

New Hampshire Strategic GIS Plan Development

A Fifty States Initiative Project

Award No. **06HQAG0119**

Final Report

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State of New Hampshire
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Project Narrative:

The project involved selecting a consultant who would facilitate discussions within the New Hampshire GIS community regarding NSGIC's nine coordination criteria for successful state GIS programs and the direction that the NH GIS program should take. The consultant would then work with a subcommittee of the state GIS Advisory Committee to craft a strategic GIS plan for New Hampshire and a business plan for one of the major recommendations of the strategic plan. The subcommittee was composed of members of the GIS Advisory Committee from the collaborating organizations listed on the preceding page.

Significant dates include:

April 15, 2006	Cooperative Assistance awarded
May 11	Selection of Applied Geographics as strategic and business plan consultant, following RFP process
June 21	State approval of contract with Applied Geographics
July 18	"Kickoff" meeting between Applied Geographics and NH Steering Committee
Aug. 14	Follow-up meeting to refine NH GIS goals
Sept 11	First public information-gathering session, held in Concord, New Hampshire. 50 people attended, representing state government, municipal government, regional planning commissions, academic community, surveying community, utility industry, and GIS industry.
Sept. 20	Second information-gathering session, held in Plymouth, New Hampshire. 20 people attended, representing municipal and regional governments, surveying community, and GIS industry.
Sept. 29	Interim report submitted to FGDC.
Oct. 11-13	In-depth interviews conducted by Applied Geographics with GIS users from: - Complex Systems Research Center (GRANIT) - NH Department of Environmental Services - NH Department of Transportation - NH Department of Safety - Small group of municipal GIS programs (Nashua, Londonderry, Derry, and Milford, NH)
Nov. – Mar.	Monthly meetings of Steering Committee with Applied Geographics: development of Strategic Plan and of Business Plan; iterative review of new text
Apr. 15	Delivery of Strategic Plan and Business Plan documents to Steering Committee by Applied Geographics

Key accomplishments:

The key accomplishments of the year-long project are:

1. Completion of a 5-year strategic plan for GIS development at the State level, including administrative recommendations, technical recommendations, and data recommendations.
2. Completion of a business plan that makes the financial case and describes the implementation of the first recommendation of the strategic plan, for the creation of a statewide GIS Coordinator position.
3. Bringing stakeholders who have not been actively involved in state GIS coordination activities in the past into the process

Pending acceptance of the strategic plan and business plan by State leaders, statewide GIS coordination is poised to be transformed into a structure more closely aligned with those of successful GIS programs in other states, with the presence of a full-time State GIS coordinator, with the creation of a state GIS council, and with the transformation of the current NH GIS Advisory Committee into a state GIS Technical Advisory Group.

Stakeholders:

The Steering Committee made a major effort to contact GIS users who do not ordinarily attend state GIS Advisory Committee meetings. We estimate that more than half of the attendees at the two information-gathering sessions had not participated in statewide GIS coordination meetings in the past. The greatest numbers of new faces were in the municipal GIS realm and from the GIS industry in New Hampshire. In addition, the Steering Committee made certain to include members of State agencies who, while listed as GIS Advisory Committee members, are not regularly present at meetings. Most significantly, we have received support from the state Office of Information Technology, both in their presence on the Steering Committee, and in their providing venues, such as the state IT Council, for the Steering Committee to keep the IT leadership informed of our progress. In addition, we have been able to bring in personnel from the state Department of Safety (State Police, E-911 Mapping, Homeland Security/Emergency Management) who are crucial to the state's future GIS development.

Next Steps:

The project Steering Committee will remain active in pushing forward the adoption of the GIS Strategic Plan and Business Plan by state leaders. The plans are currently under review by the state GIS Advisory Committee and will be scheduled for endorsement at the committee's next meeting in June. Steering Committee members will be presenting the plan to the governor and Executive Council, and to the state IT Council, this summer. As the budget process for the next biennium (July 2007-June 2009) is too far along in the state legislature for changes to be made at this point, we will be focusing on working with individual state agencies to develop funding for a GIS Coordinator position that could be implemented within the next year. One piece of assistance from the FGDC that would be

appreciated would be a letter that we could share with agency heads and the governor and councils that would state the value of a State GIS Coordinator from a federal perspective.

Attachments:

1. *NHStrategicPlanFGDC.doc* (the strategic GIS plan)
2. *NH_SSDI_Timeline_v3.pdf* (timeline for the strategic plan)
3. *NH Strategic Plan 2007 Appendix 1.pdf* (supporting materials)
4. *Appendix2_InterviewSummaries_DraftFINAL.doc* (long-form summaries of in-depth interviews with GIS agencies)
5. *NHBusinessPlanFGDC.doc* (the business plan for a state GIS coordinator position)

Feedback on the Cooperative Agreements Program:

CAP Program strengths and weaknesses:

Strengths: For the 50 States Initiative, there has been a strong level of conceptual support from the FGDC and NSGIC, starting with the development of the Strategic Plan and Business Plan templates, and continuing with the assistance offered in the NSGIC mid-year meeting, as well as that expected to occur at the annual meeting in Little Rock. Similarly, there has been on-going communication and support organized by Milo Robinson through email and teleconferences.

Making a difference: For a state like New Hampshire, where there is currently an all-volunteer coordination effort, we have previously not the resources to properly convene and carry through a serious plan for GIS coordination. The funding from the CAP has allowed us to bring in professional assistance to enable us to make our case as cogently as possible.