadata when sharing data. SDTF members have continued to collaborate with the Office of Administration's Open



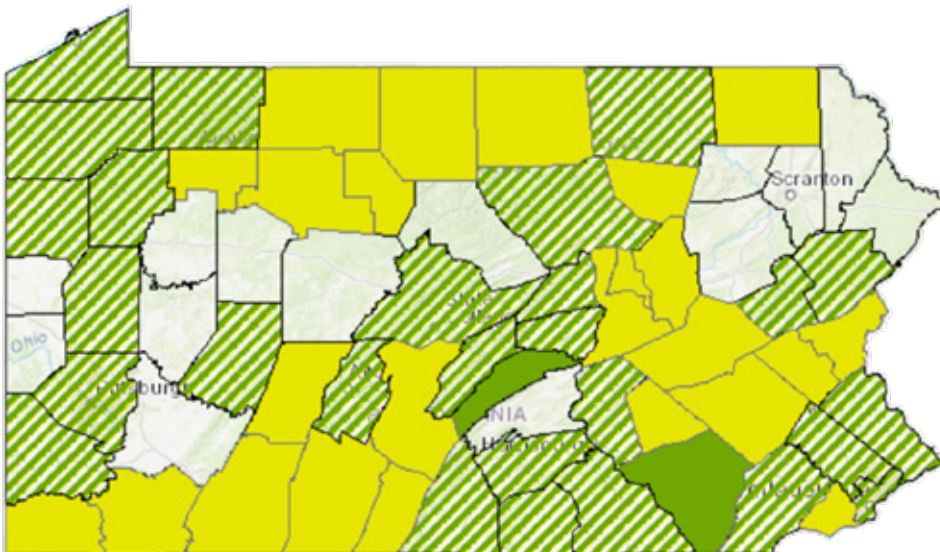
**Legend**

**County Data Sharing Status**

Pennsylvania County Status

-  Share with PASDA, Data Sharing Agreement Signed
-  Share with PASDA
-  Data Sharing Agreement Signed
-  Not Yet Signed





## Data Sharing a Year Ago



**Legend**

**County Data Sharing Status**

Pennsylvania County Status

-  Share with PASDA, Data Sharing Agreement Signed
-  Share with PASDA
-  Data Sharing Agreement Signed
-  Not Yet Signed

## Data Sharing Today



Data team and PASDA staff on a quarterly basis. All three entities hope to ensure that inquiries about data submitted to <https://data.pa.gov/> are getting to the correct people so that questions can be answered in a timely and accurate fashion. These discussions also allowed for knowledge transfer regarding archiving of data and best management practices surrounding data sharing and storage.

## Data Program Task Force

The Data Program Task Force (DPTF) continued to focus on activities that promote adoption and use of a state-wide geospatial data sharing agreement. The DPTF is developing and refining the definitions of current and future data layers that comprise the PA Base Map.

### Hydrography

- Annual workshops for three major river basins (more than 100 participants)
- Quarterly PA Hydrography Dataset (PAHD) strategic planning calls (four participants)
- Monthly Hydro Applications conference calls (more than 15 participants)
- Weekly PAHD technical calls (two to three participants)
- Western PA Hydroenforcement Project Description (should capture over \$300k federal partnership resources)

### Civic Boundary

- Advised on proposed legislation to unify boundary change reporting rules
- Held quarterly working group conference calls (10 participants)
- Achieved common boundary geometry with New Jersey
- Statewide Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) agreement with U.S. Census 90% complete

### Elevation (LiDAR)

- 20 Western PA counties QL2 LiDAR collected in 3DEP program (captured over \$2.5M federal partnership resources, and will complete new LiDAR coverage of PA)
- PA Representation of National 3DEP Working Group (Gale Blackmer member as Association of American State Geologists delegate)
- One quarterly working group live meeting (>25 participants)
- Three quarterly working group conference calls (>20 participants)
- Well-maintained website for working group hosted by Susquehanna River Basin Commission
- Curated technical discussions on future topographic data needs and planning (supporting sabbatical study of Dr. Scott Drzyzga of Shippensburg University)

