The 2008 Georgia Fifty States Initiative Project:

Statewide Geospatial Strategic Planning

INTERIM REPORT

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The 2008 Georgia Fifty States Initiative Project: Statewide Geospatial Strategic Planning | INTERIM REPORT

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Georgia Urban Regional Information Systems of America (URISA)
Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors (MAPPS)
Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia (SAMSOG)
Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing (ASPRS)

The 2008 Georgia Fifty States Initiative Project: Statewide Geospatial Strategic Planning INTERIM REPORT   *29 August2008*
Danielle Ayan, GISP, and the Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee (GISCC)   *3/9*

GISCC Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee

PROJECT NARRATIVE

The main goal of this project is to map a clear path between Georgia's present condition and vision for the future regarding Geospatial health for the state and a tie into the National Spatial Data Infrastructure. To develop the strongest strategic plan possible for Georgia, it is essential to travel the state, listen to people and assess need under the supervision of qualified advisors. Strategic Planning Input sessions and an Executive Technology Briefing: "Connecting People, Places and Policy" are currently being rolled out across Georgia, to conclude by mid-November. The session format and associated online survey have been designed and approved by representatives from multiple industries. To support this effort, and to better assess Georgia's status with respect to the Fifty States Initiative and the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, key products have been developed such as Georgia's Geospatial Prospectus and the 2008 Geospatial Maturity Assessment. These tools have proven very useful when communicating our present condition and determining future directions.

Summary of Project Activities/Key Accomplishments To Date:

Below are highlights of activities that have occurred since the USGS/FGDC CAP 3 award was issued to Georgia in February 2008:

- September 01, 2008: Statewide GIS Strategic Planning online survey goes live (open through November 28, 2008).

- August 29, 2008: Interim report of GIS Strategic Planning initiative due and submitted to USGS/FGDC.

- August 21, 2008: Michael Dinan of Booz-Allen Hamilton offers review and input for statewide GIS Strategic Planning online survey and regional session outline.

- August 20, 2008: GISCC adopts Strategic Planning & Policy SubCommittee's rewrite of Georgia GISCC's Vision and Mission:

  o The Georgia GISCC's vision is that all levels of government become highly effective and efficient through the coordination and use of geospatially-related data, standards and technologies. The GISCC's mission is to be a valued advisor on sustainable geospatial governance, investments, policies and data-driven decisions influencing Georgia.

The 2008 Georgia Fifty States Initiative Project: Statewide Geospatial Strategic Planning   *29 August 2008*
INTERIM REPORT
Danielle Ayan, GISP, and the Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee (GISCC)   *4/9*

GISCC Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee

- August 12, 2008: GISCC/Clearinghouse representatives meet with representatives from the Governor's Office of Planning & Budget (OPB) to brainstorm on GIS as a statewide decision-making support tool.

- July 30, 2008: GISCC Chair and Gainesville State College's GeoTech Principal Investigator (PI), Chris Semerjian, meet with Technical Colleges of Georgia administration to discuss GIS cirriculum and educational articulation throughout system schools.

- July 22, 2008: GISCC coordinates NSGIC-sponsored 2-hour GIS Inventory WebEx training to all Regional Development Center (RDC) GIS leads to indentify/visualize Georgia's geospatial assets. *Note: South Georgia RDC documents all of their geospatial inventory within 3-weeks!!* http://ga.gisinventory.net

- July 16, 2008: GISCC SubCommittees reinstated: Strategic Planning & Policy, Education and Outreach and Framework.

- June 16, 2008/July 21: GISCC representatives meet with OPB to discuss the GISCC "Business Rationale: Need for an ESRI Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) in Georgia".

- June 14, 2008: GISCC Chair, D. Ayan, addresses Regional Development Center (RDC) Executive Directors with Georgia's Geospatial Prospectus. Unanimous acceptance to adopt written resolution by RDCs in support of statewide GIS Strategic Planning activities.

