

Nebraska Spatial Data Strategic Planning

USGS Cooperative Agreement Program Category 3
50 States Initiative Strategic Plan
Final Report

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Project Title: Nebraska Spatial Data Strategic Planning

Organization: Nebraska Department of Administrative Services, Office of the CIO
501 South 14th Street, Lincoln, NE 68509
<http://nitz.ne.gov/gisc>

Principal Investigator: Nathan Watermeier, State GIS Coordinator
402-471-3206
Nathan.Watermeier@Nebraska.gov

Collaborating Organizations:

1. NITC GIS Council – Statutory based, intergovernmental GIS coordinating council for Nebraska.
2. Several state agencies and University of Nebraska Conservation Survey Division who are also represented on the NITC GIS Council.
3. Nebraska Association of County Officials (NACO) is the statewide organization that represents county government officials.
4. League of Nebraska Municipalities is the statewide organization that represents municipal governments.
5. Nebraska Association of Natural Resource Districts is the statewide organization that represents regional natural resources districts.
6. Metropolitan Area Planning Agency is the area planning agency for the most densely populated area of Nebraska.
7. Nebraska GIS/LIS Association is a statewide membership organization of GIS professionals.
8. Applied Geographics, Inc. – Vendor chosen to conduct strategic plan organization, planning, and reporting.

Executive Summary

The primary goal of this project was to develop an enterprise-level strategic plan to guide the development of the spatial data infrastructure for Nebraska. There were two secondary goals of this project. One was to begin identifying business cases for two existing priority enterprise-level initiatives: a statewide street centerline/address database and an enterprise geospatial data sharing and web services network. The other was to strengthen the coordination infrastructure by developing and/or strengthening multiple channels for future communication and collaboration. The planning effort involved extensive outreach and input from Nebraska's diverse geospatial stakeholder community which included members of local, county, state and federal governments, academia, the private sector and Natural Resource Districts. These outreach efforts helped to characterize the existing conditions of geospatial activity in Nebraska and the needs for the state to conduct necessary business using geospatial data and technologies. It also identified two central challenges. The findings identified

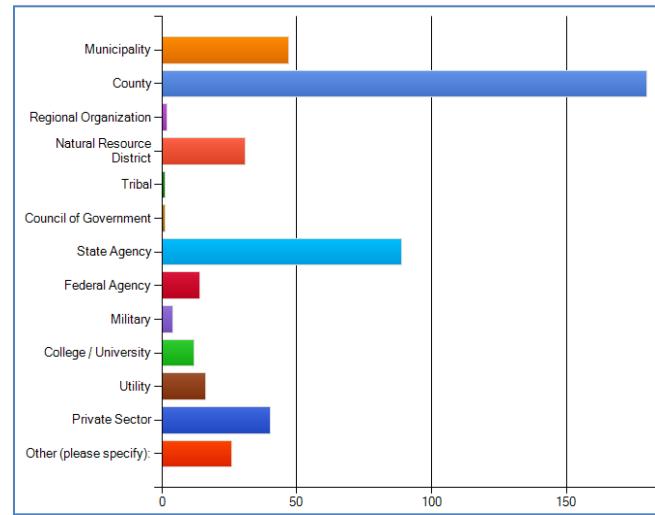
significant communication gaps, a lack of awareness of the NITC GIS Council and a misunderstanding of state government's interests. There has also been inadequate progress in building a Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure and making those data available to both public and private sector stakeholders. The outcomes of the strategic plan identified three additional business plans that extend beyond the original goals of this project. These plans include the creation, maintenance and distribution of the Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure layers, enhance holdings and sharing of geospatial data through NebraskaMAP, and a technical assistance and education outreach plan.

Project Narrative

The GIS Council endorsed a major outreach and planning effort to develop a new GIS/Geospatial Strategic Plan with the goal of facilitating the coordination and collaboration of the broader GIS user community in Nebraska. To oversee the process, a **strategic planning advisory committee** was established from members of the NITC GIS Council.

