



**GISCC**

GEORGIA

**Geographic Information Systems  
Coordinating Committee**

## **The 2007-2008 Georgia Geospatial Maturity Assessment**

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## REVISION HISTORY

Date	Version	Description	Author
06.30.08	DRAFT	The 2007-2008 Georgia Geospatial Maturity Assessment	D. Ayan and M. Ouimet (Texas GIS Coordinator)

Georgia and Texas wish to make this document available to anyone who can benefit from its use, with the caveat that changes/modifications are sent back to the original authors: [Danielle.ayan@coa.gatech.edu](mailto:Danielle.ayan@coa.gatech.edu) and [michael.ouimet@dir.state.tx.us](mailto:michael.ouimet@dir.state.tx.us). As written, this document is intended as an overview of geospatial health and maturity across a state. We would like to see this type of assessment adopted for regional and local governments as well. Contributions to content improvement are encouraged.

# THE 2008 GEORGIA GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Introduction:

Geography enables the integration of governmental programs, as it is the one common link of interest between dissimilar agencies and/or programs.<sup>i</sup> The use of geographic information systems (GIS) and technologies empowers administrators to make data-driven decisions, enhances planning and enables the delivery of services to Georgia's citizens at all levels of government.

GIS (Geographic Information Systems) has become one of the core enabling technologies that is available to everyone. For example, relational database management systems (RDBMSs) used to be restricted to numeric and text data types. Now virtually every RDBMS including *Oracle* support spatial data types. This trend also applies to architectural and engineering design, where buildings and infrastructure are being designed in their geographic environment. According to National Association of State CIOs (NASCIO), "GIS is really a portfolio of capabilities that extends across the enterprise."<sup>ii</sup> Around the country and world, Geospatial technologies are supporting expanded electronic government and common solutions.

GIS ranked as one of the Top Ten Technologies by state CIOs at the NASCIO 2007 Annual Conference. According to NASCIO, "GIS is really a portfolio of capabilities that extends across the enterprise. The investment in this portfolio is growing ... in every aspect of government decision making." Further, "With proper governance, appropriate partnering, and investment, this resource can assist state government decision makers in making better, more informed decisions. Data and information that is enhanced with a location perspective often brings new insight and understanding." According to the US Army Research Office, themes that characterize successful data sharing include the following: mutual benefit, incentives, champions, partnerships and data.<sup>iii</sup>

Add to available locational data, per NASCIO, "the layering of multiple dimensions and intersections, and cross line of business collaboration reaches a whole new level that can demonstrate immense value to state government for not only enterprise agility and rapid response but also long term strategy and multi-jurisdiction collaboration."

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<sup>i</sup> National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC), "Criteria for Federal Coordination of Geographic Information Technology – A State Perspective," May 2008: [http://www.nsgic.org/resources/federal\\_coordination\\_factors\\_may2008.pdf](http://www.nsgic.org/resources/federal_coordination_factors_may2008.pdf)

<sup>ii</sup> National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) draft release of "Where's the Data? Show Me - Maximizing the Investment in State Geospatial Resources," June 2008: <http://www.nascio.org/publications>

<sup>iii</sup> Report of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure Measures of Progress Workshop, 1998: [http://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/sponsored-reports/nsdi\\_measures\\_of\\_progress\\_workshop\\_report.pdf](http://www.fgdc.gov/library/whitepapers-reports/sponsored-reports/nsdi_measures_of_progress_workshop_report.pdf)

## **Mission of this Document:**

This document, developed collaboratively through Georgia's GIS Coordinating Committee, categorizes geospatial program and project components necessary for better decisions by anyone at any level in the public and private sectors. The status of components within each category reflects Georgia's capability to provide the geospatial services recognized by local, state and federal agencies as essential to a successful service delivery across agencies.<sup>iv</sup>

## **Results of the 2008 Georgia Geospatial Maturity Assessment:**

Georgia has a very strong grass-roots Geospatial community, including but not limited to GIS practitioners/managers, Photogrammetrists, Surveyors, Planners, CAD Operators and Engineers. The leading non-profit networking and educational organization for GIS practitioners, Urban Regional Information Systems Association (URISA) International, awarded its Georgia chapter, Georgia URISA, Chapter of the Year in both 2002 and 2007. This award is not issued twice to any one of 24-chapters within a 3-year period and rarely issued to the same chapter twice within any decade.