- May 15, 2008: GISCC reps D. Ayan and F. Howell meet with one of Governor Perdue's Policy Advisors, Hannah Heck, to offer Georgia's Geospatial Prospectus. Results: Redirected to the state CIO, Patrick Moore.

- May 12, 2008: GISCC accepted unanimously as non-voting member of State CIO Council. Council briefly informed of statewide Strategic Planning effort currently underway and asked to participate.

- May 03, 2008: steps up to assist with Strategic Planning marketing efforts (website layout/content plan). Thank you, Idea!!

The 2008 Georgia Fifty States Initiative Project: Statewide Geospatial Strategic Planning   *29 August2008*
INTERIM REPORT
Danielle Ayan, GISP, and the Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee (GISCC)   *5/9*

- May 03, 2008: Engage Georgia Tech Graduate student in revamping the Georgia Spatial Data Infrastructure (GaSDI) site and associated Strategic Planning pages to better communicate this effort and GaSDI-related resources.

- May 06, 2008: Department of Natural Resources Strategic Planning session. Georgia's Geospatial Prospectus was shared and input was gathered.

- May 05, 2008: Press Release - College of Architecture News | [Maintaining Georgia's Assets: Call for GIS Champion](#)

- April 2008: Notify Georgia's geospatial practitioners, via [Georgia URISA](#)'s [Spring Newsletter](#), of the statewide Geospatial Strategic Planning Initiative and call for participation.

- April 23, 2008: Initial Steering Committee meeting via the GISCC forum. GISCC completed newly created Georgia 2008 GIS Maturity Assessment.

- April 21, 2008: First ever [GIS Panel](#) offered at the "[CIO Forum & Executive IT Summit](#)" | Strategic Planning overview and a Call for an Executive and/or Political champion were announced.

- April 01, 2008: Project offically kicked-off in Georgia with brainstorming between the P.I. and the GIS leads of Georgia's Regional Development Centers (RDCs).

- March 09, 2008: Fifty States Initiative Kick-off meeting at the National States Geographic Information Council Mid-Year conference, Annapolis, MD.

- February 25, 2008: Engage high-level consultant (formerly in Georgia government) to help keep the GIS Strategic Planning effort aligned with Georgia's policy initiatives (Healthy, Safe, Growing, Educated, Best Managed state), as well as the Fifty States Initiative.

- February 19, 2008: [Grant awardees announced](#) (Georgia is 1 of 8 states receiving 2008 Strategic Planning funds).

- February 12, 2008: Presented Strategic Planning vision and process to the Executive Directors of Georgia's Regional Develement Centers for verbal committment to the effort - approved.

- December 18, 2007: Proposal submitted for National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreement Program / Category 3: <u>Fifty States Initiative - Strategic and Business Plan Development</u>

Effort Inclusiveness and Efforts to Bring New Stakeholder Groups to the Statewide Coordination:

Through impromptu and planned discussions, published articles, direct email and proactive outreach, the following organizations have been informed of and/or engaged in the statewide Geospatial Strategic Planning effort:

<u>The Georgia Legislature</u>, The Office of Planning & Budget (OPB), Georgia's CIO Council, <u>Georgia Association of Regional Development Centers</u> (GARDC), <u>Association County Commissioners of Georgia</u> (ACCG),<u>Georgia Municipal Association</u> (GMA), <u>Technology Association of Georgia (</u>TAG), Society for Information Management (SIM), <u>Utility Economic Development Association</u> (UEDA),<u> The Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia</u> (SAMSOG), <u>the Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors</u> (MAPPS), <u>Georgia Urban & Regional Information Systems of America </u>(URISA) and the Georgia Chapter of the American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS).

Practices That Have Led to Success:

The most important and successful practice applied to this effort was tying the geospatial Strategic Planning, within the framework of the Fifty States Initiative and NSDI, to the Governor's key policy areas: Healthy, Safe, Growing, Educated and Best Managed Georgia.

