



S A V A N N A H A R E A  
G E O G R A P H I C I N F O R M A T I O N S Y S T E M

**SAVANNAH AREA GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS BOARD MEETING**

Summary Minutes

Virtual Meeting on GoToMeeting

October 21, 2025

9:00 A.M.

	<b>Representing</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Absent</b>
G. Holmes Bell	Hussey, Gay, Bell		X
James J. Collins, III	Resident at Large	X	
Jay Melder	City of Savannah		X
Michael Kaigler	Chatham County	X	
Brad Trower	St. Joseph's/Candler Hospital System		X
Russ Clark	Georgia Tech – Savannah		X
<b>Voting Member Alternates</b>			
Tim Moody	City of Savannah		X
Andrew Cree	Chatham County	X	
Linda Cramer	Chatham County	X	
Susanne Cooler	Chatham County	X	
Jason Edenfield	Savannah Hilton Head Airport		X
Daniel Tucker	Savannah Hilton Head Airport	X	
<b>Others Present</b>			
Melanie Wilson	MPC	X	
Pamela Everett	MPC	X	
Lara Hall	MPC	X	
Mary E. Mitchell	MPC	X	
Gelcys Williams	City of Savannah	X	
Jenifer Roach	City of Savannah	X	
Julie McLean	City of Savannah	X	
Thomas Jeanquart	City of Savannah	X	

**I. Ms. Hall** called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.



## II. Action Items

### Approval of Minutes

SAGIS Board Meetings are held quarterly. Due to a quorum not being present at today's meeting, the minutes of May 7, 2024, February 11, 2025, August 19, 2025, and October 21, 2025 will be acted upon at the February 10, 2026 meeting.

## III. Report Items

### A. SAGIS Web Viewer Upgrade

**Ms. Hall**, during the briefing to the Board, stated that the BOA and iMap Viewers are published. The Public Viewer is ready to be published. They are holding onto the old viewer for a couple of months. However, she feels the functionality and the transfer from the old to the new iMap is straightforward. Ms. Hall said she is hoping that Staff will use the iMap because so much more data is here. It gives the viewer a lot of power to search for needed information. The new map viewers have a survey available requesting feedback. The public may email Ms. Hall directly with questions and/or feedback.

**Ms. Hall** entertained questions from the Board. There were no questions.

### B. Imagery Options

**Ms. Hall** stated that Imagery Options covers Eagleview, Pictometry, State GIO and Sanborn. She hopes that they can plan a future meeting in-person for all interested parties to come together and discuss the options and how they want to fund imagery moving forward. The top options that the Staff has investigated are Nearmap, which the County currently has a contract with. They have had a subscription to Nearmap since 2016. In the past year, they gained access to the most recent imagery for the Nearmap, which is public service. They also downloaded the most recent imagery and are trying to title it as a base map. But for now, it will only be used internally.

**Ms. Hall** said she wanted to clarify something as she believes at some point there was a misunderstanding that she said they would not host the imagery. But this is not true as they are about sharing as much data as possible. Maybe the contract rules changed over the years because at one time she believes Nearmap was strict about it could only be one domain. Ms. Hall said Staff has investigated this, and she will continue to try to



explain some of the options.

### EAGLEVIEW PICTOMETRY

**Ms. Hall** said they have Eagleview, which most of them still calls “Pictometry.” It is “Pictometry,” but Eagleview is the company. The State Geographic Information Office now has statewide imagery, and they publish it for “free” to government agencies who are contracted and work with the government. Sanborn is a contracted company flying the State imagery. They have a paid subscription option to go from a free 6” resolution to an upgraded 3” resolution.

**Ms. Hall** said the main thing the Staff was looking at were cost, resolution, frequency of flights, restrictions of public access, ownership of the imagery, and turnaround time. She believes, however, that cost, frequency of flights, and restrictions on public access are the biggest points of concern.

**Ms. Melanie Wilson, MPC Executive Director/CEO**, said she wanted to point out that the biggest issue here is ensuring that the public has easy access to getting the information they need.

