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Mr. Cannistra is a Certified Photogrammetrist (CP), a GIS Professional (GISP), and a State Certified (Virginia) Surveyor Photogrammetrist. He has worked professionally on GIS business planning, consulting, and GIS database development and analysis projects for over 25 years.

Jim currently serves as the Planning Division Chief for Information Management for the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission. He is responsible for GIS, Information Management, and Data Systems Development for the Prince George's County Planning Department. He also serves as the Department's primary technology liaison for Commission level initiatives. Jim previously served (2010-2015) as the Director of Data Planning and Analysis for a 25 person group consisting of the Property Mapping Division, the State Data Center, and the Smart Growth and Policy Analysis Division for the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP). Jim has also been involved with numerous Statewide GIS initiatives. This include leadership positions with the Maryland State Geographic Information Committee, technical and executive involvement with the MDiMAP initiatives, management of the State's orthoimagery program, and serving as a representative on the State's Open Data Committee. Prior to joining MDP, Jim worked for the Sanborn Map Company, and PlanGraphics, Inc. as a consultant/Vice President.

Jim has a strong understanding of GIS datasets, application requirements, and organizational issues associated with State and local government agencies.