### Imagery (as part of NG911 GIS Working Group)

- PEMA Statewide 4-band, 6-inch pixel Orthoimagery complete
- Some regional and county-level imagery products and services in development

### Data Task Force

- Data sharing agreement in place with 53 counties and one commission (in conjunction with Service Delivery Task Force)
- Six Data Task Force leadership strategy meetings (two to three participants)
- Four opportunity team calls to coordinate initiatives and ensure collaboration
- Bi-weekly leadership team meetings

## Governance Task Force

The Governance Delivery Task Force (GTF) continued to carry out its mission in 2020 with activities focusing on safeguarding and guiding the future of geospatial activity within the commonwealth through action driven, topic specific sub-groups.

Building off the review from last year, the GTF assisted the GeoBoard leadership team to reauthorize the GeoBoard via legislation. Proposed as HB 2418, the bill became law on June 30, 2020, as PA Act 37 of 2020, which:

- Reauthorizes the GeoBoard
- Modifies the initial language to include additional board members
- Relaxes several board appointee requirements
- Funds an executive director for the GeoBoard

All these key decisions were made to ensure the GeoBoard remains healthy and sustainable.

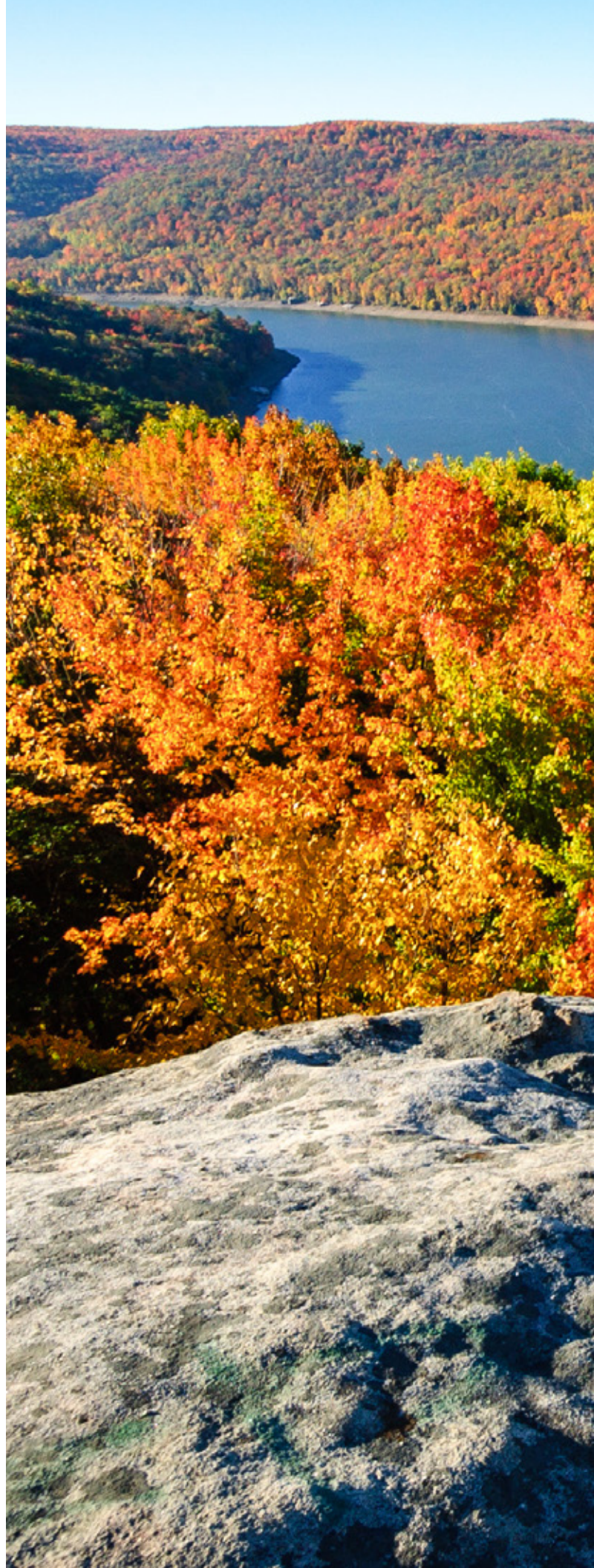
The Governance Task Force at large also led several visioning discussions regarding the future of the GeoBoard's activities. These discussions contributed to the effort kicked off in Q4 to start review and revisions to the Geospatial Strategic Plan from 2018. The review and revision of the Geospatial Strategic Plan are under way with expected completion by the end of Q1 2021 and will help guide the GeoBoard's activities over the next several years.

