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Report: Interim

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Organization: District of Columbia
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Project Narrative

In 2006, OCTO and USGS signed a memorandum of understanding that states: “The USGS, through the DC geographic information coordinating body, agree[d] to jointly develop a DC geographic information strategic business and data development plan.” Per that agreement, the District of Columbia GIS program and the DC GIS Steering Committee (DC GISSC) will update/replace its strategic plan and business plans following the Fifty States Initiative Guide produced by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC). In particular, DC GIS intends to leverage the planning process to achieve these goals:

- o **Find champions in the District’s new political and executive leadership.**
- o **Work with those new champions to identify sustainable funding for the DC GIS program.**
- o **Reach beyond the District government to new partners in the federal government, academia, and relevant non-profits.**
- o **Demonstrate the effectiveness of NSDI including The National Map and Geospatial One Stop initiatives.**

Summary of project activities

- o 8/20/07, USGS finalized the grant award to DC OCTO
- o 9/14/07 DC awarded a contract to Applied Geographics Inc. of Boston Massachusetts. Applied Geographics is to facilitate the planning process using established FGDC / NSGIC methodology.
- o 10/07 a series of small planning meetings and teleconferences were held between OCTO, USGS, DC Office of Planning, and Applied Geographics Inc.
- o 12/03/07 DC hosted a planning workshop. The workshop attracted approximately 70 people. Minutes of the workshop are attached.
- o 1/23/08 A follow-up meeting was held between Applied Geographics and key stakeholders

Key accomplishments to date

- o Board participation in the opening workshop and overall interest in the DC GIS and project.

Explain how statewide coordination has changed as a result of this project?

- o DC has not reached this point yet

How inclusive is your effort? What have you done to bring new stakeholder groups or organizations into statewide coordination?

- o We are pleased by the level of interest we have received so far. Participation has attracted a healthy mix of Federal, District, non-profit, and private sector organizations.

What practices or activities led to success? What practices or activities have not?

- o Both our consultants and our USGS liaison are very experienced with the 50 States Initiative. Their advice has been very valuable and produced fast results and greater interest than DC GIS could have achieved on its own.

How will this project continue in the future? Describe the next steps in your project

- o February 08, additional follow-up meetings with stakeholder are planned and a second large workshop is to take place at the end of the month.
- o March 08, our goal is to prepare draft strategic and business plans by the end of the month.
- o June 08, final plans adopted

Where do you need assistance?

- o DC's USGS liaison has provided the assistance we need.

Attachments

- 12/03/07 Workshop Minutes

Feedback on Cooperative Agreements Program

We will complete this section in more detail at the conclusion of the project.

The big win so far is that the grant from FGDC has increased the interest and legitimacy of the DC GIS planning process. In other words DC's partnership with FGDC and USGS is making the District a stronger partner for the NSDI.

New Strategic and Business Plans / Stakeholder Workshop Notes

DATE AND LOCATION OF WORKSHOP

Monday, December 3, 2007 / One Judiciary Square, Old Council Chambers, Ground Floor South / 441 4th Street, NW / Washington, DC 20001 / 1:00-4:00 PM

DISTILLED NOTES (c/o Rich Grady, AppGeo)

Purpose:

A workshop was held on December 3, 2007 in the Old Council Chambers at 441 4th Street NW, Washington, DC. The dual-purpose was to inform DCGIS stakeholders of the current GIS Strategic and Business Planning project in the District, and to gather input from the diverse attendees.

Overview:

Opening remarks were made by Vivek Kundra, the Chief Technology Officer (CTO) for DC, stating his support for GIS and the planning process that is underway. He announced the District's new partnership with Google, which will be a centerpiece for "bringing functionality to residents" of the District, which acquired Google Earth Fusion server. He characterized GIS as being at "the intersection of disciplines," and important for correlating people and equipment (both moving and fixed) with location.

