The Current Status of Land Parcel Data in the United States

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SUMMARY

This paper will provide a current assessment of the status of efforts to organize maintain and utilize land parcel data in the United States. It will review the recommendations of a 2007 National Research Council report on National Land Parcel Data: A vision for the Future and the subsequent review of these recommendations. This will include the review by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, The Congressional Research Service and findings from a 2009 stakeholders meeting that focused on the role of parcel data in relationship to the mortgage crisis. The recommendations from that meeting could have a major impact on the role of parcel data in the reporting of mortgage activity in the US. These changes could form the basis for an early warning system that could serve as a valuable tool in the identification and mitigation of similar crises. To test the recommendations from the stakeholders meeting a pilot project was developed in Gwinnett County Georgia, combining public health data, mortgage information, inspections and assessor data to build a local early warning systems. The results of that pilot project will be shown along with similar efforts from other parts of the country. The paper will also highlight the work of the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee that serves as the major focal point for parcel related efforts in the United States. The activities of this subcommittee include the creation of official standards, detailed inventories of state and local activities, publication of best practices and case studies of the role of parcel data in decision support.

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