

Help Build the NAD

Address records are becoming an integral component of well-run governments. Accurate, up-to-date, geospatially-referenced address records are critical for effective delivery of public safety services and can aid in revenue collections, municipal planning, elections oversight, the running of utilities, school administration, permitting and numerous other services provided to citizens.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) and its partners from all levels of government recognize the need for a National Address Database (NAD). Accurate and up-to-date addresses are critical to transportation safety and are a vital part of Next Generation 9-1-1. They are also essential for a broad range of government services, including mail delivery, permitting, and school siting. To date, there has been no national database of address points in the public domain. In many cases, such data already exist at the state and/or local level, and USDOT believes that a NAD can be built from the state and local level and aggregated up to the national level.”¹ Federal agencies like FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, USDA, HUD, DOT, Census, and others will become increasingly dependent upon NAD as the program grows and participation increases.

As there is little disagreement that local governments have the most accurate and timely address information available, local governments are being encourage to feed their address records into the NAD.

Accurate address records are also critical for the 2020 Census of Population and many local governments are in the process of grooming their address information to be shared with the Census Bureau prior to the 2020 Census. This is a perfect time to upload non-individually-identifiable address records to the NAD and institute processes for their continual update. Participation is simple.

Missouri has its own version of an address database. It is called MoNAD. Information uploaded to MoNAD will automatically be included in NAD. MoNAD is the initiative of the Missouri Geographic Information Systems Advisory Council (MGISAC).² The objective of MoNAD is to reduce the redundancy of collection and maintenance of address records, improve the quality of the information available, and reduce the overall cost of address records management. A single-source, non-geographically segmented address dataset can be lifesaving after a disaster (think tornado that stretches across city, county, and state lines) and can be timesaving for activities that require structure points and span multiple jurisdictional boundaries (think districts such as special tax, water, sewer, fire, ambulance, telecom, school, and projects such as highway, power line, pipe line).

Currently, MGISAC has 15 local governments feeding 1.3 million address records into MoNAD. Lives and dwindling funding sources are on the line. What will your excuse be for not participating in MoNAD when at some point in the future the question, “Why not?” comes your way.

To get your local government involved, please contact Jason Warzinik, Boone County GIS Manager at jwarzinik@boonecountymmo.org or by phone at (573) 886-4325. Additional information can also be found at: <https://mgisac.org/committees/data-development/missouri-address-database-monad/>

Notes: ¹ “The National Address Database” online article, U.S. Department of Transportation, updated Thursday, April 27, 2017. ² MGISAC is a statewide committee consisting of GIS professionals as well as other interested persons representing local, state, academic, regional, and federal organizations and its mission is to put forth standards that ensure the interoperability of geospatial data and systems so as to reduce both the redundancy of data collection and the overall cost of geospatial analysis.