In addition, Georgia's GIS Coordinating Committee (GISCC) has accomplished a great deal since 1996, considering the awkward position of operating a statewide community of interest without a political, executive/business champion or state funding for geospatial initiatives. Namely, the GISCC has facilitated the development of several significant statewide basemap layers such as the following: Boundaries, Transportation, Hydrography, Wetlands and Aerial Photography. As a result of these coordinated basemap efforts alone, the GISCC has saved the state of Georgia over \$1.2 million dollars.<sup>v</sup>

There are well-documented legal, technical and business drivers behind the need for an enterprise Geospatial Program in Georgia, including Federal initiatives and priorities such as Homeland Security, the E-Government Act of 2002, the Office of Management and Budget, the Census Bureau, and Intelligence Reform.<sup>vi</sup> In addition, the Fifty States Initiative identifies essential components for an effective enterprise (statewide) GIS Program, incorporated into this Assessment.

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<sup>iv</sup> Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) Future Directions "Fifty States and Equivalent Involved and Contributing to the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI)," February 2005:

[http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/future-directions/action-plans/FD\\_PART\\_Fifty\\_States\\_Contributing\\_NSDI\\_Final\\_Action\\_Plan\\_v9.pdf](http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/future-directions/action-plans/FD_PART_Fifty_States_Contributing_NSDI_Final_Action_Plan_v9.pdf)

<sup>v</sup> Georgia Geographic Information Systems Coordinating Committee (GISCC) "Georgia Geographic Information Systems Coordinating Committee (GISCC) and the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse," 2005:

<http://www.coa.gatech.edu/cgis/reports/ayan-GISCIarticle.pdf>

<sup>vi</sup> Fifty States Initiative in support of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Circular A-16, Federal Geographic Data Committee: [http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/future-directions/action-plans/FD\\_PART\\_Fifty\\_States\\_Contributing\\_NSDI\\_Final\\_Action\\_Plan\\_v9.pdf](http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/future-directions/action-plans/FD_PART_Fifty_States_Contributing_NSDI_Final_Action_Plan_v9.pdf)

This said, Georgia is falling behind the Southeast and the Nation in lacking vision, support and governance structure for an enterprise Geospatial Program. Georgia’s Geospatial Maturity Assessment Summary is provided below; supporting details can be found throughout the remainder of the text.

2008 GEORGIA GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT SUMMARY		
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p>● (1 pt) Fully Implemented</p> <p>⊕ (0.75 pts) In Progress - Fully Resourced to Complete</p> <p>◐ (0.5 pts) In Progress - Partial Resources Available</p> <p>⊕ (0.25 pts) Planned - Resources Assigned</p> <p>● (0 pts) Not Planned - No Resources Assigned</p> <p>○ Not Applicable</p> </div>		
Success in Satisfying Needs	Sufficient Geospatial Progress	Category
27%	○	<a href="#">Geospatial Coordination and Collaboration</a>
25%	○	<a href="#">Geospatial Data Development</a>
29%	○	<a href="#">GIS Resource Discovery and Access</a>
38%	○	<a href="#">Statewide Partnership Programs</a>
48%	○	<a href="#">Participation in Pertinent National Partnership Programs and Initiatives</a>
57%	○	<a href="#">Geospatial Policies, Standards, Guidelines and Best Practices</a>
38%	○	<a href="#">Training, Education, and Professional Networking Activities</a>







In these times of economic leanness, it is critical that agency’s share costs and resources to accomplish common goals. The above summary of Georgia’s geospatial maturity and health indicates that not enough planning, investment, governance, coordination, optimization and standardization of common geospatial functions, service and processes are occurring. However, relatively easier barriers can be broached to make Georgia a better managed state through the coordinated development of geographic information and technologies.<sup>vii</sup>

