

Public Review: Feature Publishing Classification

Request for public comment

The [Standards Committee](#) of the Minnesota Geospatial Advisory Council (GAC) is requesting public review of the proposed addition of a “Feature Publishing Classification” attribute in two existing Minnesota geospatial standards – the [Address Point Data Standard](#) and [Road Centerline Data Standard](#). The addition of this attribute would require a schema change in each of these standards. See details of the proposed attribute addition below.

Comments regarding the proposed attribute addition can be submitted via email to gisinfo.mngeo@state.mn.us. All feedback must be provided by the end of the public comment period: **Wednesday, September 23, 2026**.

The scope of this public review only includes comments about the proposed changes. Comments about other aspects of the two standards will not be considered.

Why propose this new attribute?

The purpose of this attribute is to indicate features that should be excluded from publication. This may be especially helpful for data producers publishing their data online for public consumption, or for a data aggregator publishing a regional or statewide dataset.

Example use case: A county data producer has addresses on an island with no roads. However, as part of the Next Generation 911 data validation process, it may be necessary for the data producer to create artificial road centerlines to pass validation. These artificial road centerlines would be misleading in a public version of the data.

Next steps after the public review period

Once the public review period has closed, the Standards Committee will review and provide responses to each received comment. Responses typically include a decision as to whether a recommended change was incorporated, and reasoning behind the decision. All public comments and committee responses will be published on each impacted standard’s webpage.

If significant revisions are made to the proposal based on community feedback, it may undergo another round of public review. After all comments are addressed and the proposed change is stabilized, the Standards Committee will vote on recommending it to the GAC. Upon recommendation, council members will vote on the proposed changes.

Proposed “Feature Publishing Classification” attribute

Address Points Data Standard

7.9 Feature Publishing Classification

Database Name	PUB_CLASS		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Conditional
Width	30	Domain	PublishClass
Examples	Public, Public Do Not Publish, Nonpublic		
Description	A designation of the MN Data Practices Act classification of the feature and any other publishing restrictions. • Public: The data for this feature are classified as public. The feature should be included in any publicly available version of the data. • Public Do Not Publish: The data for this feature are classified as public; however, this feature is not intended to be published in publicly available versions of the data. The data for this feature are still subject to release under any Minnesota Data Practices Act Request. (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13). • Nonpublic: The data for this feature are classified as nonpublic. This feature must not be included in any publicly available version of the data. The “Conditional” inclusion of this data element means that if there are any restrictions to publishing the data for a feature (Public Do Not Publish, or Nonpublic), the field must be populated to comply with this standard. If there are no publishing restrictions, this field does not need to be populated to comply with this standard. Usage examples: • Public Do Not Publish: utility features such as a pump needing an address for the electric company to supply it with electricity. • Nonpublic: certain emergency infrastructure that requires an address.		

Road Centerline Data Standard

8.6 Feature Publishing Classification

Database Name	PUB_CLASS		
Data Type	Text	Inclusion	Conditional
Width	30	Domain	PublishClass
Examples	Public, Public Do Not Publish, Nonpublic		
Description	A designation of the MN Data Practices Act classification of the feature and any other publishing restrictions. • Public: The data for this feature are classified as public. The feature should be included in any publicly available version of the data. • Public Do Not Publish: The data for this feature are classified as public; however, this feature is not intended to be published in publicly available versions of the data. The data for this feature are still subject to release under any Minnesota Data Practices Act Request. (Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 13). • Nonpublic: The data for this feature are classified as nonpublic. This feature must not be included in any publicly available version of the data. The “Conditional” inclusion of this data element means that if there are any restrictions to publishing the data for a feature (Public Do Not Publish, or Nonpublic), the field must be populated to comply with this standard. If there are no publishing restrictions, this field does not need to be populated to comply with this standard. Usage examples: • Public Do Not Publish: A county data producer has addresses on an island with no roads. Faux road centerlines have been created to pass the 911 data validation process. The faux roads would be misleading in a public version of the data.		