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Category 3: Fifty States Initiative: Strategic and Business Plan Development
Final Report – December 28, 2012
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Project Title: *New Jersey Spatial Data Infrastructure Implementation: I-Team Strategic Plan Update and Business Plan Development*

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Executive Summary

The New Jersey state geospatial program, as led by the New Jersey Office of Information Technology, Geographic Information Systems (OGIS), has long been recognized as strong and effective and ahead of its peers in terms of innovation. OGIS supports an active and engaged geospatial community that participates in governance activities through the informal New Jersey Geospatial Forum. This community benefits from a solid base of statewide framework data layers that are maintained and regularly shared between agencies at all levels of government as well as with the private sector, nonprofits and the general public. This data sharing is supported by the New Jersey Geographic Information Network (NJGIN), the state's geospatial portal and metadata catalog, which has provided reliable access to these data and associated metadata for nearly a decade.

Despite these successful geospatial program components, there are still needs that are not being met and which will require further strategic investments and sustainable funding. The strategic business plan presents the business case for making the necessary investments to address these unmet needs. The following goals are focused on improving framework data:

- ❖ A predictable funding source and plan for recurring orthoimagery capture
- ❖ Maintenance of and enhancements to existing road centerlines
- ❖ Completion of statewide parcel data and better alignment of tax map and digital parcel maintenance workflows
- ❖ The new development of statewide address data

These “core four” data sets are used by virtually every stakeholder in the geospatial community and support activities ranging from local government operations to transportation planning to emergency response and disaster recovery. While the investment required to keep these data current and relevant is not small, the benefits will be far reaching and substantial. Furthermore, these data sets serve as the foundation for a variety of derivative products required by the geospatial community such as open space and land use/land cover data. In addition to improvements to the “core four” data sets, this plan makes the business case for new investments in:

- ❖ Modernization of NJGIN architecture, interface and functionality
- ❖ Governance evolution and potential formalization

Project Narrative

In April 2011, the State of New Jersey Office of Information Technology (OIT), Office of GIS (OGIS) was awarded \$50,000 by USGS to implement Cooperative Agreement #G11AC20063, *New Jersey Spatial Data Infrastructure Implementation: I-Team Strategic Plan Update and Business Plan Development*. With this funding, OGIS contracted \$44,000 for services to revise the state strategic plan's existing content, add essential content not in the existing plan, create

strategies to support data stewards, meet the needs of other stakeholders, identify the roles and responsibilities of state government agencies, and develop a congruent business plan based upon the content of the strategic plan revision.

The remaining funds were used by OGIS staff for travel to national and regional conferences to disseminate information about the project, and promote knowledge of the state's strategic plan update and business plan development. Andrew Rowan, OGIS Director, presented at the National States Geographic Information Council annual conference in Boise, Idaho in September 2011. Edith Konopka, GIS Specialist, presented at the URISA conference in Indianapolis, Indiana in November 2011 and at the ESRI User Conference in July 2012. Douglas M. Schleifer, GIS Specialist presented at the Northeast ARC (NEARC) Users Conference in Saratoga Springs, New York in November 2011.

Project activities were initiated on September 1, 2011 between OGIS staff and staff from the contractor, Applied Geographics. Ten workshops were completed in November and December 2011. These workshops were focused on the specific needs of stakeholders from a variety of sectors. Workshops included:

- ❖ State Agencies – General Project Kick-Off
- ❖ Transportation Agencies
- ❖ Environmental Agencies
- ❖ Office of GIS
- ❖ Emergency Management Agencies
- ❖ Counties and Municipalities
- ❖ Data Focused: Roads and Addresses
- ❖ Data Focused: Addresses, Parcels, MOD-IV Tax Assessment, Digital Tax Mapping
- ❖ New Jersey Geospatial Forum
- ❖ New Jersey Geospatial Forum Executive Committee Meeting

Based on the information gathered at these meetings, the plan was further developed and refined, resulting in the written report. The first draft was delivered in March 2012. Over the remainder of the year, additional information was gathered and integrated into the plan. The draft was reviewed by OGIS through an iterative process until the final report delivery and acceptance in mid-December 2012.

Next Steps

Several concurrent activities will begin in 2013. The plan will be circulated among the user community for comment and as a point of beginning for implementation. OGIS will closely

coordinate with state agencies and the NJ Geospatial Forum, and look for funding opportunities to support the plan's goals.

Due to a critical mass of data development, improvements to technology, reliance on the web, and the ever-growing and widespread use of geospatial information, the highest priority will be to implement recommendations in the Geospatial Strategic Business Plan for the State of New Jersey to modernize the New Jersey Geographic Information Network (NJGIN), the state's geospatial web portal. NJGIN is the means by which OGIS supports the state's spatial data infrastructure, provides essential services and communicates out to the GIS community. It provides access to data, metadata, news and information primarily to support users across a vast spectrum of need.

It will be necessary to enhance existing portal resources, add dynamic access to data through map services, provide an improved format for communication and information flow, and create a positive overall experience for portal users. The result will be a complete overhaul to the NJGIN interface and functionality, with input from the user community.

Following the NJGIN modernization, OGIS will focus on improving framework data and making the necessary investments in the following resources:

- ❖ A predictable funding source and plan for recurring orthoimagery capture
- ❖ Maintenance of, and enhancements to, existing road centerlines
- ❖ Completion of statewide parcels data and better alignment of tax map and digital parcel maintenance workflows
- ❖ Development of new statewide address data

Lastly, OGIS will facilitate a discussion through the New Jersey Geospatial Forum on the opportunities and constraints of formal governance for the geospatial community, and whether an effort should be made to obtain formal status.

CAP Program

The program has been invaluable to the State of New Jersey and OGIS in particular. The revision to the strategic business plan will help us to efficiently organize and prioritize our activities so they can be carried out in a reasoned and effective manner on behalf of the geospatial user community in New Jersey.

OGIS hopes that the CAP program remains viable and funding will remain available through the program to implement many, if not all, components of the plan over the next few years. The program should also be commended for the flexibility it allows participants in terms of timeframes, the ability to use funding for participants specific needs, and for overall supportiveness.