Interim Report: Fifty States Initiative - Business Plan Development and Implementation

State of Maryland
Maryland Department of Planning (MDP)

Date:

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Agreement Number:

G12AC20134

Project title:

Business Plan for Maryland Statewide Parcel Data Development & Maintenance

Organization:

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Collaborating Organizations:

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Project Narrative:

The State of Maryland is responsible for Statewide property assessment and taxation. This is different than most other states where the property assessment and taxation function is done at the local government level. The State of Maryland has made extensive investments in parcel mapping. This includes developing the first statewide parcel point database linked to real property data and developing a statewide roster dataset of geo-referenced tax maps.

Parcel data has also been developed by each of the 23 Counties and Baltimore City. In most cases this data has been developed for planning or emergency response purposes and does not reflect the content, timeliness, or consistency required for tax mapping and assessment applications.

Parcel data has been aggregated and is hosted as part of a statewide web mapping service (MD iMAP online mapping portal). The MD iMAP parcel dataset contains parcel boundaries with a link to the selected information from the real property database. The MD iMAP parcel dataset is a cached map service that is suitable for display and single parcel queries. It does not support feature based or multiple-parcel attribute analysis.

Parcel data is maintained and distributed under a wide variety of distribution approaches. For MDP parcel data maintenance is performed annually by County and is funded primarily through data sales to state, local, and federal agencies and to other private and non-profit organizations. Some county-level parcel datasets are no longer being maintained while others are being maintained on a regular or quarterly basis.

There is a need to integrate County and Statewide parcel mapping activities, enhance the existing cadastral data to support GIS and tax assessment mapping applications, and to develop a long term maintenance approach that is not dependent on data sales, and which enables statewide parcel data to be made widely available. This integration is underway for approximately 10 of the 23 counties so far. The integration has focused on using a common spatial framework for the parcel boundaries, developing the annotation and other data layers necessary to support tax mapping purposes and defining an integrated maintenance approach between the Counties and the State.

There is also a need to continue this integration work particularly for the most populous counties in the State and to resolve future data distribution plans. This business plan will define the implementation framework for enhancing statewide parcel data development, enhancement, and distribution.

Accomplishments:

Most of the work to date has involved collecting, analyzing and documenting the baseline activities necessary to complete the business plan. A summary of major activities to date is below:

- Monthly updates and discussion of parcel data integration goals and activities are provided at the MSGIC and MD iMAP technical and executive committee meetings. We have also identified staff to participate in the business plan review.
- A summary matrix of all jurisdictions that have development parcel data has been developed. Contact information, a summary of database contents, maintenance activities, and an overall assessment of each jurisdictions data has been performed. A matrix summarizing the results of this work is attached.
- MDP has worked with a private firm (Smart Data Strategies) to perform an evaluation of assessment data information (acreage and square footage) and to conduct an independent audit of the data using their standardized methodology. *A copy of this report is attached.*
- A web based review of all 50 states has been completed to identify what each state is doing with respect to publishing parcel data at the state level, in addition to determining what states are selling data. In reviewing parcel data on the state websites we are also identifying best practices for statewide web based parcel mapping application, and identifying what states are making the data available

for download, and if available what is the cost. *A copy of the working matrix for this is attached.*

- A review of the revenue for the past 5 years has also been compiled. This includes a summary of data sales to State agencies, other non-state agencies (federal, private, local government and non-profits). As part of this review process; meetings have been held with state budget analyst to discuss options and plans for putting the data in the public domain. *A copy of this summary is also attached.*
- Work has also been undertaken on developing an RFP for consultant assistance in conducting requirement work sessions.

Next Steps:

The next steps will include the following:

- Continue meetings and coordinate with MSGIC and MD iMAP on parcel data coordination activities
- Continue to meet and provide information with the State Budget analysts on funding options
- Contract for Consultant work to conduct requirements work sessions
- Develop presentation materials for work sessions
- Conduct 3-4 requirements work sessions with interested stakeholders
- Document results of the work sessions

As a final step in the process a formal business plan document will be prepared.

Do you expect to complete your project on the scheduled completion date?

Yes. The project will be completed by November 14, 2013 which is the completion data as indicated on the award notification

Revised Timeline:

Although the overall project is on schedule some subtasks have been expedited and others have been delayed. Issuance of the RFP for consultant services was delayed in

order to better determine the structure and format of the needed work sessions and to get direction on potential funding options. Other tasks such as the survey of other State's GIS activities with respect to parcel data distribution have been completed earlier than anticipated. .

Attachments:

Attachment A: Summary of Maryland Jurisdiction Parcel Mapping Status

Attachment B: Summary of Maryland Revenue from Parcel Data

Attachment C: Pilot Data Audit from Smart Data Strategies

Attachment D: Summary of Other State Parcel Mapping Sites and Data Distribution Approaches

Attachment E: Selected Examples of State Parcel Websites