**Ms. Hall** said for a short time, they flew Pictometry every year; then they went between tiers and most recently, they went every three years (2017, 2020, and 2023). The next scheduled flight is to be in 2026. It is under contract. As always with Pictometry, they signed a two-flight contract. Presently, 2023 is too full. The good news is that they now have the option to fly what is called “the in-between years.”

**Ms. Hall** discussed the following data with the Board.

- Current pricing for your 2026 project: \$198,869  
**Mixed 3” and 6” Certified Ortho Imagery**
  
- **1” Imagery** (full capture with obliques) every 3 years  
\$199,440/flight  
Ortho-only 2” flights in between your oblique captures  
\$49,860/flight  
Annual payment terms = **\$99,720**
  
- **2” Imagery** (full capture with obliques) every 3 years  
\$157,890/flight  
Ortho-only 2” flights in between your oblique captures  
\$49,860/flight



Annual payment terms = **\$85,870**

- **2” & 6” Imagery** (full capture with obliques) every 3 years  
\$126,540/flight  
Optional ortho-only 2” flights in between your oblique captures  
\$49,860/flight. **Annual payment terms = \$75,420**
- **Data is owned once purchased. No restrictions on public access.**
- **Without a contract, access to obliques is limited.**

**Ms. Susanne Cooler, Chatham County,** said she believed that Ms. Hall said something about it being softer. Does this mean that they cannot pull it in and use it with an art map?

**Ms. Hall** answered that the Orthos are theirs. They tile these and there should never be any difficulty accessing Orthos. It is specifically the obliques, the bird’s eye view, and side building view that would be limited. Hower, she needs to research this further. There was a software available previously where you could use it through ArcMap desktop, but she needs to look into whether there is something that would work with ArcPro and whether they could still use it post contract. The other option would be that they would have to host the imagery.

**Ms. Hall** said the following are the top options that they have looked at:

**NEARMAP**  
**Annual Cost = \$33,500 \*City & SAGIS Only**  
**County Annual Contract + \$55,00**

**Vertical Imagery**

- 1x per year
- 2.2 inch – 2.8-inch GSD
- Historical Access
- Available within – 2 weeks following capture

**Pricing structure**

Direct w/Nearmap

**Term Length**

1-year option

**Oblique Imagery**

- 1x per year
- 2.2-inch GSD
- Historical Access
- Available within – 2 weeks following capture

**Timing**

**Estimate valid to**  
**12/31/2025**

**Additional Details**  
Agreement to be



with City and SAGIS, does not include Chatham County.

**Public Display License for Government**

- Ability to share Nearmap Imagery on a public facing application  
- License Agreement

**Ms. Linda Cramer, Chatham County**, said they believe that Nearmap is not certified imagery as compared to Pictometry.

**Ms. Hall** answered that it was with their current contract last flight. She wanted to point out, however, if they go back to these contracts, this includes certified orthos. These next options do not include certified imagery.

**Ms. Hall** said David Anderson sent her a copy of the buildings yesterday. But there were a lot that were not exactly the buildings. She asked the guests how they use the building footprint. Is it just for a building here? Does Staff go in and correct the building footprints that are off?

**Ms. Julie McLean, City of Savannah**, said they use them a lot for the floodplain information.

**Ms. Hall** said that David mentioned that there is some type of flood modeling that the City gets with their annual pricing of \$55,000. Maybe in future meetings, they could get a demonstration to see how this works.

**Ms. Melanie Wilson, MPC Executive Director/CEO**, said of utmost importance to them on the planning side is the certification. It would be helpful to know if they can or will certify it. Will there be an extra cost to do so? This is something that is important when using these maps for other land use applications.

**Ms. Hall** answered that she does not believe Nearmap has that option because it would not be possible with the two-week turnaround period.

**Ms. Julie McLean, City of Savannah**, questioned that if they have a contract with them as well, could this be hosted on SAGIS. Ms. McLean said she understood the resolution restriction for the public's access but would the data be able to be a high resolution on the iMap Viewer tool that the City Staff is familiar using which includes all the other day layers. She is aware that the County is presently working with this based on the meeting they had with David and Susanne in September, 2025. They were using the Nearmap browser and



then bring in layers. It is important to the City. There are many staff persons who are not GIS personnel. They use the iMap Viewer in their daily workload. Ms. McLean said she uses it daily for her desktop analysis.

