



Final Project Report

December 1, 2008

NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program Fifty States Initiative - Agreement Number: 06HQAG0106

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Project Narrative

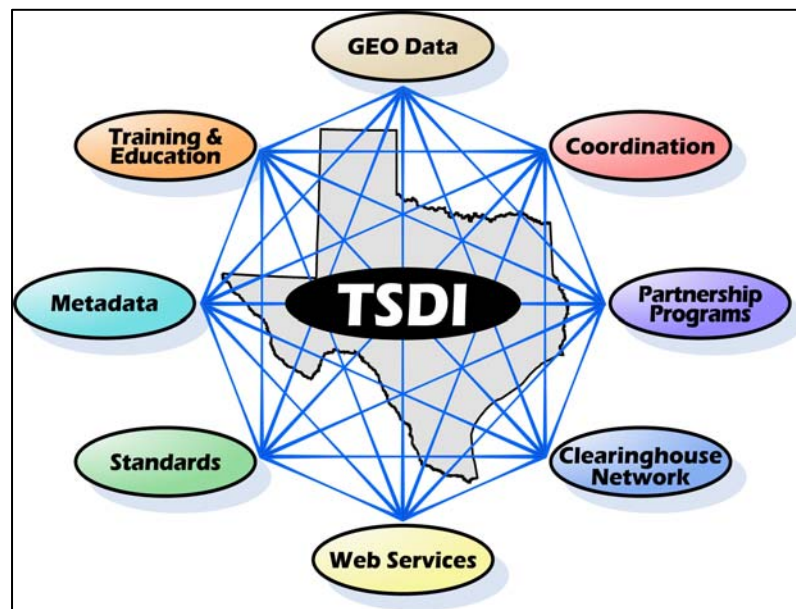
Texas state government lacks adequate staffing and funding to support NSDI coordination activities on a statewide basis with all stakeholder groups. The state GIS coordination council – the Texas Geographic Information Council (TGIC) is primarily comprised of state agencies and universities with inadequate representation from the local, regional and federal government sectors and the private sector. A new approach is needed to support statewide NSDI implementation in Texas that will increase participation and lead to the formation of more partnerships and coordinated efforts at all levels of government.

TGIC is required to submit a biennial report to the Texas Legislature on November 1st of each even-numbered year. The Fifty States Initiative was leveraged to develop

initiatives for the TGIC biennial report that will support Texas efforts toward building the NSDI. The TGIC Steering Committee intentionally worked toward developing initiatives that were ambitious, but also realistic given anticipated staffing and funding resources. Ten strategic initiatives are proposed by TGIC in Digital Texas 2008 for the 2009-10 time period accompanied by a report on member organization accomplishments from the 2007-08 time period.

Previous Biennial Reports from TGIC for the 2003-2006 time period have excluded specific council initiatives or strategic planning in favor of a smaller set of specific legislative recommendations. The Fifty States Initiative was a catalyst for the council to propose new council specific strategic initiatives as a business plan that it could work toward over the upcoming 2009-10 biennium that will contribute to the NSDI.

Figure 1



Texas 50-States Initiative

Key Accomplishments to Date:

1. Proposed ten initiatives for the 2009-10 time period to further the development of the NSDI / SSDI.
2. Collaborated with Alabama on the Fifty States Initiative through the development of a maturity scorecard for the NSDI for state and local governments.
3. Conducted four work sessions with external stakeholder groups.
4. Defined an organizational framework for the State Spatial Data Infrastructure (SSDI) (see figure 1).
5. Identified and mapped state university and community college GIS technology academic programs for future stakeholder outreach efforts.
6. Reached out to all coordinating council member organizations through direct meetings and interviews to determine priorities and recommendations for the 2009-10 time period.

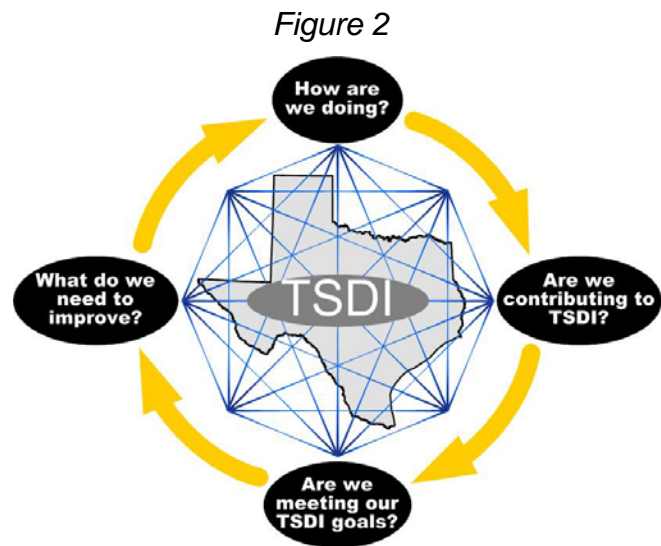
7. Surveyed coordinating council member organizations to gather information on technological infrastructure and existing and planned web services.
8. Surveyed the other 49 states and mapped the status of state GIS coordinating councils in comparison to Texas (see figure 3)

Next Steps

TGIC is scheduled to consider final adoption of the proposed Digital Texas 2008 initiatives at its next quarterly meeting. A tracking chart will be developed for the initiatives to monitor and report measurable progress. Additional administrative resources are being lined up to help support completion of the initiatives.

