COSCDA 2026 PROGRAM MANAGERS TRAINING CONFERENCE

Mapping to Support CDBG-DR Compliance

AI and mapping when nobody in the office knows ArcGIS

Jeff Haley
Assistant Executive Director, Louisiana Office of Community Development

Panel · Wednesday, October 7, 2026 · 2:00 p.m.

THE GLOVE BOX

Who still keeps a road atlas in the glove box?

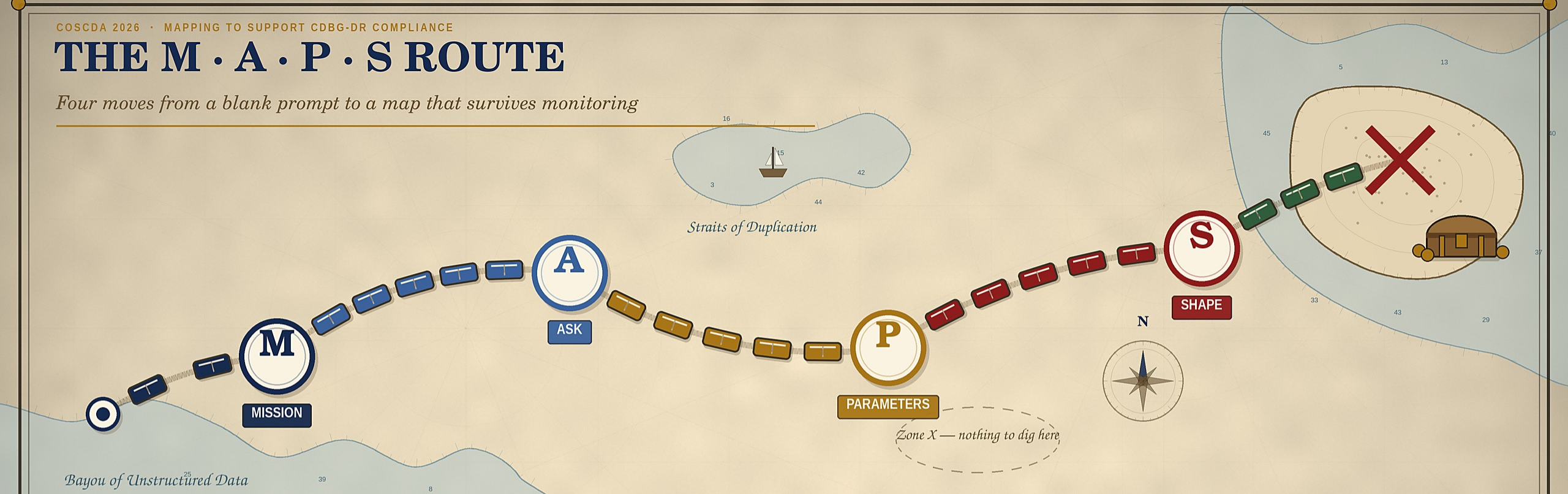
Nothing about Garmin changed your mind. A hundred small trips where it was right did, plus two where it was wrong and you caught it.

That is how we start trusting AI with a map. Not on faith. On the MAPS.

COSCDA 2026 · MAPPING TO SUPPORT CDBG-DR COMPLIANCE

THE M · A · P · S ROUTE

Four moves from a blank prompt to a map that survives monitoring



START

The award lands. No GIS staff, no license, and nobody here knows what a raster is.

DESTINATION TICKETS *what the map has to settle*

- **National objective**
- **Duplication of benefits**
- **Safe Housing Incentives**
- **Reporting and closeout**

X MARKS THE SPOT

A determination you can defend, with the documentation already attached.

M MISSION
Objective

Where are we going?

- Name the decision, not the map.
- Say who has to accept it.
- State what finished looks like.

A ASK
Operation

What is the move?

- One verb: map, join, flag, count.
- Name the unit: household, parcel, tract.
- One thing at a time, in order.