**Ms. Hall** answered that they would be able to add it. They are attempting to tie in the most recent flight from Nearmap. But it has been running for more than three weeks and they have not passed the first layer of resolutions. The closest you zoom in; you get the most amount of data. A part of the solution would be a better resolution. You would have more data. They did accomplish a better resolution. You would have more data. They did accomplish it somehow with that 1” 2020 imagery from the top three cells. However, it is the tiling, and her understanding is that the timeline has not improved. It takes a | very long time. It is sitting on its own server.

**Ms. Hall** said they have already added the pre-imagery from the state, and it is a service. This worked fantastically. Now, this could be true with Nearmap as well. If the Nearmap has speed and if the service is this great, that’s wonderful. They would just add it here at the layer list, “as opposed to a base map that has been tiled.” So, here with the map service, not under the iMap because it is still limited to certain levels of resolutions such as this. If you pull it into an Esri product, edit escrow, you cannot zoom to whatever level you want as opposed to be set to high levels. These are the things that would need to be worked out as far as to what their options are. But, as a layer, you could put it where you want. Base Maps go on the bottom of the data, and you do not get any information.

**Ms. Hall** entertained questions from the Board and guests.

### STATE GIO & SANBORN

**Ms. Hall** said that the State announced that they have a new Statewide Imagery program. It is free imagery of the entire State available to all government agencies and any contracted company that is working with them on a government project. It is free at a 6” resolution and the plan is they fly half of the state every other year. She said half of the state is up for flight next year. What they have now is for 2024 and sometime next year, they will get access to 2026 imagery free.

**Ms. Hall** said she found out when they went to the Georgia Geographic Conference that Fairburn is the company that is flying this imagery. They Have an additional option for a subscription fee to access the same imagery at a 3” resolution. The estimated annual subscription cost was \$9,800.00. But she has not gotten an exact number on this. Ms. Hall said



she has requested temporary access to the 3” resolutions so she could see the quality. One concern mentioned was what if the imagery does not meet their specifications.

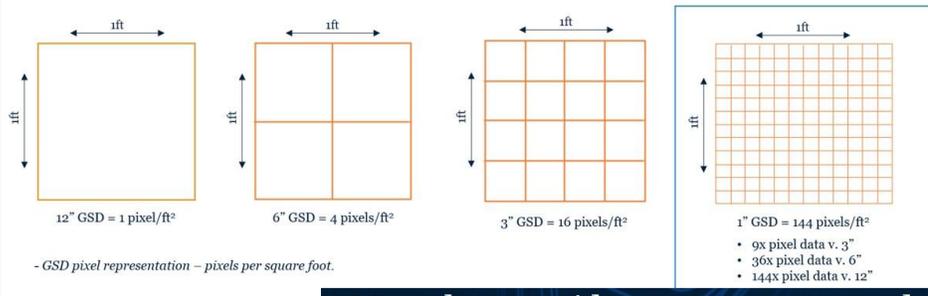
- Georgia’s new Statewide Imagery Program is an initiative led by the Georgia Geospatial Information Office to provide high-quality aerial imagery for government use across the state.
- The GIO has acquired statewide 6-inch, 4-band (RGB) + infrared) aerial imagery that extends one mile beyond Georgia’s borders, enabling seamless regional analysis.
- This resource is available for use by all government entities, contractors, and federal partners working on behalf of governments in Georgia.
- Sanborn, as the contracted company to fly, offers access to 3” resolution of the same imagery for an annual subscription cost of \$9,800.00.

**Ms. Hall** entertained questions about the State’s imagery. She explained the Imagery Resolution. Each square represents the amount of data you would receive. You would get 12”, 6”, 3” and 1”. They are showing in the draft Imagery Resolution that a part is road and a part is curb. At the 3” resolution, it becomes road only. This is the majority of what’s in the square. But if you have 1”, then suddenly you have nine squares and you got 6 roads and 1 curb. Ms. Hall said she believed that this was a simple way of looking at what the different resolutions mean as far as the amount of data that you would get.

