

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

Statewide Aviation

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February 27, 2012

US Geological Survey
Gita Urban-Mathieu
NSDI CAP Coordinator
Federal Geographic Data Committee
MS 590, National Center
Reston, VA 20192

Dear Gita,

The State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has completed work on the 2010 NSDI CAP III Planning Grant and has drawn down all funds allocated to this effort. The deliverables required of the contractor (Dewberry Engineering) have been completed and accepted by the State of Alaska. The final report and respective financial accounting are hereto attached. Any questions related to the SF425 should be directed to Mrs. Karen Felts who can be reached by e-mail at karen.felts@alaska.gov or by phone at (907) 266-2787.

On behalf of a grateful state please allow me to thank you and your colleagues at the Federal Geospatial Data Committee. This planning effort has been very beneficial and it appears it may be the basis for establishing the Alaska Geospatial Coordination Council in State Government. The Governor's Office and the State Legislature are discussing the implementation of the CAP III Strategic Plan. While it may not occur this session it is believed to be on track for implementation next session.

Once again, thank you for your support.

Very truly yours,

Nick Mastrodicasa
Project Manager DOT/PF

ALASKA GIS Plan

2010 NSDI CAP – Category 3:
Strategic & Business Plan Development

STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

FINAL
Project Report
February 29, 2012

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Agreement Number:
G10AC00178

Date: February 29, 2012

Agreement #: G10AC00178

Project Title: Alaska GIS Plan 2010 NSDI CAP – Category 3 Strategic & Business Plan Development

Applicant Organization:

State of Alaska
Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
Joint Project Office
4451 Aircraft Drive, Suite H
Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Principal Investigator:

Nicholas Mastrodicasa
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Collaborating Organizations:

Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI):

State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources
State of Alaska, Department of Military & Veteran's Affairs
State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation
State of Alaska, Department of Fish & Game
State of Alaska, Department of Economic & Community Development
State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities
University of Alaska

Successful Contractor:

Dewberry Engineering
8401 Arlington Boulevard
Fairfax, VA 22031-446

Project Objective:

Planning for the implementation of intergovernmental geospatial coordination on an enterprise basis in Alaska that would integrate itself across all business lines and driven by the stakeholders.

Chronology of Effort:

DECEMBER 2009:

Grant Submittal from State of Alaska/DOT to USGS.

FEBRUARY 4, 2010:

Notification of Grant Award.

MARCH 7, 2010:

Attendance at NSDI CAP Kick off meeting held at Annapolis, Maryland in conjunction with the NSGIC mid-year meeting.

JULY – AUGUST 2010:

Development of RFP for Alaska geospatial Strategic and business plan development.

AUGUST 9, 2010:

RFP Vetted at Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (SDMI) executive meeting. Proposed RFP approved for submittal to procurement. Author: Mastrodicasa (DOT) John Wynne (DOT-Procurement).

OCTOBER 19, 2010

RFP 2511014 issued, not to exceed \$65,100. Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) Established. Proposal evaluators assigned are Nick Mastrodicasa (DOT), Anne Johnson (DNR), Craig Sever (USGS/Other).

NOVEMBER 1, 2010:

RFP due date extended from November 9 to November 12 2010.

DECEMBER 7, 2010:

Distribution of 5 proposals by procurement to Proposal Review Committee (PEC), proposals received:

1. Dewberry Engineering;
2. Berk & Associates;
3. Applied Geographics / GeoNorth;
4. Geographic Technologies Group, and
5. Michael Baker Jr. Inc.

DECEMBER 10, 2010:

PEC teleconference to select contractor; Dewberry Engineering selected as successful contractor. Contract awarded subsequent to PEC teleconference.

JANUARY 2011:

No-cost grant extension requested and granted.

FEBRUARY 22, 2011:

Planning effort Kick-Off conducted during Alaska Surveying & Mapping Conference. Intergovernmental steering committee selected to review contractor's work products and processes. Steering committee: Nick Mastrodicasa - PM (AK DOT), Anne Johnson - GISP (AK DNR), Garth Olson – CIO, (BLM), Tom Strum / Scott Van Hoff (USGS Liaisons), Dr. Bill Hazelton – Chair UAA Geomatics Dept., Bill Holloway –GIO Kenai, AK and Shannon Post, CIO Matanuska/Susitna Borough.

MARCH 2010:

On-Line Stakeholder Survey open, received 300 responses. Compilation of findings delivered by contractor during outreach sessions as basis for starting the stakeholder dialogue.

APRIL 4 – APRIL 15 2011:

21 high level executive drill down interviews conducted in seventeen face to face meetings and six one day well attended stakeholder outreach and GIS coordination workshops conducted in:

- Anchorage;
- Juneau;
- Fairbanks;
- Kodiak;
- Kenai, and
- On-line (WebX).