On happenstance, Georgia state agencies were required to submit their 3-year Strategic Plans in Quarter 2 of this year. Therefore, another valuable practice has been to review those plans and identify areas where geospatial technologies can resolve inter- and intra-agency challenges. Identified pain points and solutions will be incorporated into the pending statewide Geospatial Strategic Plan as well as into conversations at every possible opportunity.

Being and getting involved in industry organizations and key state agencies and Committees has been a key to success to-date, as well. Hosting the first ever GIS presentation/panel at the Society for Information Management's (SIM) "Executive IT Summit and CIO Forum" was very good for garnering attention for the technology and led to several follow-up discussions and pilot projects. In addition, bringing the GISCC perspective to the state CIO Council has

The 2008 Georgia Fifty States Initiative Project: Statewide Geospatial Strategic Planning   *29 August2008*
INTERIM REPORT
Danielle Ayan, GISP, and the Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee (GISCC)   *7/9*

GISCC Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee

really helped raise the level of awareness for data-driven decisions enabled by geospatial technologies/applications. Developing and communicating Georgia's Geospatial Prospectus and Maturity Assessment to the RDC Executive Directors, the Governor's Policy Advisor and others has provided a common foundation for understanding and relaying our current situation.

Leveraging this funding to revamp the entire Information Architecture of the Georgia Spatial Data Infrastructure (GaSDI) has proven to be a very fruitful activity. Now included on our site is a "Discuss GIS" forum and "GIS Showcases" identifying GIS in practice which are invaluable for providing business and use cases whenever anyone needs them (i.e., consolidating and harnessing geospatial capital intellect in a useful/usable online environment for easy access to all).

NASCIO's recent declaration of GIS as a top-10 technology and their associated publications have been invaluable sources when communicating need/opportunity to state agency CIOs.

Practices That Need Improvement:

Every time I've hit a wall, it's related to communicating the importance of an enterprise Geospatial Program for the state. Questions/comments I've received time and again from senior level government executives include:

* The Fifty States criteria appear to be suggested structural components, not requirements nor measures of success (i.e., if Georgia has only 1 of the 10 components in place, that does not suggest that we're falling behind or unsuccessful)

* Why does the state need a Geospatial Program when we have access to Google Earth and comparable products/services?

The USGS has a Geospatial Line of Business. If somehow that program could impact states and/or incent them to follow suit, I believe the geospatial communities would be sought after versus having to constantly prove their value.

Given that the PEW Grading the States report card doesn't focus on the drivers (i.e., Programs and technologies) behind their categories of People, Money, Infrastructure and Information, there is a disconnect between what makes a state successful in these areas. For

The 2008 Georgia Fifty States Initiative Project: Statewide Geospatial Strategic Planning   *29 August2008*
INTERIM REPORT
Danielle Ayan, GISP, and the Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee (GISCC)   *8/9*

GISCC Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee

example, Georgia scored a B+ overall as the 5th highest ranked state in the nation in these four areas. However, the state doesn't quite meet 1 of the 10 criteria of the Fifty States Initiative. Regarding infrastructure, our Broadband coverage is unknown, 50% of our roads are not address-ranged, we are lacking the digital archiving element of our geospatial data life cycle, there is no inventory of geospatial managers across the state, etc. In the event of a natural hazard, the gap between reality versus perception might be much larger than expected. Perhaps the USGS, FGDC, NASCIO and/or NSGIC could work more closely with the PEW foundation to identify the underlying accuracy/support for success in the judged categories.

Basic business management has also been a challenge, such as tracking all conversations and interested parties, finding/implementing a registration system for events and recognizing everyone who has stepped up to help over the past 7-months.

NEXT STEPS

The next steps in this project involve rolling out the Strategic Planning Input Sessions, associated online survey and compiling the responses to formulate the state's Geospatial Strategic Plan. Georgia has a very strong grassroots geospatial community, and there have been multiple public and private representatives stepping up to assist with this effort. It is amazing how many folks want to help in every way needed: facilitation, marketing, writing, reviewing, etc.

TIMELINE

There is no foreseeable reason for not completing this effort in a timely manner.