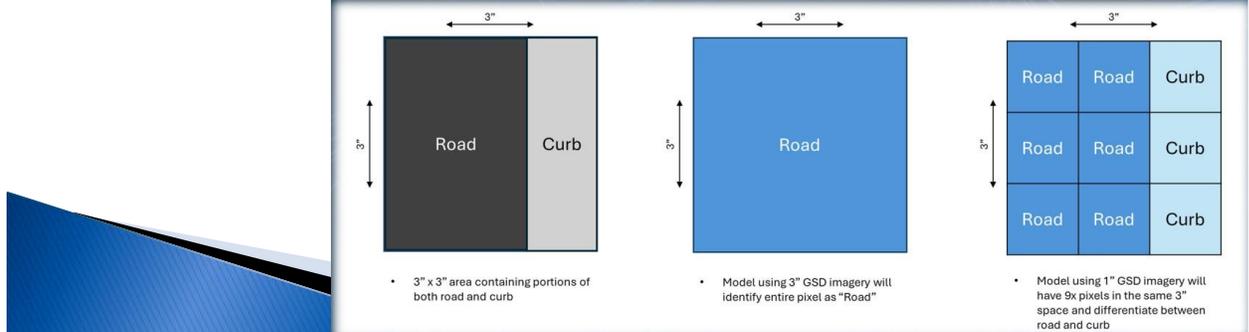


# Imagery Resolution

## GSD Pixel Representation: Pixels per Square Foot



## More data provides more accuracy and validity



**Ms. McLean, City of Savannah,** asked what the turnaround time is on getting this data.

**Ms. Hall** said she will ask the company to give her this detail. But her answer now is one to three months. They have what is known as early access and as soon as they get the flights done and the initial processing, it will be available on their Pictometry Viewer. Ms. Hall said she thinks that one month is conservative, but it could be as quick as two weeks after the flight is completed. However, she is not sure. But she believes that one month is ample turnaround time for initial access.

**Ms. Susanne Cooler, Chatham County,** stated she believes a part of that time is because it is certified imagery. All the work that they are doing is to ensure that there is no building lien. If it was not certified, she believes it would be a faster delivery.



**Ms. Cooler** asked Ms. Hall to explain the importance to SAGIS and the City of Savannah of having the certified imagery.

**Ms. Hall** said the certified data does take longer; but she believes that every year, they have at least gotten the full data by April. The certified imagery takes longer. But you do not want to digitalize anything from noncertified imagery.

**Ms. McLean** stated that they have been pondering this for some time because they have had certified imagery. It is more accurate and it means that when they do the flight, they have the ground control points. But for mostly what they are using it for, she was not sure that they need it. Anything that is going to go for design is going to have an actual field survey and not use the imagery. But she believes this is a question that needs to be thought about more. Ms. McLean said she is not sure if the County has investigated this. She does not know if David has an opinion on this.

**Ms. Hall** stated that the City asked her to make a matrix of their options. She has a smaller slide of it, and she will be able to fit it on one slide. They asked Pictometry to give them a number on what if the City of Savannah just wanted to look at the city. It was interesting how much that brought the City down because it was such a smaller area. She likes the choice of full county but using 6" resolution for the undeveloped areas because they don't need to see any more than that. However, if they cut it down to just the City of Savannah, it does bring the price down. She said that \$85,00 a year versus \$30,000 a year. The numbers are there. The City Staff can speak for themselves, but she does not believe that the City would really want to do this, but this was a way to compare the cost.

**Ms. McLean** said she agreed with what was said about Ms. Wilson, believing that the regional partnership they had since SAGIS was formed has a huge public benefit. The public relies on this aerial imagery. She said she was glad this was said at the outset of today's meeting just how important it is that they still have good quality imagery that is available to the public. This is an important tool for planning, realtors, property owners, and everybody. Ms. McLean said, however, in the scenario with the City with Pictometry doing the smaller footprint, there would have to be some sort of hybrid to cover the entire County. More discussions and decisions need to be made. She does not believe they want SAGIS to just have City limits as this would not be beneficial to the entire community.



