

Interim Report
Fifty States Initiative, Strategic and Business Plan Development
Agreement Number : 07HQAG0036
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Organization : New York State Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination (CSCIC)

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Collaborating Organizations : NYS GIS Association
US Geological Survey

Project Narrative : Engaging the New York State geospatial community in cooperative strategies to maintain and share NSDI framework data.

The original strategic/business plan for the New York State GIS Coordination Program was created by the legislatively-enacted Temporary GIS Council in 1996. The Council's final report defined a number of goals and recommendations which have been the basis for the existing State GIS Coordination Program.

A key recommendation of the 1996 report was the establishment of a permanent GIS Coordinating Body, which began operating that same year. This Coordinating Body, a collaborative organization now operating under the auspices of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination (CSCIC; proposal originator), coordinates, promotes and facilitates the development, effective use, and sharing of geographic information in New York State who meet quarterly.

The GIS Coordinating Body also conducts annual strategic planning sessions to refresh portions of the existing strategic plan and define priorities for the year ahead. Since New York State has a fairly mature GIS Coordination Program with most of the nine coordination criteria in place, this 50-States Initiative grant will be specifically *focused on strategies to cooperatively maintain and share framework data.*

Project Activities : The plan to achieve a more robust SSDI in cooperation with local geospatial community members, funded by this grant, consists of three steps:

1. Conduct a one-day meeting of CSCIC staff, the NYS GIS Coordinating Body, the NYS GIS Association, other interested parties, and the selected contractor to determine specific issues which require targeted stakeholder

- input. The stakeholder meeting format will also be determined at this meeting.
2. Conduct the series of at least 6 regional stakeholder meetings to seek input/share ideas on developing, maintaining, and sharing SSDI/NSDI framework data layers
 3. Write a business/strategic plan that documents cooperative data maintenance strategies and priorities and is broadly available.

Key Accomplishments to Date :

1. A Request For Quotes was solicited by CSCIC to determine potential contractors/facilitators for the Albany, NY Planning meeting and the 6 regional stakeholder meetings. Applied Geographics, Boston, MA the private sector organization that wrote the original template for the 50-States Initiative was selected
2. The one-day Albany, NY Planning meeting was held in to frame the approach for the six future regional stakeholder meetings that comprise Phase 2 of the project. A schedule was determined which would complete the project in winter 2008.

The group in attendance, which included GIS Coordinating Body members as well as the selected contractor ranked the relative importance of the 7 NSDI framework datalayers. It was decided that is detrimental to consider each datalayer individually; rather, the datalayers should be grouped in a way that acknowledges their relationships and inter-dependencies. The datalayers were arranged into 1 of 2 groups: 1) the first group where data originate with the State and flow to Locals. Typically these datasets pertain to the physical landscape; and 2) the second group where data originate with Locals and flow up to the State. Typically these datasets pertain to addresses and administrative boundaries.

Group 1, State to local Geodetic Control, Ortho/Oblique Imagery, Elevation, Hydrography

Group 2, local to State: Cadastre, Boundaries, Roads/Addresses.

Discussion concluded regarding strategies to get the right players to the regional stakeholder meetings.

3. The first of the 6 regional stakeholder meetings was held in Lake Placid, NY. This meeting was an attempt to bring in interested parties from the "north country" part of the state. Thirty+ attendees; from local governments, the public sector, utilities, academia, state and federal agencies, and not-for-profit organizations were present. All those in attendance voiced opinions regarding the respective NSDI datalayers, their importance, and strategies for maintaining and sharing these data. The meeting was considered a success by the collaborating partners, the contractor/facilitator, and those who attended. Future meetings will follow a similar format, with minor changes.

Changes to Statewide Coordination as a Result of this Project : Current efforts in statewide GIS coordination and strategies to maintain and share NSDI framework data will remain in effect until the new strategic/business plan is completed and accepted.

Inclusiveness of Effort: Every effort was made to include GIS practitioners, managers, and interested parties to attend the first, as well as all future regional stakeholder meetings. Potential regional stakeholders from local governments, the public sector, utilities, academia, state and federal agencies, and not-for-profit organizations are informed of upcoming meetings by phone, email, and NYSGIS Listserve.

Practices or Activities That Have So Far Been Successful:

1. Methods of contacting potential attendees have been effective
2. Meeting format has proven acceptable and has promoted spirited, professional discussion
3. Facilitator/contractor presentation has been informative and has engaged the audience
4. Facilitator/contractor "notetaking" has been comprehensive and will contribute positively to both the strategic and business plans

Next Steps :

How Will This Project Continue in the Future ?

1. Future meetings will be held in Albany (Capital District), Poughkeepsie (Mid-Hudson area), New York City and Long Island (downstate urban centers), and Rochester (western New York) to provide input from New York's regional GIS stakeholders and to encourage the potentially distinct geographic opinions that these groups may have.
2. At the conclusion of the regional stakeholder meetings, the contractor/facilitator will, in conjunction with collaborating partners,

author a new strategic and business plan that will guide the NYS GIS Coordinating Body in efforts to engage the geospatial community in cooperative strategies to maintain and share NSDI framework data.

Need for Assistance : At this time, no additional assistance from FGDC is anticipated.

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

CAP Strengths and Weaknesses :

1. CAP grant categories are sufficiently broad and “interpretable” so as to permit individuals, businesses, and agencies to find the necessary latitude to craft applicable proposals.

Where Does CAP Make a Difference?

The process of applying for the grant and carrying out the strategic planning project has forced us to pull back from urgent daily activities and focus on longer term important partnerships. Planning ahead and working on relationships with partners is always beneficial.

Sufficiency and Effectiveness of Assistance from FGDC

No issues apparent so far.

Recommendations for FGDC for Future Grants

We anticipate recommendations once this project is complete.

What Factors are Missing; What Additional Needs Should be Considered by FGDC?

We anticipate recommendations once this project is complete.

Program Management Concerns That Need to be Addressed by FGDC

No concerns at this time.

Things That would be Done Differently for Future FGDC CAP Grants:

None at this time.