P PARAMETERS
Orientation

What do you know?

- Hand it your data and your policy.
- Cite the rule, not your memory of it.
- Say what to exclude, and why.

S SHAPE
Output

What comes back?

- Name the artifact: map, table, letter.
- Fix the fields, the order, the labels.
- Demand a source line on every number.

Prompting frame after Dan Martel. The 4 Os sit beneath the letters.

Illustrative chart. Not a data map.

PROMPTING, IN PRACTICE

The same job, asked two ways

Illustrative asks in the shape of the DR-4927 unmet-need work.

WHAT MOST PEOPLE TYPE

“Make me a map of the disaster.”

You get something that looks like a map and settles nothing. No unit, no policy, no source, nothing a reviewer can check.

THE TEST BEFORE YOU HIT ENTER

Where are we going? · What is the move? · What do you know? · What comes back?

Four sentences. If you cannot answer one of them, that is the one the answer will get wrong.

THE SAME JOB, ON THE MAPS ROUTE

M I have to defend our unmet-need projection to HUD, and it has to hold up in a monitoring visit.

A Flag every owner-occupant in the declared parishes whose real-property verified loss reaches Major-Low or above, then match each one to the SBA loan file.

P Use the FEMA registrant extract and the SBA loan file I am giving you. Categories per the HUD Consolidated Notice. Drop records with no valid coordinates and say how many.

S An interactive map plus a by-parish table. Every total carries its source and as-of date. Put every limitation in the footer.

PROJECT ONE

The state's flood models, by address

Type an address. The regulatory answer and the engineering answer, side by side.

55
watersheds with modeled grids, in 7 of the 9 LWI regions

7
storm sizes, the 5-year through the 500-year

9
storms that actually happened, reconstructed

0
GIS licenses involved

THE SAME QUESTION, TWO ANSWERS

10000 Greenwell Springs Rd

FEMA: Zone X, outside the 1% floodplain.

Model: 4.6 ft on the lot in the 1% storm, and 6.1 ft in the August 2016 run.

5555 Plank Rd

FEMA: Zone AE, inside it. Insurance required.

Model: no water on the lot at any of the seven sizes. Nearest modeled water 370 ft.

Outside the mapped floodplain is not the same as outside the risk.

WHERE THE MAP STOPS

The FIRM still governs.

The effective FEMA map decides mandatory insurance, permits and lender requirements. The state's models carry no regulatory weight, and a blank cell is not a statement that the ground stays dry.

What it is good for is the conversation a homeowner cannot otherwise have: coverage nobody requires, or an elevation certificate worth pursuing.

PROJECT TWO

DR-4927 unmet need, Tropical Storm Arthur

One page. Every household, every filter, and it runs with the wifi off.

10,049
registrants mapped, of 10,233 in the extract

6
IA-declared parishes, verified against OpenFEMA

678
Avoyelles field survey records overlaid

0
GIS licenses involved

WHAT THE MAP CONTRIBUTES

Known SBA amounts.

The SBA loan file matched to registrants on ID, then on address, so a known award reduces the need rather than being guessed at.

Unmet need.

HUD's own multiplier method on the local file, shown beside the defaults HUD would otherwise apply.

Safe housing and elevation.

Flood zone from the NFHL, required height against USGS 3DEP, and what policy would fund.

Reporting.

By-parish totals that move with every filter, so the letter matches the screen.

A planning picture, not a benefits determination. The full duplication-of-benefits review runs in the grant management system.

WHERE TO START

Garmin said “recalculating” constantly. Nobody threw it out the window.

Pick one map you already make by hand, or do without. Write it as four sentences: Mission, Ask, Parameters, Shape. Hand over your data and your policy, and make it show its sources.

Then check the exit sign. That is the whole job.

Jeff Haley · Louisiana Office of Community Development · jeff.haley@la.gov