Based on a show of hands, a good variety of stakeholders were in attendance, with a preponderance of DC agencies. It became clear from comments that there is a wide range of GIS-expertise in the stakeholder community, from casual to sophisticated. Overall, the level of stakeholder sophistication is high in DC, and advanced concepts and expectations were raised during the workshop. The table below shows the number (#) of attendees for each stakeholder group -- the # is approximate, based on a quick count of hands:

Stakeholder Group	#
DC Agencies	20
Independent DC Agencies	2
Federal Agencies	5
Academic Institutions	3
Private Sector	5
Nonprofits	5
Citizens	1
Total (approx.)	41

It is apparent that there is considerable GIS functionality and data made available to stakeholders in the District, c/o DCGIS. The existing and accessible services surpass what is available in many states and city jurisdictions. While the stakeholders are generally well served, and while there is broad stakeholder representation on the DCGIS Steering Committee, decisions on what to do are made by OCTO – stakeholders do not have a vote in these decisions, although they may have input. The recent decision to

acquire and take advantage of Google technology seemed to be a surprise to some of the stakeholders, who questioned why it took precedence over other things, both data and technology-wise.

Going forward, attention should be paid to this perception of “no voting rights” outside of OCTO, to determine if a different governance model is appropriate, or not. If the process was more democratic, would DCGIS have achieved as much as has been done to-date? Perhaps not – but future consideration should be given to how decisions are made and presented, whether in terms of voting privileges, or a transparent process where key decisions and the rationale are presented to the Steering Committee before being absolutely finalized. Otherwise, there will continue to be second-guessing, negativity, and passive-aggressive dissent.

Stakeholders provided input on both data and technology requests, and all groups had something to say. These inputs were not prioritized in terms of overall importance during the meeting, but they illustrate diverse stakeholder views, and sophisticated consumers and producers of GIS data and applications. Some are more notable than others. The most notable are summarized, below:

The most notable data gaps that were identified included:

- No definitive map of federal properties in the District
- No definitive map of law enforcement jurisdiction boundaries
- Better socioeconomic and demographic data

The most notable data reconciliation issues raised included:

- Need to reconcile DDOT road centerlines with DCGIS vector property data (I heard this too, but it does not make sense – lets discuss)
- Need to reconcile NPS boundaries with DCGIS vector property data

The most notable “new data” becoming available included:

- 3D Buildings
- 360 degree views of streets from DDOT (at least 20 people raised their hands when asked if they would like to have access to this data)
- DC ‘globe’ for Google Earth from DCGIS
- KML versions of SHP file data from DCGIS
- New FEMA floodplain boundaries (and intersection with GSA buildings)
- Geocoded and generalized income tax records

The most notable “old data” that could be possibly mined for content:

- The Department of Environment had a contractor develop a map of federal properties, circa 1999; it’s likely out-of-date, but it was a past attempt to address one of the notable data gaps
- Various but unspecified agency data (Aside: there was no discussion of metadata in this context, but there might be potentially useful data that could be “discovered” if there was a push to document such data)

GIS data use cases mentioned included:

- KML data for visualization and departmental studies
- Data downloads to support departmental analysis using GIS tools, such as ArcView, and uploads of results
- Integrating, superimposing, and analyzing thematic data from non-GIS professionals, such as economic trends, fiscal policy, human resources, health & human services, public health issues, taxation, demographic and other socioeconomic and political data – the demand is high with DC for these kind of mash-ups, whether in an environment such as ArcIMS, ArcGIS, Google Earth, or other.

The most notable technology requests included:

- Data mark-up capabilities, both on the web and on mobile devices; procedures for “accepting” and “managing” mark-ups were also mentioned as part of this request, to determine what actually needs to be updated in the authoritative data source (Aside: in emerging neogeo-speak, this sounds like a request for “crowdsourcing”, which is the term being applied to Web 2.0 participatory data corrections based on the knowledge, willingness, and capability of individual users and citizens)
- Database replication
- Support for dynamic editing
- Methodology and best practices for aggregating sensitive data to preserve privacy and confidentiality
- Web services and analysis services
- Change notification
- Wiki for GIS knowledge and procedure sharing

Other (education and policy matters)

- How are leaders being educated to take advantage of GIS?
- No zoning on federal properties
- When federal properties are transferred, what is their zoning considered to be?
- Clearinghouse for partnerships to be proffered and formed by interested parties
- Opportunities for geo-social networking and common calendars
- Congruity between zoning (and other land use policies) and economic development goals within the District
- Decision support for leaders
- Data sharing with others in the Metro Washington area
- FOIA requests (e.g., DC has FOIA'd the NPS boundary data)

RAW NOTES (c/o Alex Salvatierra, DCGIS)

Roger, USGS – improve fed coordination btw dc/fed

Charlie, OP – governance issues, consensus, executive committee that steers decisions on resources (budget)

Williams, PS – who are the people inside dc gov to contact for geog issues? Outreach to dc council.