Within the Governance Task Force, the Legislative Review Subcommittee (LRS) monitored the proposed amendments to the Engineer, Land Surveyor, and Geologist Registration Law (originally 2017 HB 1106 Printers Number 1931; later 2020 HB 2101 Printers Number 3257) as it progressed through the legislative process, keeping the GeoBoard up to date.

## Website

The GeoBoard website is located at the following link:

<https://www.oa.pa.gov/Programs/Information%20Technology/Pages/geoboard.aspx>





Allegheny National Forest, PA

# APPENDIX: Membership

The designees, alternates, and volunteers make the GeoBoard possible and successful.

State Geospatial Coordinating Board Contact Sheet		
VOTING MEMBERS		
Organization Member	Member Name	Formal Designee
Secretary of Administration	Michael Newsome	John MacMillan
Secretary of Environmental Protection	Patrick McDonnell	Sean Crager
Secretary Conservation and Natural Resources	Cindy Dunn	Gale Blackmer
Director of Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency	Randy Padfield	Jeff Thomas
Secretary of Transportation	Yassmin Gramian	Frank DeSendi
Secretary of General Services	Curtis Topper	Matt Bembenick
Secretary of Agriculture	Russell Redding	Cheryl Cook
SENATE: Municipal Authority	—	—
SENATE: Elected Local Government Of-ficial - Rural Community	—	—
SENATE: Elected Local Government Of-ficial - Suburban Community	—	—
HOUSE: Elected Local Government Of-ficial - Urban Community	—	—
HOUSE: Employee of County Emergency Management Agency	Phil Colvin	Glenn Mohler
HOUSE: Individual with Expertise in Geospatial Technology	—	—
County Commissioner	Kevin Boozel Commissioner, Butler County	—
Pennsylvania Society of Land Surveyors	Matthew Warner Professional Land Surveyor	—
Individual with Expertise in Data Development and Sharing	Kenneth Juengling GeoAnalytics Information Officer PA Turnpike Commission	—
County GIS Professionals Association of Pennsylvania	Barry Hutchins, Senior Public Safety GIS Program Manager, County of Lycoming	Laura Simonetti
Pennsylvania Mapping and Geographic Information Consortium	Dave Gilbert	—
County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania	Erick Coolidge Tioga County Commissioner	Scott Zubek
Pennsylvania Chapter of the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors	Howard Hodder	—

## State Geospatial Coordinating Board Contact Sheet

### NON-VOTING EX OFFICIO MEMBERS

Organization Member	Member Name	Formal Designee
United States Geologic Survey Mapping Liaison	Eliza Gross	—
Pennsylvania One-Call System	Bill Kiger	—
Public Utility Commission - Chairman	Gladys Brown	Damon Anderson
Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education - GIS Consortium	Scott Drzyzga	—
Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association	—	—
American Planning Association, Pennsylvania Chapter	Brian Traylor	—
Pennsylvania Spatial Data Access - Director	Maurie Kelly	—
Pennsylvania State Police Commissioner	Colonel Robert Evanchick	Adam Repsher

## State Geospatial Coordinating Board Contact Sheet

### NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Task Force	Task Force Chair Name
Service Delivery Task Force	Laura Simonetti
Data Program Task Force	Sean Crager
Governance Task Force	Kevin Eaton

**PA State Geospatial Coordinating Board**  
**2020 Annual Report**