

GIS Proves Critical in Duplin County

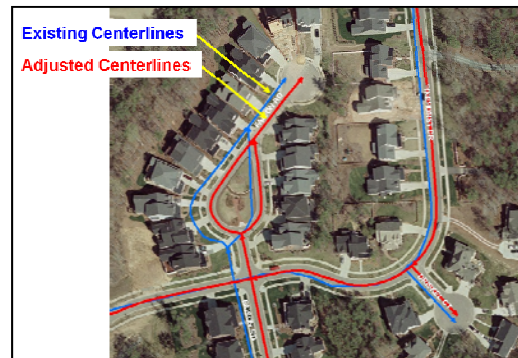
Duplin County, North Carolina



When Duplin County, North Carolina, began collecting GPS data, county officials faced their share of complications in bringing the address files up to date. However, they recognized that the benefits to all county departments, as well as to the citizens, would far outweigh any challenges.

"We had to have valid centerline data to plot out addresses correctly for our emergency response system," said Duplin County IT Director Tom Reaves. "But we knew the information would be extremely valuable to so many other departments, like the Tax Collector's Office, the Planning Department, and the Soil & Water District. The data will help all of us do our jobs more efficiently and provide better service to our citizens and businesses."

Located in the I-40 corridor, Duplin County has been a leader in embracing technology in every phase of government operations. An upgraded computer-aided dispatch system in the county's 9-1-1 Communications Center made the need for accurate centerline files evident.



"We didn't have the equipment or the expertise to gather the data as quickly as we needed it, so we contracted with Geographic Technologies Group," Reaves said. "We found some interesting inconsistencies in our addressing, which did not come as a total surprise," he said. "We have some different terrains to plot, and because I-40 runs through the center of the county, we had to plot each exit to show as a separate road on the center files."

The project also involved coordinating boundaries with adjacent counties. "There was some disagreement on the maps about where the roads began and ended. We're still working to resolve some of those issues," Reaves said.

The county's next step will be to add plots to the front doors of addresses and to establish a more structured addressing scheme using software to assign addresses. "There are some instances where addresses have been assigned informally, and things aren't exactly correct. Also, there may be times when we decide to live with the inconsistency rather than correct it, but with the information we're gathering, it will be an intelligent, informed decision, not an accident."

Reaves said GTG's expertise and experience have helped the project run smoothly. "I'm really excited about getting reliable data in our system. GIS is a critical technology for us, and the GPS data powers our ability to move to the next level."

Geographic
Technologies
Group

*Understanding
Local Government*

Geographic Technologies Group
1202 Parkway Drive
Goldsboro, NC 27534
Phone: 1.888.757.4222
Fax: 919.759.0410
E-mail: info@geotg.com