Rich – representation gaps in current committee

Sigi, WASA – leverage services already built in dc. Dynamic updates/replication.

David K, DPW – key dataset update availability, quick markup capability from intranet.

Holli, NP – access to intranet for updates (limited access).

Chad, WDCEP – image capture, resource cooperation, common calendars.

Rasheed, OCTO – identify agencies with similar missions driving data collection.

Acquanetta, Academic – partnering resources, common calendars.

Charlie, OP – wiki site for intra/internet. Data issues, central availability (NPS).

Caroline, FEMS – ownership of data (law enforcement boundaries).

Nyambi, Zoning – areas including federal property. Property changing hands. Layer that identifies all federal properties. NPS has a part of it. DDOE contracted third party to get federal property dataset (1999).

Tim, PS – lacking demographic data. ie. human resource data, tax records, data not necessarily spatial.

David S. – performance management data.

Charlie, OP – confidentiality of data within OCTO (tax records).

Ed, OCFO – more effort in economic data. Economic development data. Assistance in fiscal impact statement analysis. Definitive neighborhood boundaries...?

Tim, PS – economic analysis: income tax record geocoding, aggregating... showing economic trends. Mario, OCTO can elaborate on status.

Caroline, FEMS – policies/procedures for aggregating data (thresholds). Best practices.

Peter, Urban Inst. – helping agencies improve data. Quality of data.

Acquanetta (SEU & Benjamin Harrison Soc), Academic – more education data, student demographic.

Holli, NP – tracking neighborhood indicators (education, environment, income). Reaching out to residents.

Serge, Academic – data consumer cooperation. Executive management using available data (training).

Roger, USGS – integration of dc data with surrounding jurisdiction. Data policy similarities?

William, PS - Reaching out to USPS, cross-checking address records? Address standards?

Matt, OCTO – dealing with emerging technologies (google, microsoft).

Charlie, OP – how are people accessing information? (poll)

- DC Atlas (ArcIMS).....
- DC Guide (ArcIMS).....
- Google.....
- Web Services.....
- Citrix DC GIS Tools (intranet).....
- ArcGIS standalone.....
- Google Earth.....
- MS Virtual Earth.....

Tim, PS – ArcGIS Server, Replication

Roger, USGS – metadata availability, data source recognition

Amir, PS – continue expanding app-to-app services. Web service out of Vector Property.

Rich, AG – “point” solutions versus general purpose

Ronald (SEU, 4H, Benjamin Harrison Soc.), Academic - increased availability of ArcGIS in general

Serge, Academic – for analysis I use dc atlas, for general items I use google.

Tim, PS – external availability (Niambi seconds).

William, PS – reliability amongst policy. Announcements of revisions and why. Metadata

Charlie, OP – robust gis infrastructure. Kml does not work for large datasets.

Holli, NP – ability to create own models. Federate model... pushing data back/forth. Separate entity for none-dc data available in OCTO.

Charlie, OP - Customer expectations driven by private industry (google and visualization)

Serge, Academic – table usage rather than visualization in private sector

David M, DDOT – 360 degree views currently under dev in high res with attribution available both internal/external. Interest? (poll = majority)

Barney, OCTO – data update availability... wiki idea is good. Currently an email newsletter is sent out internally; MS Exchange prevents outside email addresses. Park service data is somewhat available...that David K. put together, but not as precise as vector property.

Williams, PS – Continued quality maps great... make it available to OCTO with data.

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

1:00	Welcoming and Opening Remarks
1:15	Overview and Background
	Overview of DC GIS today
	Background on the national context
	Description of the current planning project
1:50	Networking Break
2:10	Interactive Discussion
	Discussion of GIS coordination and governance in DC
	Identification of greatest needs
	Prioritization among identified needs
4:00	Adjourn