

District of Columbia
Geographic Information System (DC GIS):
Strategic Plan

Final



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Prepared By:



1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

This plan is the result of an open and participatory process. It embodies input from the District of Columbia Geographic Information System (DC GIS) stakeholder community of interest, which includes a diverse population of participants from both inside and outside of DC Government. The **main emphasis of this plan is on the long-term direction of the DC GIS Program**, for both activities and governance. A specific outcome of the planning process is a refined Mission Statement for the Program, as follows:

*The Mission of DC Geographic Information System (DC GIS) is to **improve the quality and lower the cost of services provided by the DC Government**, through the District's collective investment and effective application of geospatial data and systems. Furthermore, DC GIS will reach beyond the DC Government by continuing to **make DC GIS data freely and publicly available to the fullest extent possible** in consideration of privacy and security.*

The use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in DC is pervasive with a history of collaboration on developing and sharing geospatial data. Fundamentally, it answers the question “where is it?” DC GIS started with a voluntary willingness to share basemap data across departments, and grew to **the coordinated sharing of over 200 data layers across a broad and diverse federation of departments**. As a technology, GIS empowers policy-makers and implementers with data and application tools that **support better decision-making and performance**.

Situation Analysis

The current DC GIS Program provides DC agencies and the public a **“one-stop shop” for disseminating geospatial data and enterprise applications**. Nationally, it is in the top tier of comparable programs, and its accessible data and services surpass what is available in many states and city jurisdictions. **The program is coordinated by the Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO) GIS Group, which chairs the GIS Steering Committee (GISSC)** established by Mayors Order 2002-27. GISSC is a voluntary group of interested GIS practitioners from over 20 DC Government departments as well as external organizations. Currently, the Committee does not have any bylaws for governance or voting, and **decisions about direction have been made by OCTO, with input from the GISSC participants**.

The **existing GIS infrastructure and interests extend beyond OCTO's GIS Group**, and continue to be nurtured external to OCTO's efforts, to meet mission-specific needs. The need for a plan to guide DC GIS activities and program investment is clear, given the large number and diversity of DC GIS stakeholders. These **stakeholders recognize the importance of standards, coordination, and guidance via the DC GIS Program**. Also needed is GISSC governance reform, such as adopting bylaws to govern meetings and decision-making of the GISSC, and expanding the number of permanent members.

This may require **revitalization of the existing Mayors Order (2002-27) that established GISSC** six years ago.

Strategic Goals

DC GIS has achieved high levels of successful utilization, both inside and outside of DC Government. Nonetheless, it is not without deficiencies and needs. The potential for improvements to the DC GIS Program to help achieve the Mayor's desired outcomes is recognized in this plan. **The planning process resulted in specific long-term (five year) goals to achieve continued success and improvements, as listed below:**

- 1) Ensure that state and local needs are met by focusing resources on geospatial data, systems, and program activities that are in alignment with District priorities
- 2) Develop and operate enterprise mapping data, geospatial applications, and Web services that enhance the utility, reduce the cost, and expand the interoperability of citywide and agency IT systems
- 3) Provide outstanding customer service and training that enable DC GIS users and stakeholders to leverage the full power of GIS technology
- 4) Sustain and improve GIS coordination and partnerships in the District of Columbia, the region, and the nation
- 5) Be innovative and adapt to the changing market for geospatial technology
- 6) Apply GIS in ways that increase revenue and reduce costs for the District

Action Plan

Short-term (two-year) success factors for each goal listed above are described in the body of the plan, to help guide the action-oriented implementation program. While **parallel activities are anticipated across all six programmatic goals**, certain aspects will be emphasized in more detailed business plans. For example, **programmatic goals #2 and #3 (see above) were selected as the dual-subject for a focused Business Plan**, which will be a separate document emanating from this Strategic Plan. Its details will be congruent with this plan's high-level content and overall intentions.

Immediate actions recommended in the Strategic Plan are as follows:

OCTO will:

- **Seek endorsement of Mayor's Order 2002-27 from the current Mayor, Adrian M. Fenty, after refinements as necessary**
- **Formally add permanent members to the GISSC; in addition to the current permanent members (Office of the Chief Technology Officer, District Department**

of Transportation, Office of Planning, and the Office of the City Administrator) add the following in a formal and recognized manner:

- Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs
 - Department of Health
 - Department of Public Works
 - District Department of the Environment
 - Fire and Emergency Medical Services
 - Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency
 - Metropolitan Police Department
 - Office of Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
 - Office of Tax and Revenue
 - Office of Unified Communications
 - Office of Zoning
 - Water and Sewer Authority
 - United States Geological Survey
- **Schedule an official “GISSC Annual Budget Meeting”** for September of each year to review past year’s spending, and the **DC GIS Business Plan** for spending in the coming year(s).