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**Ms. Wilson** thanked Ms. McLean for her remarks. She said the other point about just flying for the City is that based on the annexation that has occurred so quickly, they need to be able to make better decisions regarding what is going on, on the grounds if you have the entire County versus just having the City. They need to look at the data going back a couple of years even when they are making land use decisions. When doing so, you want to have the best and accurate information. Ms. Wilson thanked the guests for coming to the meeting and informed them that she had to attend a meeting with the County Chairman.

**Ms. Hall** said as she stated at the onset of the meeting, she believed this was just an introductory summary of what they have learned about the imagery options that are out there. She would love to have a meeting scheduled for leadership and Core GIS Staff. They all need to come together and look at the different contract options and move forward with what they think is the best option for everybody.

**Ms. Hall** entertained questions from the Board and guests.



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### IMAGERY OPTION MATRIX

Company	Orthros	Obliques	Annual Cost	Subscription	Own Data	Resolution	Restrictions	Next Flight	Frequency	Coverage
Eagleview	Certified	Yes	\$66,500	For Obliques*	Yes	3" & 6"	None	2026/27	Annual ortho Obliques every 3 years	Full county
Eagleview	Yes	Yes	\$75,420	For Obliques	Yes	2" & 6"	None	2026	Annual ortho obliques every 3 years	Full county
Eagleview	Yes	Yes	\$85,870	For Obliques	Yes	2"	None	2026	Annual ortho obliques every 3 years	Full county
Eagleview	Yes	Yes	\$99,720	For Obliques	Yes	1"	None	2026	Annual ortho obliques every 3 years	Full county



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Eagleview	Yes	Yes	\$29,605	For obliques	Yes	2"	None	2026	Annual ortho obliques every 3 years	City of Savannah ONLY
Eagleview	Yes	Yes	\$34,380	For obliques	Yes	1"	None	2026	Annual ortho obliques every 3 years	City of Savannah ONLY
Nearmap	Yes	Yes	\$33,500*	Yes	One Local Copy	2.2"	Restricted*	2026	Annual for orthos and obliques	Missing Wassaw & Ossabow
State GIO	Yes	No	Free	No	No	6"	None	2026	Every other year	Full county
Sanborn	Yes	No	\$9,800	Yes	With Contract	3"	None	2026	Every other year	313 sq miles (developed areas)



### C. Public Safety GIS

- First draft of the Street Naming & Addressing Guide is being reviewed internally.
- MPC is the addressing authority for Savannah and unincorporated Chatham County; data is updated weekly for Public Safety and internal applications.
- Support Development Services by providing street name and address review on new plats.
- Chatham County Communications Center hired a new GIS Analyst for 911 data and coordination.
- Ongoing participation on the GIS Subcommittee, Recommendation Committee and E911 Executive Advisory Board process.

### D. Additional SAGIS Activities

**Ms. Hall** said that GIS Day Savannah 2025 will be held in November at Jenkins High School. Staff worked on the nonvacant and nonconforming parcels. They also worked on Voting Precinct 3-04.

**Ms. Hall** said that Ms. Veronica Cox has done all the coordinating on scheduling the classes this year. The sponsorship has really started coming in. A lot of the County's department are coming and she knows that many City departments will be coming, too. But they have not completed the registration forms yet. Ms. Hall believes this will be another great event this year.

The Staff attended, participated or will participate in the following training/conferences:

1. Ersi Southeast User Conference
2. CEMA Hurricane Conference
3. CEMA EOC and Operations Training
4. Esri Live Training Discover Express Mode in ArcGIS
5. Esri User Conference, virtual attendance
6. MPC Active Shooter Training
7. Georgia Geospatial Conference, Jekyll Island



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8. Upcoming Esri MOOC on Imagery

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Hall adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lara Hall  
SAGIS Director

LH:mem