

2010 NSDI Cooperative Agreement Program Grant
Category 4
DC GIS Business Plan – Final Project Report

Summary Final Report

Date: August 15, 2011

Agreement Num.: G10AC00172

(a) Project Title: District of Columbia Geographic Information System Business Plan

(b) Applicant Organization: Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO)
441th Street NW
Washington, DC 20001

(c) Internet Address: DC GIS: <http://dcgis.dc.gov>

(d) Principal Investigator Barney Krucoff, GIS Director
(202) 727-930
Barney.Krucoff@dc.gov

(e) Other Contact Mario Field, Geospatial Data Manager
(202) 727-1761
Mario.Field@dc.gov

Matt Crossett, Geospatial Project Manager
(202) 442-7100
Matthew.crossett@dc.gov

(f) Collaborating: The following organizations are already members of the DC GIS Steering Committee and were invited to participate. The process was open to additional organizations and the public.

Member Agencies of the DC GIS Steering Committee

Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA)
Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services (FEMS)
Department of Health (DOH)
Department of Public Works (DPW)
District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (WASA)
Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)
Metropolitan Police Department (MPD)
Office of Planning (OP)
Office of Property Management (OPM)
Office of Tax and Revenue (OTR)
Office of the City Administrator (OCA)
Office of Zoning (OZ)

Federal Agencies (in addition to USGS) who will be invited to participate
National Capital Planning Commission
United States Geological Survey

(g) Executive Summary:

As proposed, this business plan is a follow-on action to the [District of Columbia GIS Strategic Plan \(January 2009\)](#). This business plan focuses primarily on four strategic areas within DC GIS: **Mapping Data; Geospatial Applications; Web Services; and Customer Service**. Each area comprises a set of platforms and the people and systems that support them. It is intended to inform the DC GIS Steering Committee (GISSC) and OCTO executive leadership in support of the DC GIS governance processes, including the budget meeting, which was called for in the strategic plan to occur in the fall of each year, with a two-year budget outlook. This current plan looks at fiscal years 2010 and 2011 to establish a baseline for budget planning while setting expectations for fiscal year 2012 and beyond. It applies the principles of IT portfolio management to DC GIS programs to classify investments, both current and future, representing a pioneering effort in the application of such techniques to GIS spending. It is anticipated that this plan will be updated and refined on a regular basis.

This Plan uses the conceptual construct of “platform” for organizing program elements and facilitating budget management for DC GIS. The OCTO GIS Group, working within the District’s IT ecosystem, is either managing or leveraging a variety of platforms to support the DC GIS mission, customers and stakeholders. A platform is a base technology (or technologies) on which other technologies, services, or processes are built. In addition, it may be construed as a whole “economic unit” in terms of aggregating budget costs to support it. As platforms evolve, different investment strategies become more or less relevant, depending on both user demand and the technology life-cycle.

(h) Project Narrative:

1.) Summary of project activities

The GISSC formed a **Business Plan Subcommittee** to provide input to this Plan, three focus sessions and several breakout sessions were held to discuss and analyze the major program areas of **Mapping Data; Geospatial Applications; Web Services; and Customer Service**.

2.) Key accomplishments to date

The plan is done and has been accepted by the DC GISSC Executive Committee and will be voted on by the entire DC GISSC in October.

3.) How inclusive is your effort. What have you done to bring new stakeholder groups or organizations into statewide coordination?

The number of stakeholders declined from the Strategic Plan effort but the Business Plan was focused on what to do with District resources and investments.

4.) *Explain how statewide coordination has (or will) change as a result of this project.*

The coordination efforts were established by the Strategic Plan and are continuing. The Business Plan was focused on specific investments.

5.) *What practices or activities led to success? What practices or activities have not?*

Use of an outside consultant was very effective. The plan probably could not have been completed by District staff simultaneously engaged in normal work activities. They also provided an independent view and brought experience from similar engagements with other states. It was equally important to have the active participation of DC agencies and support from DC GISSC Executive Committee.

6.) *Explain how your project has advanced the NSDI*

The NSDI is alive and well in Washington, DC. The District government is a public domain geospatial supplier with over 250 data layers and numerous Web services available. The business plan will help the District maintain and expand our offerings in cooperation with federal and regional partners.

(i) Next Steps

1.) *Describe the next steps in your project.*

We intend to market the business plan.

2.) *How will this project continue into the future and remain viable?*

The business plan will be used to evaluate and implement our programs progress and goals, using the tools in section 6 of the plan. In addition, the District has instituted a Technical Review Board; an IT planning process. DC GIS intends to use the plan to meet the board's requirements.

3.) *Where do you need assistance? 4.) What type of assistance do you need?*

Continuing involvement from our USGS liaison who helps us track and identify new opportunities to partner with USGS.

(j) Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

1.) *What are the CAP Program strengths and weaknesses?*

Without this grant we may not have had the ability to create this plan. The fact that most states are engaged in the CAP process provides a healthy level of cooperation and competition that enables states to improve. Moreover, a federal grant helps provide moral authority as well as financial needs. The grants could be larger, but we're thankful for what we received and it was sufficient for this effort.

2.) *Where does it make a difference?*

The grant affords a break from routine activities for strategic and business planning that otherwise might not take place.

3.) *Was the assistance you received sufficient or effective?*

Yes

4.) *What would you recommend that the FGDC do differently? Are there factors that are missing or additional needs that should be considered?*

FGDC should expand the 50 States Initiative Geospatial Program criteria to include objectives that are more relevant at the business planning level. For example, what are the minimum data sets that states should be contributing to the NSDI?

5.) *Are there program management concerns that need to be addressed, such as the time frame?*

Within the DC government, we need to do a much better job of making grant funding available to other agencies in a timely basis. Currently each grant requires action by DC's City Council. Moreover, we try to tie each grant to the city's fiscal year rather than the grantors period of performance which causes problems.

6.) *If you were to do this again, what would you do differently?*

Handle internal district accounting more efficiently.

(k) Attachments

The business plan resulting from this project ("Business Plan for Data, Applications & Services for DC GIS: Applying Portfolio Management") was previously submitted on July 27, 2011