<sup>vii</sup> Georgia Geographic Information Systems Coordinating Committee (GISCC) “Case for a Geospatial Information Officer (GIO) in Georgia,” 2005: [http://gis.state.ga.us/Coordination/GISCC/Meetings/GIOinGA\\_v5.pdf](http://gis.state.ga.us/Coordination/GISCC/Meetings/GIOinGA_v5.pdf)








## **Intentions for the Georgia Geospatial Maturity Assessment:**

Annual updates of this Assessment, based on Georgia's fiscal cycle (July 1 – June 30), are intended to provide a snapshot of Georgia's overall yearly status and to measure geospatial progress over time. While this initial report focuses on state agency status, succeeding reports are intended to include all stakeholders and providers at all levels, both public and private. This Assessment can also provide the foundation for geospatial Strategic Planning in Georgia, to be synchronized with the State Strategic Plan. Next steps would be to prioritize the items, associate costs where appropriate, complete the rankings and/or geospatial progress for each of the items identified throughout the Assessment, thereby creating score cards and actionable items for each category. The author of this document is also interested in representing Georgia nationally, through the National States Geographic Information Council, by leading an effort to create a template that all states can use for such assessment and to integrate key items from the national assessment that might feed the PEW Grading the States Report Card and the Digital Government Survey.







## 2008 GEORGIA GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT










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### Geospatial Coordination and Collaboration

	<p>1.  A full-time, paid State GIS coordinator or state geographic information officer (GIO), endorsed via legislation or executive order, exists and has been assigned a clear, written mandate with defined duties and responsibilities and is a member of a State GIS Council.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> A "Case for a GIO in Georgia" was submitted by the Georgia GIS Coordinating Committee (GISCC) in 2005; however, no GIO or equivalent - paid or unpaid - exists in Georgia to date.</p> <p>Note: Per NASCIO, "State GIS Coordinators have become a valued advisor across the enterprise."</p>
	<p>2.  A state geospatial coordination council (Council), operating under an inter-governmental working environment, exists from legislation or executive order that has assigned a clear, written mandate with defined duties and responsibilities.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The GISCC was established by ITPC Policy No 1, 1995, Revised 1999. However, the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA) did not adopt an equivalent policy when absorbing ITPC and the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse in 1999. Therefore, neither the GISCC nor the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse is grounded in state statute. However, the GISCC currently operates as an inter-governmental work group of "the willing" and the Clearinghouse operates at the will of the Georgia Technology Authority (GTA), although funding for the latter is critically at risk beyond FY09.</p> <p><a href="http://www.gis.state.ga.us">http://www.gis.state.ga.us</a></p>
	<p>3.  The Council has a mission to support and partner in the development of national, state and local spatial data infrastructures via a charter and by-laws adopted by its members. Toward this end, the Council produces strategic and business implementation plans and updates them on a periodic cycle.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Georgia GIS Clearinghouse, the implementation arm of the GISCC and Georgia node of the Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), does feed its 5 framework datasets to the NSDI (transportation, imagery, wetlands, boundaries and hydrography).</p> <p>There is a GISCC business plan and Leadership document, but they are current as of 1999 and in much need of updating.</p> <p><a href="http://gis.state.ga.us/Coordination/Documents/documents.shtml">http://gis.state.ga.us/Coordination/Documents/documents.shtml</a></p> <p>However, the 2007-08 GISCC Chair received a federal Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) grant from USGS/FGDC in support of statewide GIS Strategic Planning for 2008. Therefore, a new Strategic Plan is pending. Pertinent business plans, in support of the Strategic Plan, can result if someone takes the lead in drafting them.</p>
	<p>4. The Council membership is inclusive and represents all major stakeholders and interest groups via standing committees and/or workgroups within the council's geographic or administrative area.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The membership of GISCC is primarily composed of state, regional and local government</p>







