

**National Spatial Data Infrastructure
Cooperative Agreement Program
Category 3 Fifty States Initiative
Strategic and Business Plans**

Agreement No. 06HQAG0103

Final Report

Organization:

Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council
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Project Narrative:

The Connecticut Geospatial Information Systems Council (GIS Council), comprising 21 members representing state agencies, academic institutions, regional planning organizations (RPOs) and municipalities, was formally convened in February 2006. The GIS Council subsequently established bylaws, including the creation of a nine-member Executive Committee, various working groups, and a dedicated website to improve statewide GIS coordination and information sharing.

Key Accomplishments:

In March 2006, the GIS Council Chairman tasked the project leader and collaborating organizations with developing recommendations for a statewide strategic plan and associated business plans following the National States Geographic Information Council templates. The project leader for this grant also serves as the GIS Council Project Manager. Connecticut sent two representatives to the Fifty States Initiative kick-off workshop in Annapolis, MD on March 19, 2006.

In May 2006, staff from Applied Geographics, Inc. facilitated a workshop for the Connecticut team on developing strategic and business plans. Subsequently, a work plan and project specifications were developed to hire a consultant to assist the Connecticut team in developing the strategic and business plans. ESRI and Applied Geographics were contracted to assist the Council with these efforts.

In July 2006, the GIS Council accepted the Enterprise and Homeland Security GIS Requirements Analysis and Implementation Strategy report prepared by ESRI. The GIS Council entered into a contract with ESRI in August 2006 to conduct Phase 1 Development of the Enterprise and Homeland Security GIS. While this project is geared toward state, regional and municipal officials and first responders involved with emergency operations, much of the data and associated applications will be useful in the day-to-day responsibilities of myriad GIS users. Future phases are expected to build out the system into other facets of government functions.

The Connecticut team continues to provide stakeholder outreach to a number of organizations on the strategic and business planning process, including RPOs and the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities. The GIS Council also prepared the Connecticut Framework Geographic Data report within the National Spatial Data Infrastructure construct. The Connecticut framework consists of commonly needed, used, and produced data brought into a common standard and made widely accessible.

The GIS Council solicited, received and promoted the GIS user community for their examples of best practices to be displayed at the Connecticut GIS Day event held on November 15, 2006 at the state Legislative Office Building and aired on the CT Television Network.

In 2007:

Meetings with state, regional and municipal officials were conducted in January to review the status of the DEMHS GIS project and to facilitate discussion on future coordination and data needs.

A kick-off meeting was held to refine the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) strategic and business planning templates and tailor them to the State of Connecticut's needs. In addition the steering committee and project team established the overall approach and goals for the project at this meeting.

Monthly geospatial council business meetings and one special meeting were attended by project team staff and were used to report and track progress. At these meetings the goals and visions were discussed and a degree of consensus on the emerging strategy and programmatic goals was established. These council meetings were the forum where final decisions were made and this plan was formally adopted.

Four information gathering sessions were held around the state as group visioning sessions to identify and clarify goals and to define the needs at all levels of government. Members of state, regional, and local governments were invited to attend and the broader set of potential stakeholders were invited through announcements placed on Connecticut's GIS User to User Network's listserv. These sessions were held in four different locations around the State; eastern, western, central and south central Connecticut and were attended by over 75 individuals.

An on-line questionnaire was developed to reach out to people who did not attend the sessions and to ask more detailed questions of those who did attend the sessions. The survey included more than 50 detailed questions.

A result was adopted Connecticut GIS Strategic and Business plans.

Next Steps:

Working Groups consisting of GIS Council members have been developed to act on action items identified within the adopted plans.

Attachments:

Strategy for Connecticut Enterprise GIS

Business Plan for Funding Connecticut's Statewide GIS Program

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program:

The Connecticut team feels that the CAP Program serves as an effective focal point for GIS activities, and enhances our ability to network with peer states to address various themes and concerns of Connecticut's stakeholders. The level of financial assistance is will enable the creation of our first statewide strategic plan and initial business plan.