Project Name: *Implementing an Enterprise Strategy for Minnesota's Spatial Data Infrastructure*

Agreement Number: 06HQAG0104

Organization: Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information
c/o Land Management Information Center
300 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
St. Paul, MN 55155
www.gis.state.mn.us

Project Leader: David Arbeit
(651) 601-2460
david.arbeit@state.mn.us

Collaborating
Organizations: Land Management Information Center
Department of Administration
300 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155
www.gis.state.mn.us

Office of Enterprise Technology
450 Centennial Office Building
658 Cedar Street
Saint Paul, MN 55155
www.oet.state.mn.us

PROJECT NARRATIVE

Project Activities

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

Since project initiation and through September 15, 2006, the following activities related to this project have been conducted.

1. <u>Conducted Interviews with Strategic Partners</u>. Interviews were conducted with key staff from executive branch agencies that maintain GIS capabilities. This effort focused on identifying the current commitment to GIS technology and identifying agency issues and needs. The interviews have helped establish a baseline for this project, identify common issues, and assess the degree of support for stronger coordination and support for an enterprise solution to meeting geospatial technology needs. The interviews also revealed opportunities for operational efficiencies.

2. <u>Began Plans for Stakeholder Group Sessions</u>. Project staff has worked with the Governor's Council on Geographic Information Strategic Planning Committee to begin planning one or more facilitated stakeholder sessions to identify issues and problems, gather input, build consensus, and acquire buy in and support for recommendations of a strategic plan. We have met with several potential contractor facilitators, including one who helped define MetroGIS. We hope to acquire cabinet level support for the sessions, which we anticipate holding during October.

3. <u>Developed Shared Services Survey</u>. A survey instrument has been designed to identify geospatial applications, components and services that can deployed as enterprise web services or sharable components. Survey results also will help identify areas of redundancy and foster collaboration. The survey was designed with input from the Governor's Council on Geographic Information Strategic Planning Committee. It will be unveiled and publicized at the Minnesota GIS/LIS Consortium conference in early October. It will be a key component in identifying opportunities for future collaboration.

4. <u>Supported State Technology Planning Process</u>. Recognition of the importance of geospatial technology by the state, especially by the state CIO, is a strategic goal of this project. The state CIO, a cabinet level appointment serving as Commissioner of the Office of Enterprise Technology, endorsed this project proposal and continues to support efforts to plan for the integration of geospatial technology as part of an enterprise IT planning process. LMIC staff has participated in OET strategic planning committees. GIS has been identified as an appropriate example of a shared service supported by a state agency identified as a "center of excellence." Participation also has helped elevate the level of knowledge about and acceptance of GIS by several state agency CIOs.

Next Steps

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

1. Recharter Strategic Planning committee.   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 will be rechartered and its direction set for the year. This project will become its highest priority.

2. Complete and Promote Shared Services Survey. Final modifications are being made to the Geospatial Shared Services Inventory survey, designed to identify web services, applications and other technical components that currently exist or are planned and that can shared or can serve as components of a statewide geospatial technology infrastructure. The survey is posted at http://www.lmic.state.mn.us/GeoSpatialServices/ and will be promoted at the State GIS conference on October 6.

3. Convene Panel at State GIS Conference. The State CIO and chairs of the Governor's Council Strategic Planning and Geospatial Architecture committees will convene a 90 panel at the state GIS conference on October 6. The panel, titled "On Common Ground: Towards a Statewide Geospatial Infrastructure," will make the connection between the state's development of a federated enterprise architecture for IT and the strategic plan process for geospatial technology.

4. Design and Conduct Strategic Plan Process with Stakeholders. Complete planning for a stakeholder-driven strategic plan process that will identify the issues and provide appropriate strategies and actions that will shape the Strategic Plan and Business Plan. Preliminary discussions have been conducted with potential facilitators and one will be selected by mid-October so that sessions can be held in the fall.

5. Convene Panel at State IT Symposium. The state will hold its annual IT conference in December. A panel similar to the October GIS panel has been assembled for a session that will be targeted to state agency and local government CIOs and IT Directors. The major components of the strategic and business plans may be presented and discussed at this time.

Areas where we could use some help, information and/or ideas:
- What issues or problems have been solved by establishing a state geospatial authority in other states?

- What states have central geospatial authorities that have been successfully functioning for 3 or more years?   What types of responsibilities, duties and authorities do these geospatial authorities have?

- What states, if any, have "adequate" and sustained funding for their geospatial authority? For the state's geospatial work in general?   How did they acquire the funding?   What justifications have they used?

<u>Feedback</u>