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Cooperative Agreements Program 2007  
Interim Report – Missouri  
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**Project Narrative:**

**PROJECT STATUS SUMMARY**

The two primary objectives for this project included: 1) development of strategic and business plans; and 2) outreach and education to promote the plan and distribute a local ‘How To’ guide for geospatial development. While the general ideas inherent within these objectives remain, the activities to achieve those objectives have changed from the original project agenda. Those changes were primarily a reflection of a change in the grant principle investigator, Missouri’s GIO, Timothy L. Haithcoat. The strategy reflects a ‘stakeholder-first’ approach. Eight regional meetings (rather than 3 central state meetings), scheduled across the state, are meant to inform creation of the strategic and business plans. Second, the ‘How To’ guide will also be a reflection of the needs identified during the regional meetings.

To date we have held 7 of the 8 regional meetings. All have been very successful. The final meeting will take place on April 10<sup>th</sup> to wrap up the Strategic Planning process. Here are some of the successes from these regional meetings. First, the regional meetings have been constructive listening and feedback sessions to get a clear understanding of local government obstacles and needs. Second, all of the meetings concluded with conversations about how to continue organizing and reinforcing needs and opportunities. Third, we have begun a conversation between these regions in the state by showing the results of pre-regional meeting survey results. These surveys show priorities and opinions in the regions for database development, funding, resource needs, and administrative support. Fourth, we are building an on-going database of local contacts and champions for future reference and collaboration. The information and working relationships built during this process have been, and will continue to be, a rich contribution to our strategic and business plans, and most importantly an on-going measure of success and feedback. These meetings have also served the stakeholder groups as they learn about services, resources and opportunities available for them to start or improve their GIS program.

The focus of the 'How To' guide document has evolved over time to respond to some of the issues, needs, and requirements that have arisen in the regional meetings. The document will be much less technical and will instead incorporate more information about decision-making, consortium building, funding, policy, program management, contracting and standards, and data stewardship. This guide will be specifically helpful for local governments in Missouri, but many principles will be applicable in other states. A table of contents has been created and materials have been collected. This part of the project is not as far along as hoped because of the extra work and attention needed to hold the regional meetings (5 more than originally expected) and the re-evaluation of the stakeholder needs. This part of the project will however, be completed by the end of the requested extension June 30, 2008.

To date the sum of our successes are a product of the number and range of people who have, and continue to, participate in this process. A total of 133 people have participated in the regional meetings. As well we have had 91 people (to-date) fill out a 10-question Strategic Planning survey for use in the Strategic Planning process. Both 'regular supporters' and new contributors have engaged in this process with time, resources, lively discussion, and passion. The revised implementation strategy complements the current needs of our state geospatial development programs better than the original proposal. We are fortunate to have a relatively good structure in place (largely due to MSDIS) for this coordination and implementation, but in order to move forward we needed to develop relationships with a still broader range of practitioners. This grant has given us the opportunity to begin and engage that conversation successfully.

The challenges to the successful execution of the *50 States Initiative* activity that have been overcome include the following. The GIO position within the State was in transition during the early start-up period for the contract. It was finalized in mid-October and a new GIO reworked the Strategic Planning process through regionalization. This caused many delays in the implementation of contracts associated with the 50 States Initiative. The contracts have been executed and are in place to finish up the work related to the deliverables for this award. We have asked for, and received, an extension through June 30, 2008 for this work.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

### General Administrative

- Administrative documents and accounts are in place
- Contractor specifications have been provided to the OA fiscal agent
- Contracts are in place
- Participated in CAP teleconferences hosted by FGDC
- Financial reports are up-to-date and submitted
- Attended FGDC/NSGIC Strategic Plan Guidelines Workshop
- Contract extension secured through June 30, 2008
- PI updated to reflect change in GIO position

### Planning Process

- Established steering committee
- Established strategic planning subcommittee
- Established volunteer list of workers with volunteer jobs
- Established stakeholder participant lists for 8 statewide regional meetings
- Regional meeting packets created
- Regional meeting, pre-meeting priority and opinion surveys distributed and to date 91 surveys have been completed and received
- 7 of 8 regional meetings held – 133 people attended to-date. Final wrap-up meeting scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup> 2008.
- Outline and background material for strategic plan assembled
- Outline and background material for business plan assembled

### Outreach and Education

- ‘How To’ document format and table of contents established
- Collected and reviewed reference documents

The overall planning process strategy and outreach program continues to focus on development of, and communication with, Missouri’s geospatial community of practice at all levels. The strategy includes efforts to seek individuals from relevant sectors (who are likely to contribute now and in the future); personally invite them; provide them multiple ways to participate in the planning process; and show constructive feedback through survey results, scheduled follow-up meetings, as well as requested participation in other project components. For example, the regional meeting packets are designed for participants that personally attend the meetings, attend via phone-bridge, or to download and provide comments independent of the meetings. This regional outreach effort has drawn many new stakeholders to the issue of statewide GIS development and their role in the development of Missouri’s Spatial Data Infrastructure (MoSDI).

## Next Steps:

The next steps for the project will entail bringing all of the information from the regional meetings together at the final April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. These goals from key stakeholder and GIS coordinating groups will be reviewed for inclusion in the final strategic planning document. The strategic and business plan documents will be drafted and reviewed by the strategic planning subcommittee of the MGISAC (Missouri Geographic Information Systems Advisory Committee). The draft will be posted for a comment and revision period by the GIO.

### Next three weeks

- Complete initial draft of Missouri Strategic Plan and release for review prior to April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Hold meeting with Steering Committee and facilitator on April 3, 2008 to coordinate final meeting and targeted outcomes.
- Complete the final, regional meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2008.
- Complete draft of material for at least ½ of the 'How To' guide
- Release final draft of the Missouri Strategic Plan for final comment period.

### April through June 2008

- Publish 'How To' guide.
- Work with MGISAC to create the Business Plan for the objectives of the MoSDI and Strategic Plan.
- Follow-up with participants from the regional meetings to invite comments on the strategic and business plan drafts
- Publish strategic and business plans

### Future activities

- Determine tactical elements of achieving goals of Strategic and Business Plans and start phased implementation.
- Legislative activities regarding cadastral layer development, E-9-1-1, and funding mechanisms for geospatial data development.
- Communication and coordination plans rolled out, growing, and evolving.
- Continued development and refinement of the Missouri Spatial Data Infrastructure (MoSDI).