AUGUST 18, 2011:

Alaska Geospatial Strategic Plan accepted as final after two revisions and input from steering committee and 35 days of being open for public comment and input. All public comment was reviewed by the steering committee and responsible comment included in the final plan.

NOVEMBER 16, 2011:

Second draft of the Alaska Geospatial Business Plan delivered to Steering Committee after comments were integrated. Decision to place Business Plan development on hold until USGS completes the Enhanced Elevation for the Nation ROI study so ROI information relative to AK can be incorporated into the plan.

FEBRUARY 6, 2012:

Alaska Geospatial Business Plan accepted as final after three revisions, incorporation of ROI analysis and public comment period (35 Days). All responsible public comment inserted into the business plan.

FEBRUARY 13 – FEBRUARY 17 2012:

Five executive level presentations of the strategic / business plan development and suggestions for implementing the plans were conducted. High level briefings were delivered to:

- DOT Leadership;
- Governor's Office (Deputy Chief of Staff);
- Lt. Governor Mead Treadwell;
- Representative Eric Fiege (House-AK Legislature);
- Senator Kevin Meyers (AK Legislature);
- Statewide Digital Mapping Initiative (Exec Meeting), and
- General Public – Alaska Survey & Mapping Conference.

FEBRUARY 24, 2012:

Final invoice from contractor accepted and paid in full. All allocated funding is drawn down to zero.

Discovery & Outcomes:

The Alaska Geospatial Planning effort proved to be very valuable in demonstrating to the stakeholders and State leadership that intergovernmental coordination would save money, streamline efforts and improve interoperability. It also demonstrated to the stakeholders that coordination would benefit them if it were conducted in an open and transparent manner. In the beginning there were some fears that a coordination council would have oversight of individual projects. This was overcome.

The plans which were developed in a stakeholder driven process, identify four primary goals to be implemented by the plans:

1. Establish a sustainable participatory governance structure to effectively and efficiently coordinate and communicate geospatial efforts;
2. Ensure statewide spatial data and technology are available to as many potential users as possible and are developed, managed and coordinated according to best practices;
3. Expand and improve the use and awareness of geospatial technologies through increased collaborative educational opportunities and outreach, and
4. Identify and secure sustainable funding sources to support ongoing statewide geospatial programs.

These goals are further broken down into specific steps the State must take to cultivate a sustainable, thriving and robust geospatial program built upon collaboration and shared resources.

Despite having some of the best GIS practitioners in the country, Alaska is considerably behind in organization of geospatial coordination and the acquisition and distribution of geospatial assets. The corrective action required to improve the current geospatial status of Alaska is the implementation of the plans. The four most important areas needing to be addressed on a priority basis are:

1. Establishment of a GIO / Coordinator position and the adoption of a geospatial council and technical working groups (i.e. sustainable organizational structure);
2. Development of a comprehensive warehouse;
3. Procurement and/or updating of the seven framework datasets, and
4. Adoption of standards and best practices in support of broad based enterprise wide interoperability.

Next Steps:

Currently many high level discussions surrounding this effort and a pending decision to implement the plans are taking place. The outcome of these discussions will not be known for some time. However, the SDMI is implementing several of the recommendations that do not require a budget on an interim basis until a geospatial office is funded

Additionally, a follow-on effort through additional NSDI CAP grants to establish standards and best practices is anticipated. This effort would implement several items outlined in the planning documents and would be a continuation of the planning effort in that it would execute the plan rather than shelving the documents.

Feedback:

1. The CAP program allowed the state of Alaska to seek and formulate a collaborative plan for addressing and organizing its geospatial strategies going forward. Without the CAP III grant the State may not have done this for many years and slipped even further behind. If the CAP program has any weaknesses the State of Alaska did not encounter them.
2. The CAP program, as stated above, made a substantial difference in how the State of Alaska and all of its stakeholders look at cooperation in geospatial matters. This cooperation will allow for greater access to geospatial data while invoking enterprise wide decision making and enhancing stakeholder relations.
3. The State of Alaska found the CAP administrative personnel helpful in each phase of the grant. The web site is informative, helpful and easy to navigate.
4. The State of Alaska has no material recommendations for the FGDC and is hopeful continued FGDC assistance to the State will manifest itself through continued funding of the FGDC by congress.
5. At the time of this writing the State of Alaska is not aware of any additional needs that the FGDC has not already outlined. This may change as the state's GIS program(s) mature but for now it seems the FGDC has put a great deal of forethought into its assistance program.

6. The State of Alaska required a no-cost extension to the grant and found the approval process to be without formidable obstacles or undue complication. Overall the State feels the program management is highly satisfactory.
7. My recommendation to anyone contemplating a statewide planning effort would be not to underestimate the time frame and level of effort required, particularly if the desired outcome is a stakeholder driven effort.

Executive Summary:

A very high level executive summary of the work product follows.