Project Name:	***Implementing an Enterprise Strategy for Minnesota's Spatial Data Infrastructure***
Agreement Number:	06HQAG0104
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Project Overview

The Minnesota Fifty States Initiative project has the goal of developing a second-generation strategic plan for geospatial technology that focuses on organizational and operational issues. The plan will build upon *A Foundation for Coordinated GIS: Minnesota's Spatial Data Infrastructure,* adopted by the MN Governor's Council on Geographic Information in 2004 as a roadmap to build an MSDI that helps Minnesota organizations more effectively achieve their business goals by using GIS. Expectations include:

- Formal designation of an organization with appropriate authorities, staffing, technical resources and funding to foster and support the MSDI.

- A strong formal and long-term relationship with the newly created cabinet level CIO and integration of the plan for developing the MSDI with state enterprise plans to develop and support information technology.

- Improved coordination within the state's geospatial technology community, with significant increases in the capacity and willingness to share data, technology, and services.

Project Activities and Milestones

Since the last project report through September 15, 2006, the following activities and milestones have occurred.

1. Received Project Extension. Work on this project was suspended for several months during the fall because of staff illnesses. A request to extend the grant period to September 14, 2007 was made on February 13 and approved on February 16, 2007.

2. Planned Stakeholder Retreat. Much of this project depends upon stakeholder input through a one-day strategic planning retreat. The following activities are related to this event.

   - Contracted for Facilitation. Staff developed an RFP and, after a competitive review process, awarded a contract for facilitation to The Improve Group of Bloomington, MN.

   - Created Retreat Steering Committee. Assembled a stakeholder Steering Committee to help plan for the retreat. The Steering Committee has met several times and agreed to the general structure of the retreat, recommended participants, and approved a strategic vision statement as a basis for the retreat.

   - Identified Retreat Participants. About 60 stakeholder organizations have been targeted for the retreat. Specific individuals have been identified to help achieve a participant mix balanced between state government and other stakeholders and among participants responsible for policy, business functions, and technology. About 20 have confirmed.

   - Developed Retreat Name, Vision, and Outcomes. With significant input from the Steering Committee, the following has been finalized and presented to the Governor's Council on Geographic Information.

     o Retreat Name. *Compass Points: Setting a Direction for Minnesota's GIS Future*

     o Vision Statement. Minnesota is a national leader for the Coordinated, Affordable, Reliable and Effective use of GIS technology to enhance services throughout the state.

     o Retreat Purpose. The purpose of the *Compass Points* retreat is to identify and develop strategies for achieving the vision of coordinated GIS within Minnesota. Intended outcomes include recommendations about:

        (a) relationships among state agencies, their partners and their customers;

(b) assignment of roles and responsibilities;

(c) organization of state GIS government functions;

(d) strategies for securing and sustaining necessary resources.

Results of the retreat will help shape a Strategic Plan for achieving Minnesota's vision of coordinated GIS.

- <u>Scheduled Retreat.</u> The strategic planning retreat is scheduled for Monday, June 25, 2007. Early plans had assumed a retreat scheduled for January or February, but the new date is planned for after this year's legislative budget session has been completed. Because future funding of LMIC was jeopardized by the proposed budget, waiting until after the session was unavoidable.

3. <u>Re-chartered Strategic Planning Committee</u>. The Governor's Council on Geographic Information is authorized annually by the Commissioner of the Department of Administration. At the first Council meeting, held on September 19, the Strategic Planning committee was re-chartered and its direction set for the year with two main priorities.

- Help guide this strategic planning project (its highest priority)

- Complete the development of a shared services survey/catalog as a first step in developing and fostering a collaborative shared services environment.

4. <u>Shared Services Survey/Catalog</u>. Shared services are a key element of the state's Office of Enterprise Technology master plan for the state and a high priority for the Strategic Planning Committee. The following activities support this strategy.

- Developed a web based shared services survey to help build a shared services catalog that can support the MN GIS community and be used to identify potential areas of collaboration and opportunities to organizational efficiencies and operational effectiveness. See http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/GeoSpatialServices.

- Promoted the survey at the State's GIS Consortium's annual meeting in October 2006 and at the annual Minnesota Government IT Symposium in December.

- Received supplemental funding from MetroGIS to expand Geospatial Services Catalog.

5. <u>Supported State Technology Planning Process</u>. LMIC staff participated in the state's Office of Enterprise Technology's strategic planning process last year. This resulted in GIS as one of the few technologies specifically identified in the CIO's annual report to the legislature as a priority for shared services through centers of excellence. Participation also helped to elevate the level of GIS understanding and appreciation among several state agency CIOs.

6. <u>Developed Relationship with State CIO</u>. This goal of this FGDC funded project is important for long-term success of the state's GIS efforts. We have developed a good working relationship with the State CIO and his management team. A senior member of the CIO's management team, his Planning Director, is an active member of the strategic planning

Steering Committee. The Planning Director also participated last year in presentations at the GIS/LIS Consortium and Government IT conferences. The State CIO, a cabinet level position in Minnesota, has endorsed this project and continues to support our efforts.

Next Steps
Important project milestones that will be reached during the next several months include:

1. Complete Design and Planning then Conduct Strategic Plan Retreat.

   - Identify, invite and confirm participation of representative the MN GIS community.

   - Complete design of the retreat so that stakeholders' consensus and direction can be established and specific strategies identified.

   - Schedule a facility and make arrangements for catering and other needed services.

   - Conduct the one day strategic planning retreat.

   - Document and acquire consensus on strategies developed during the retreat.

2. Write Strategic and Business Plans. Based upon results of the June planning retreat, research conducted by staff, and other input, develop a strategic plan and associated business plans.

3. Implement Strategic Plan Strategies. Begin to implement those strategies that can be addressed within available resource and authority constraints.

4. Promote Strategic Plan. Present and promote the strategic plan to the Minnesota state government and the state's GIS community.

5. Relationship with State CIO. Maintaining a good working relationship with the State CIO will be an ongoing activity.

Areas for Help, Information and Ideas
This effort will benefit from any information related to the following experiences in other states.

1. Besides legislative appropriations, what other funding sources have been used by States for their GIS coordination efforts?   (Service fees, assessments, bake sales)

2. What specific organizational and operational authorities, powers, responsibilities and resources do "GIS coordination entities" in other states have?   Where do they come from (Legislation, Executive Order, CIO, etc.)?

3. Are there formal relationships between state GIS coordinating entities and their respective State CIO that are NOT part of a direct reporting relationship?   If so where and how effective are they?