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	<p>representatives, some federal representatives, academia, and private enterprise interests, but does not encompass all of the major stakeholder groups in Georgia. As a “body of the willing,” there is no exclusionary rule for participation.</p> <p><a href="http://gis.state.ga.us/Coordination/GISCC/Members/members.shtml">http://gis.state.ga.us/Coordination/GISCC/Members/members.shtml</a></p>
	<p>5. The Council is guided by a steering committee or governing board composed of a representative selection of member stakeholders and interest groups.</p>
	<p>6. The Council has paid staff assigned to it to provide administrative support and maintain continuity through changes in committees and workgroups.</p>
	<p>7. The Council has a review and coordination role for GIS projects within its geographic or administrative area to help ensure projects meet the goals established in the council’s strategic and business plans.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Although encouraged by friends and members of the GISCC, there is no requirement for any agency to coordinate activities with the GISCC.</p>
	<p>8.  The State GIS Coordinator and the State Council have a formal relationship with the Chief Information Officer (or equivalent office).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> There is no GIO or equivalent in Georgia, nor is there is an executive, political or business sponsor(s) for the GISCC (e.g. , GIS is not being promoted/supported at any administrative level). The GISCC did, however, secure a non-voting seat on the CIO Council (May 2008). No one from the CIO Council attends the GISCC meetings, nor do any other agency administrators.</p>
	<p>9.  The Council has involvement and a channel of communication to executive and elected leadership on its progress and recommendations for improvements (i.e., a political and/or executive champion).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> No report, verbal or written, on the use of geographic information systems technology by state government is required or encouraged. The GISCC recommends that a statutory mandate be implemented requiring a biennial report to accomplish the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inventory state agency GIS projects and applications,</li> <li>• Recommend initiatives to improve state agency GIS programs and collaboration/coordination opportunities, and</li> <li>• Provide the report to the Governor, the Legislature, Office of Planning &amp; Budget (OPB), the CIO and GTA</li> </ul>
	<p>10. Geospatial technology is addressed and measured in the state’s Information Technology Strategic Plan.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> This Maturity Assessment has voluntarily been drafted as a measure of geospatial health in Georgia and is intended to provide insight in the IT area. However, there is no mention of GIS in Georgia’s IT Strategic Plan as of 2008 or earlier.</p>
	<p>11. The State is represented on the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Eric McRae, Director, UGA CVIQG ITOS, co-Manager of Georgia’s GIS Clearinghouse, is Georgia’s 2007-2008 (and previous years) NSGIC voting delegate and has attended the mid-</p>

















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	<p>year and annual NSGIC conferences for the past several years. Danielle Ayan, co-Manager of the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse and 2007-08 GISCC Chair, attends the meetings as a non-voting member. She has been nominated to the NSGIC Board and will be advised of the results in September 2008. If accepted, she will have voting rights at NSGIC as well, on behalf of Georgia.</p>
	<p><b>12. Key federal geospatial liaisons exist and are members of the State Council including: National Geodetic State Advisor, U.S. Census Bureau State Liaison, USGS State Mapping Liaison</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Georgia does not have a National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Advisor and is not participating in the National Height Modernization Program. See item 36 below.</p> <p>U.S. Census Bureau State Liaison: Donna Bulloch, US Census</p> <p>U.S. Geological Survey State Mapping Liaison: Keith McFadden, USGS</p>
	<p><b>13. Key state geospatial leads exist and are members of the State Council including: State Demographer, State Climatologist, State Archivist, State *11 Programs Directors.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Georgia does not have a Geographic Information Officer (GIO).</p> <p>Georgia does not have a state cartographer.</p> <p>Georgia does not have a state demographer.</p> <p>State Climatologist: David Emory Stooksbury, UGA Biological &amp; Agricultural Engineering Department   State Climatology Office</p> <p>State Archivist: Amelia Winstead, Georgia Archives</p> <p>State 211 Program Director (community services):</p> <p>State 311 Program Director (non-emergency services):</p> <p>State 511 Program Director (transit and travel links): GDOT <a href="http://www.511ga.org">http://www.511ga.org</a></p> <p>State 911 Coordinator (emergency services): Elaine Sexton, GEMA</p>
<b>Geospatial Data Development</b>	
	<p><b>14. A strategic plan and supporting business plan(s) exists for NSDI framework layers and other statewide digital basemap layer development. In each, Program custodian(s)/steward(s) exist for each basemap layer.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Georgia has 5 of 7 state basemap layers (<u>Imagery, Boundaries, Elevation, Inland Waters, Transportation, Location, Parcels</u>). However, each asset is lacking an officially identified and funded steward/custodian to maintain the asset. This leads to maintenance issues which interrupts the data life cycle and results in data decay.</p> <p><a href="http://gis.state.ga.us/Framework/framework.shtml">http://gis.state.ga.us/Framework/framework.shtml</a></p>
	<p><b>15. Data development standards are adopted and implemented for each state basemap layer.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Federal standards exist for each NSDI basemap layer; however, Georgia has not formally adopted any of these standards to date. The GISCC plans to adopt all existing NSDI basemap standards by the end of this fiscal year; resources will be applied, although no funding is necessary for this effort.</p>

