

FGDC 2009 CAP Grant – Category 3: Fifty States Initiative - Michigan

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Project Title: Fifty States Initiative Creating a Statewide Geospatial Business Plan

Report Type: Final Technical Report

Organization: Center for Shared Solutions and Technology Partnerships

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Collaborating Organizations:

- IMAGIN, President, Scott Ambs, www.imagin.org
- MICAMP, President, Jeroen Wagendorp, www.micamp.8m.net
- Local and State Cross Boundary Technology Steering Committee, Chairs, Bob Daddow and Jeroen Wagendorp
- USGS State Liaison, Steve Aichele, saichele@usgs.gov

Executive Summary

The business plan identifies specific ways to improve statewide access to geographic data and services which support the business needs of the entire GIS community in Michigan. Two fundamental assumptions guided project work: a) plan preparation planning effort has maintained a statewide perspective with a focus on the needs of and coordination among all Michigan GIS stakeholder groups and b) plan objectives and implementation initiatives will support broad goals of Michigan's 2008 Information Technology Strategic Plan.

To provide a sound foundation for business planning, the project consultants, in coordination with the project Steering Committee, gathered and evaluated information from the statewide GIS community through: a) review of documents and Web-based sources; b) a Web-based survey publicly available to all interested respondents; c) regional "listening sessions" held at 5 different locations throughout Michigan; d) interviews with selected leaders in the statewide GIS community; and e) considerable review and comment (by all interested parties) on draft reports and versions of the plan.

At the end of the day this business planning process resulted in an actionable, statewide GIS Business Plan. Furthermore, it was successful in increasing the amount of collaboration happening around GIS throughout the State of Michigan.

Project Narrative

Summary of Project Activities

The Center for Shared Solutions and Technology Partnerships (CSSTP) with guidance from the State and Local Cross Boundary Technology Steering Committee put together a project steering committee that consisted of different government entities and GIS professionals. This steering committee was put in place to help ensure that the project and its deliverables stayed on track. GeoPlanning Services was brought on as the contractor to help gather statewide input and write the business plan document. GeoPlanning Services held 5 listening summits around the State, conducted an online survey with the GIS community in Michigan, and held a 6th “virtual” listening summit as well. Additionally, GeoPlanning Services conducted several personal interviews with key GIS professionals throughout the State of Michigan. Following each summit and at the end of the survey period, GeoPlanning Services produced a draft notes/outcomes document for everyone who participated to add/delete/change anything that they wanted included to those documents. GeoPlanning Services then produced a summary of their findings document and again asked for public input. After all change requests were received and edits were made, GeoPlanning Services then wrote the two public drafts of the business plan and requested comments. The final document was produced on August 17th and made publicly available via the project website.

Key Accomplishments

- Web-based survey publicly available for all interested parties to complete
- 5 regional listening summits held, and a 6th “virtual summit”
- Draft Meeting Notes and Outreach summary provided for comment
- Draft Business Plan provided for comment
- Final Business Plan available for public consumption

How Inclusive is your Effort

The project steering committee consisted of members of the GIS community in Michigan from local, state, and federal government, as well as the main GIS professional organizations. Over 37 professional organizations were contacted to solicit participation in one of the five listening summits. A total of 191 individuals from the Michigan GIS community participated in one of five listening summits that were held in different locations throughout the state of Michigan. Additionally, 282 individuals responded to the online survey to provide their input into the direction of Statewide GIS Business Plan and stewardship enhancement plan. During the outreach phase of this project a total of 291 individuals provided email information though

either an RSVP to the listening summits or providing it during the online survey with the request they be added to a project mailing list. We had 11 individuals submit detailed comments on the business plan draft which produced over 45 changes to the document.

Explain how statewide coordination will change as a result of this project

The Center for Shared Solutions and Technology Partnerships determined as a result of this planning process that it will increase its statewide presence in certain regions where it was lacking previously. This will be done through increased participation in regional and local GIS user groups, providing more information about GIS activities through websites and social media, and providing educational and training to support GIS collaboration. Also, the Local and State Cross Boundary Technology Steering Committee will work to revamp its membership to ensure a more statewide and stakeholder representation. As a result of this Business Planning process, statewide GIS collaboration will increase over the next few years and beyond.

What practices or activities led to success? What practices have not?

The open and inclusive process proved to be effective in garnering the amount of feedback and cooperation that was needed to be successful on these grants. Having the option for online participation helped to achieve additional feedback that traditional listening summit activities may not have captured. Though the project was successfully completed on an accelerated timeline, the project team did find itself extending some deadline to ensure full participation for all was possible.

Attachments

Completed business plan
Project Website: <http://www.michigan.gov/nsdi>

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

What are the program strengths and weaknesses?

The flexibility and collaborative spirit behind these projects are its strengths. The only weakness we found was in the actual grants.gov system and the difficulties in final financial reporting.

Where does the program make a difference?

The program gave us the ability to better understand the GIS Community around the State, and has provided us with a clear plan to move GIS forward in the State of Michigan.

Was the assistance you received sufficient or effective?

The assistance of the USGS and FGDC was extremely helpful and timely. Thank you to all who help coordinate these grants.

What would you recommend doing differently?

I think this grant process was very effective and wouldn't change it if offered again as a cooperative agreement opportunity.

Are there factors that are missing or additional needs that should be considered?

N/A

Are there program management concerns that need to be addressed? Time frame?

I felt the time frame was very flexible allowing for that not to be a project constraint, the one management improvement would be a dedicated reporting resource to help wade through the federal financial reporting system.

If you were to do this again, what would you do differently?

I would spend a little more time up front getting some of the dates and project timeline in place before the award.