The plan format that was developed for the Texas Fifty States Initiative is considered by the TGIC Steering Committee to be an efficient format for the council’s biennial legislative report and therefore will likely be used again for follow-on strategic & business planning efforts every two-years. At this time, no additional future federal assistance is anticipated being required. Progress on the Council’s 2009-10 initiatives developed through the Fifty States Initiative will be formally reported on in the next 2010 Legislative Report.

It is anticipated the completion of this phase of the Texas Fifty States Initiative will lead to a new phase of implementation activities for the NSDI in the state and will not end with the completion of the project (see Figure 2). Data and products derived from the project will serve multiple purposes that can assist Texas geospatial coordination activities well beyond the life of the project. The Fifty States Initiative has also provided Texas some additional planning tools and increased awareness and participation from stakeholders in the NSDI / SSDI, which was undoubtedly a tacit goal of the FGDC when it introduced the program.



Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

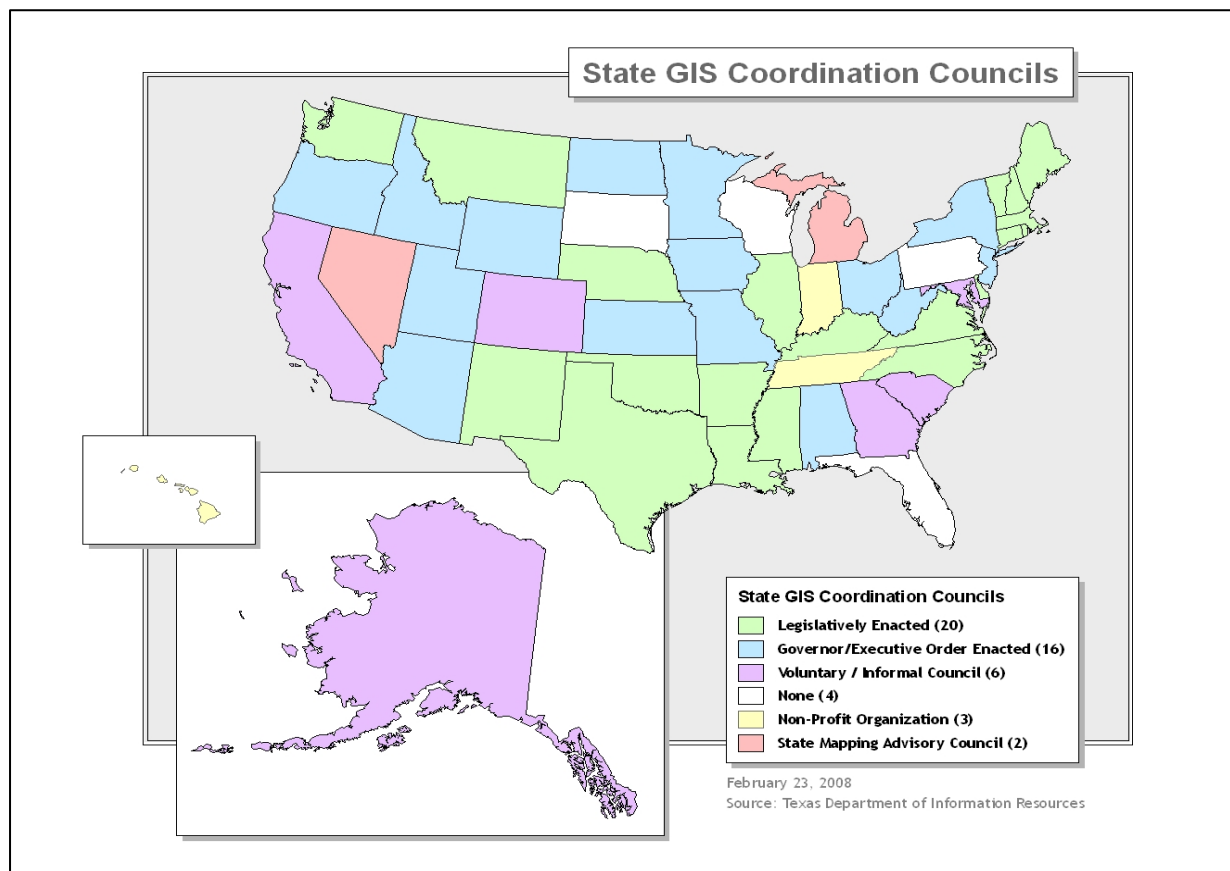
The CAP Program is a valuable tool to provide state and local government stakeholders with an incentive to work on shared goals and initiatives toward the development of the NSDI. FGDC staff provided constructive and consistent ongoing support and advice throughout the duration of the project. In addition, the FGDC sponsored Fifty States Initiative Strategic Planning Process Guide and workshops were well thought-out and useful to providing a common project framework for each of the states to work from.

One limitation of the program is that contract awards are all one size regardless of the size of the state or jurisdiction, which is somewhat of a disadvantage for larger entities with more stakeholders and geographic area to support. However, regardless of the size of the award, the CAP program and FGDC staff support are very much appreciated. It is hoped that the program will continue into the future to support our shared efforts toward building the NSDI.

Attachments

Completed report (2 copies)

Figure 3



Texas Fifty States Initiative