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	Aerial Imagery standards for Georgia existed for the last state-facilitated flyover in 1999.
	16. Geospatial Data Models are adopted and implemented for each state base-map layer.
	17. A formal project lifecycle plan has been developed for each basemap layer with procedures for improving and enhancing the data based upon an independent and rigorous QA/QC review process and user feedback.  <u>Comment:</u> Where a basemap layer is mandated in the Official Code of Georgia, a QA/QC process exists (see Appendix A). These datasets, however, don't align exactly with the NSDI.
	18. A coalition of executive sponsors, business, elected leadership, and other key stakeholders exist that value basemap data for a wide array of applications vital to the citizenry (please explain the coalition's authority and quantify the basemap data value below).
<b>Metadata, Discovery and Access, and Geospatial Web Services</b>	
	19. A funded State Geospatial clearinghouse(s) exists with activities tied to clear budget amounts.  <u>Comment:</u> The Georgia GIS Clearinghouse had sufficient funding to operate prior to 2002. Funding is provided via GTA's internal budget. Since 2002, GTA has cut Clearinghouse funds more than 3 times to the current reduction of 50% of the annual contract amount which is insufficient for maximum operations. In addition, no funding is promised by GTA beyond FY09. In FY08, GTA did tie funds to specific new activities/ deliverables, although prior to that funding was in support of staff and general operations.
	20. The geospatial clearinghouse(s) maintain a current and easily searchable on-line catalog of local, regional, state, and federal geospatial data holdings that provide metadata records for all downloadable data and data are provided in formats useable for the majority of professional users.  <u>Comment:</u> Although the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse is the most comprehensive source of Georgia's geofiles (over 30,000 datasets), it is not all-inclusive as there is no requirement for agencies/others to provide their geospatial data to the Clearinghouse. For example, a current Clearinghouse search for county Parcel data yields approximately 30+ records, where actually more than 100 of Georgia's 159 counties have parcels in a GIS format.
	21. The state's collection of geospatial web services and downloadable maps are available or linked through the State Web Portal. (For public access)
	22. A registry exists of published geospatial Web services ( <i>Universal Description, Discovery &amp; Integration -UDDI</i> ). (For development purposes)
	23. The state has a data sharing agreement program to facilitate and encourage the appropriate sharing of geospatial data between all levels of government.

