



News from 911 Datamaster
For Immediate Release
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Ark-Tex COG on the Road to NG9-1-1

Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) was at a crossroads in 2014. There was a looming requirement to transition their data in preparation for NG9-1-1 Services. Rea Washington, 9-1-1 Operations Coordinator of ATCOG had her hands full.

“After an initial assessment of our GIS data, and no official in-house GIS expertise, we were basically at a standstill on the road to NG9-1-1,” says Washington.

Washington did her homework and reviewed several options before deciding on a suite of services from 911 Datamaster.

“The services provided by 911 Datamaster offered the perfect solution for the issues we were faced with at ATCOG,” says Washington. “I presented our Public Safety Manager with the Datamaster solution and the agreement was made to utilize their services.”

In addition to the agreement with 911 Datamaster, ATCOG filled their vacant position of GIS Coordinator by hiring John Beasley. According to Washington, Beasley’s experience and knowledge in GIS coupled with 911 Datamaster’s expertise, guidance, and tools provided the foundation needed to put ATCOG on the right path toward the provisioning and maintenance of GIS data.

“We knew the transition to NG9-1-1 would be challenging and might require a total revamp of our database schema,” says Beasley. “The reality of 9-1-1 today is that data, and how you receive, manage and use it, is at the heart of the transition to NG9-1-1. This transition was going to be a complete change of direction in how we manage data.”

Beasley began the transition process by installing 911 Datamaster’s SpatialStation in the spring of 2015. SpatialStation is designed to help GIS users build and validate mission critical spatial data in order to support the requirements of NG9-1-1 functionality.

The installation of SpatialStation allowed Beasley and his team to analyze their 9-1-1 spatial database and determine that it would not be able to support the requirements of NG9-1-1 functionality for public safety emergency response.

“Our initial database was created to map coordinates according to road centerlines and MSAG for a mapped ALI functionality, but now, with the transition to NG9-1-1 based ECRF routing, we required a significant change in approach” says Beasley. “Now we have pre-modifiers and post-modifiers that necessitate a change to that database and a change in the way we process data.”

With SpatialStation installed, Beasley and his team were able to begin the process working side by side with the experts at 911 Datamaster. They had made the decision, early on, to change their data schema rather than try to fix all of the errors detected by SpatialStation.

“Old is old,” says Beasley. “And old school 9-1-1 focuses on roads and addresses as a visual aide to call routing, and that’s just not going to work anymore.”

In addition to the implementation of SpatialStation, ATCOG enlisted the help of 911 Datamaster’s Data Services team to help manage the transition.

“The help from 911 Datamaster’s GIS Team had an immediate impact. Once we realized what SpatialStation was capable of, we knew we were on the right path.” explains Beasley. “Having the team from Data Services working with us, we were able to improve our data quality and begin the transition to



the much-needed new data schema. The people and technology from 911 Datamaster have allowed us to see the future.”

“The world of (NG) 9-1-1 Data Management is evolving at a rapid pace,” says Eric J. Regnier, Executive Vice President of 911 Datamaster. “ATCOG took the time to understand what was coming and built a plan to support the future. We were proud to play a small part in assisting ATCOG. Having great trusted partnerships such as this one is paramount as we move into the future of NG9-1-1.”

“We will continue to work with 911 Datamaster to improve data accuracy and implement technologies that will prepare us for the future,” says Beasley. “The new technology is truly amazing and will give us the ability to accurately maintain a NG9-1-1 GIS Dataset needed in the near future. We are on the road to NG9-1-1.”

About Ark-Tex Council of Governments

The Ark-Tex Council of Governments (ATCOG) is a voluntary association of local governments established under state law for the purpose of promoting intergovernmental cooperation and strengthening local units of government within Bowie, Cass, Delta, Franklin, Hopkins, Lamar, Morris, Red River, and Titus counties in Texas, as well as Miller county in Arkansas. The primary goal of ATCOG is to improve the quality of life for all citizens in the region on behalf of regional governmental organizations by providing perspective on information and problem solving, and coordinating funding, resources, programs, and services.

About 911 Datamaster

911 Datamaster is an industry-leading software developer, GIS data technology integrator, and GIS services company specializing in both geospatial and traditional 9-1-1 database applications. Leveraging over 20 years of experience in mission critical enhanced 911 database deployments, 911 Datamaster has created a suite of GIS-driven applications and services that support state, regional, and local government transitions from E9-1-1 to NG9-1-1.