In order to help characterize the Nebraska geospatial landscape, a **survey** was sent out to a full spectrum of stakeholders from decision makers with little to no GIS experience to technical GIS users. Information was gathered from over 448 respondents to the survey during January and February of 2012. The image to the right indicates distribution of survey takers by organization type. A total of six stakeholder workshops were conducted in February to gather city, county, and regional input from the survey findings and other topics.

The **workshops** involved 149 participants in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Grand Island, Norfolk, Kearney, Lincoln, and Omaha. Attendees typically included assessors, natural resource district managers, city/county GIS coordinators, clerks, sheriffs, emergency management, industry representative, public health managers and surveyors.



A **statewide planning workshop and seminar** was conducted in June 2012 reaching over 76 attendees making up state agency and association directors and other key GIS users at various state departments.

The general findings from surveys and workshops indicated overwhelming interest and needs at various levels of city, county, and state government for enhancing our geospatial infrastructure. There was also an indication of the lack of awareness of the GIS Council and its representatives, need for education for various geospatial technologies, and awareness of benefits of using geospatial

technologies and data sharing in day-to-day business operations. The planning effort further identified the state's Vision and strategic goals for the strategic plan.

Vision

To foster an environment that optimizes the efficient use of geospatial technology, data, and services to address a wide variety of business and governmental challenges within the state. Geospatial technologies will be delivered in a way that supports policy and decision making at all levels of government to enhance the economy, safety, environment and quality of life for Nebraskans.

Strategic Goals

The following four specific strategic goals represent a consensus of desired characteristics expressed by the geospatial community during the information and analysis phase of the strategic planning process.

1. Facilitate the creation, maintenance, analysis, and publishing of **quality geospatial data**. In order to help ensure that geospatial stakeholders have reliable and current data and that they know how to obtain it. Four data layers have been identified as high priority candidates for business plans. They included, in no particular order: elevation, parcels, street centerline/addressing, and imagery.
2. Provide **widespread access to data** and services and encourage data sharing. In order to ensure that government data is readily available through mechanisms such as the NebraskaMAP and to help the government harvest a larger return on its data creation investments.
3. Facilitate **technical assistance and education outreach** opportunities for furthering the adoption of Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure (NESDI) data layers and geospatial applications. In order to continue to build awareness of geospatial activity and technology and to lower the barriers to entry for smaller actors who have not yet been able to gain access to geospatial technology.
4. Achieve sustainable and efficient allocation of **resources to support the implementation and wise governance of GIS** services and geospatial data. In order to ensure that geospatial technology is adequately supported and that communal costs are equitably shared by all those who benefit.

The final report was completed and approved by the NITC GIS Council October 3, 2012.

Next Steps

It is understood that achieving these goals will require significant organizational and institutional changes that will take place incrementally and over time. The next step in the process will be the development of three companion Geospatial Business Plan that will support the implementation of the Strategic Plan. The Business Plans will include detailed business cases that document the benefits resulting from a collaborative statewide approach to geospatial initiatives and it will also provide an implementation plan for achieving long-term efficiency and stability. These plans include:

- 1) The creation, maintenance and distribution of the Nebraska Spatial Data Infrastructure layers.
- 2) Enhance holdings and sharing of geospatial data through NebraskaMAP.
- 3) A technical assistance and education outreach plan.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

The necessary resources to fulfill a comprehensive strategic planning effort could not have been accomplished without efforts of the CAP through the partnership with FGDC and USGS. This funding allowed us to hire an outside professional to provide experience and perspectives that we would have not otherwise provided for this project. The FGDC was flexible in allowing us to extend the completion of the project as to allow transition in new management and coordination within our state to fulfill the objectives of the project. If we would have conducted the project again we would try to secure additional matching dollars to further complete business plans.

This Strategic Plan is the result of hard work through our vendor, the GIS Council, the Strategic Planning Steering Committee and the State GIS Coordinator, as well as the strong, direct contributions of the broad geospatial stakeholder community. The Fifty States Initiative web site and resources from other states helped this team achieving the vision set out in this plan. As a result, these actions are beginning to gain greater cooperation, collaboration and communication among all stakeholders, leading to greater geospatial productivity, less redundancy, and more informed policy across all disciplines and business lines.