



2007 1st Quarter Interim Project Report

NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program

Fifty States Initiative Project - Agreement Number: 06HQAG0106

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Project Background

Texas state government is extremely decentralized and lacks adequate staffing and funding to support NSDI coordination activities on a statewide basis. The state GIS coordination council – the Texas Geographic Information Council (TGIC) is primarily composed of state agencies and universities with inadequate representation from the local, regional and federal government sectors and the private sector. A new approach is needed to support statewide NSDI implementation in Texas that will increase participation and lead to the formation of more partnerships and coordinated efforts at all levels of government.

The Texas Department of Information Resources was awarded contract #06HQAG0106 for the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) - Fifty-States Initiative Program in 2006. The original project scope of work focused on developing a NSDI strategic plan and business plan in conjunction with the 2006 Legislative Report by the Texas Geographic Information Council (TGIC).

Clear consensus on business plan goals and objectives for the report were not achieved, however, during the planning process over the summer of 2006. For this reason, the project has been revised with a new scope of work that is expected to have a successful outcome and deliverables within the FY-2007 calendar year. The Texas NSDI Strategic Assessment Report will describe the current strengths and weakness in NSDI implementation in Texas along with identifying specific opportunities for improvement.

Current Project Activities

1. The project is being ramped up to start again in mid-May and end in December 2007.
2. The project scope-of-work has been revised and is being sent for review to the TGIC Steering Committee. There are four tasks for the revised project scope-of-work: 1) Develop Current Framework View of Geospatial Shared Services, 2) Develop Stakeholder Recommendations for a Target Framework View for Geospatial Shared Services, 3) Finalize Report for Publishing, 4) Project Closeout.

Timeline

TASK	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Task 1: Current Framework View								
Task 2: Stakeholder Recommendations								
Task 3: Finalize Report for Publishing								
Task 4: Project Closeout								

3. Interviews are currently taking place for two (2) temporary personnel to support the project from mid-May until December of 2007 for all four project tasks. Hiring for these positions should be completed by May 5th.
4. Consideration is also being given to hiring a consultant to support the stakeholder workshops, stakeholder participation, and strategic planning tasks associated with Task 2.

Next Steps – 2nd Quarter Activities

1. A kick-off presentation for the 50 States project is scheduled for the Texas Geographic Information Council (TGIC) on May 3rd.
2. Work on Task 1 is scheduled to begin May 21st with the new personnel and will be completed by the 3rd quarter. Task 1 will establish the foundation for project analysis and planning by describing the current organizational and operational environment for geospatial shared services within Texas state government. Report Section 1 - Current Framework View of Geospatial Shared Services will describe and graphically depict as diagrams key geospatial organizations, agencies and major business processes including data development, applications and web services that contribute toward the development of the NSDI in Texas. In addition, a review of best practices of peer states will be conducted.

The state best practice profiles are intended to provide the Texas geospatial community and state leadership with an awareness of the approaches that other states are employing toward geospatial technology development activities as options that could be employed in Texas. Data derived from Task 1 will serve multiple purposes that can assist Texas geospatial coordination activities well beyond the life of the project. Information and data for Task 1 will be gathered through personal interviews, surveys (non-state organizations), and the compilation of data from existing reports. A survey of state agencies and universities was completed last year that will provide the basis for the Texas state government data.