The GISSC Permanent Members will:

- Conduct a vote to endorse **and adopt this Strategic Plan as a guide to the continuing operations of DC GIS and GISSC governance** reform, including by reference the official adoption of the DC Government Federated Geospatial Data Model and associated best practices
- **Develop Bylaws** for the governance of GISSC, such as the following formalities:
 - Meeting rules
 - Voting rules
 - Rules for the formation and governance of subcommittees

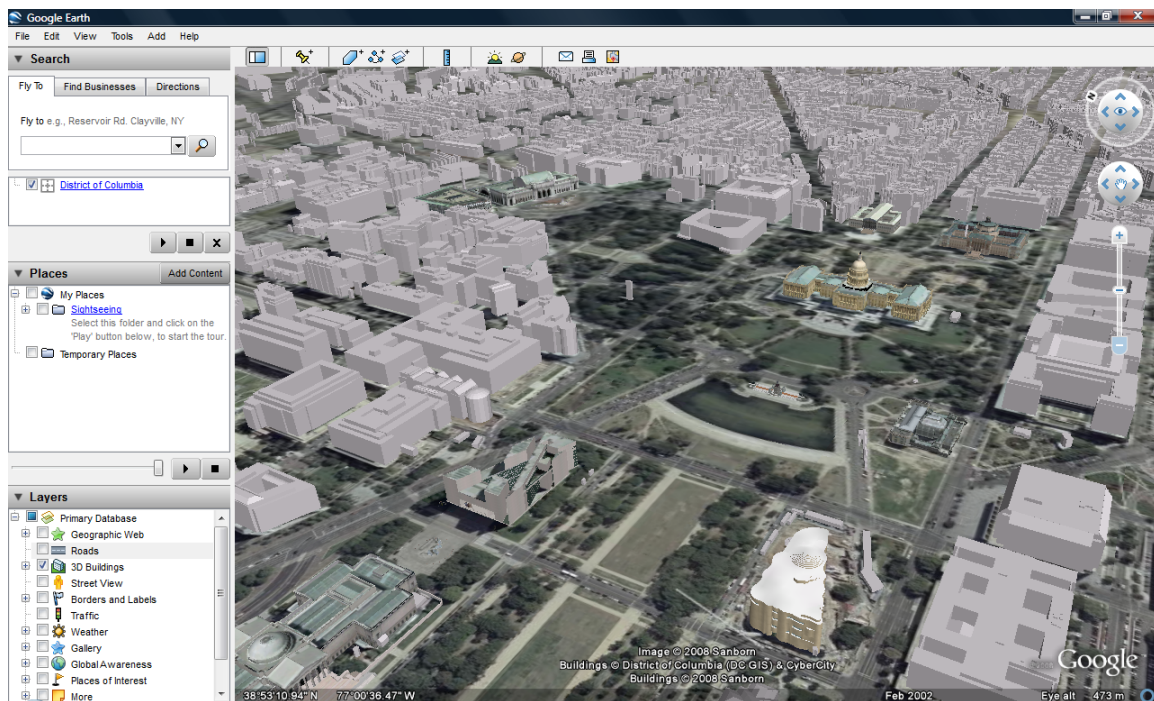
The Full GISSC will:

- **Meet at least quarterly**
- **Be open to all**; including federal agencies, universities, non-profit organizations, private sector users, and geospatial vendors
- **Serve as a forum for the exchange of information and ideas**

- **Provide advice to the GISSC Permanent Members and to OCTO**
- **Adopt GIS technical standards**

Measuring Success

The long-term performance period for the six programmatic goals articulated in this Strategic Plan is five years. **Efforts on each of the six goals will run in parallel, on an ongoing basis.** They will be **reviewed annually by the GISSC Permanent Members** (proposed) to determine their enduring relevance to the overall DC GIS Program. **The short-term success factors are programmed to extend through FY 2010.** These include both ongoing and periodic activities, on which **status will be reviewed at the GISSC Annual Budget Meeting in September of each year** (proposed).



DC GIS three dimensional buildings on Google Earth™