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	<p>24. The GIS Coordination Council maintains a directory of membership and a list of stakeholder contacts (example, a current list of all GIS Coordinators at state, regional and local government organizations is publicly accessible).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> A GISCC list serve is maintained by Georgia Tech and contains over 200 names. And, the GISCC member list is updated annually with core participants. However, there is no personnel inventory of GIS Coordinators at state, regional and local governments.</p> <p><a href="mailto:giscclists@gatech.edu">giscclists@gatech.edu</a>   <a href="http://gis.state.ga.us">http://gis.state.ga.us</a></p>
	<p>25. Digital data backup and archiving of geospatial data are routinely performed per state and national archive specifications.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Geospatial data Backups occur via the Clearinghouse, although not necessarily to national specifications (<a href="http://www.nara.gov">http://www.nara.gov</a>). The Georgia Archives is currently initiating a Digital Archives Initiative:</p> <p><a href="http://sos.ga.gov/archives/who_are_we/rims/digital_History/default.htm">http://sos.ga.gov/archives/who_are_we/rims/digital_History/default.htm</a></p>
<b>Statewide Partnership Programs (Possible conduits for Federal Initiatives)</b>	
	<p>26.  State partnership programs exist that are authorized to enter into state contractual and financial cost-sharing agreements with multiple parties to develop geospatial data.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Coastal Georgia Regional Development Center has been working with USGS/NGA for coastal LiDAR. The GISCC coordinated with USDA/DCA on behalf of Georgia to obtain statewide imagery for 2005, 2006 and 2007 via the National Agriculture Imagery Program (NAIP). From the state level, however, these activities are generally underfunded. Example: 1999 CIR imagery took until 2004 to process via a piecemeal funding approach.</p> <p>Also, legislation exists for the authorization for state agencies to establish pilot projects to serve as models for application of technology: <a href="#">O.C.G.A. § 50-29-12</a></p>
	<p>27. The state has established master purchase agreements (MPA) and enterprise license agreements (ELA) for geospatial data development, licensing and software.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Office of Planning &amp; Budget is considering championing a MPA and ELA with ESRI for Georgia. The GISCC compiled a "Business Rationale for an ELA," the foundation for this effort. Results are pending.</p>
	<p>28. The GIS Coordination Council has a program to develop program alliances and reciprocal agreements with other organizations that have a common mission or business interest (i.e., an optional partnership).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The GISCC has been effective in the past at facilitating basemap development for the state of Georgia via program alliances and joint funding agreements.</p>
	<p>29. The GIS Coordination Council has the ability to manage grants and partnership programs either directly or indirectly through an administrative agency (i.e., a fiscal partnership).</p>

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30. The coordination council maintains an active and funded GIS outreach program to encourage NSDI, state, regional, and local government partnerships and alliances.


Comment: The GISCC receives no funds for any of its activities. The Clearinghouse staff, who are funded, accomplish outreach as opportunities arise, but Outreach is not funded directly.



31. The GIS Coordination Council maintains a current inventory of major projects and programs being conducted by stakeholders.

### The State Participates in the Following National Partnership Programs, or Provides a Clear and Logical Reason why Participation is not in the State's Best Interests



32.  The state is participating in the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Program.

Comment: Presidential Executive Order 12906 defines the NSDI as "the technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute, and improve utilization of geospatial data (see also Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16). See Item 3 for reference.

The Georgia Spatial Data Infrastructure and Georgia GIS Clearinghouse are set up for NSDI harvesting, but no content is currently available via the proper protocol.



33.  The state is participating in the Fifty States Initiative.

Comment: Georgia has received a 2008 federal grant from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)/USGS under the Cooperative Agreement Program (CAP) to develop and implement statewide strategic and business plans that will facilitate the coordination of programs, policies, technologies, and resources that enable the coordination, collection, documentation, discovery, distribution, exchange and maintenance of geospatial information in support of the NSDI. This document, the 2008 GIS Maturity Assessment, is an output of this effort; a matrix/measure was needed to assess Georgia's geospatial health, considering the core components of the Fifty States Initiative.



34. The state participates in the National Map Program.

Comment: No cascading WMS connection to National map via the Clearinghouse or other Georgia source.



35. The state participates in the Geospatial One Stop Program.







Comment: The Georgia Spatial Data Infrastructure and Georgia GIS Clearinghouse are set up for NSDI harvesting, but no content is currently available via the proper protocol.

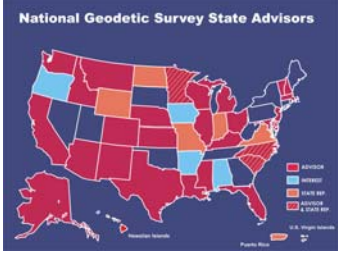








36. The state participates in the National Height Modernization Program.







Comment: NOAA's National Geodetic Survey (NGS) defines and manages a national coordinate system. This network, the National Spatial Reference System (NSRS), provides the foundation for transportation and communication; mapping and charting; and a multitude of scientific and engineering applications. Georgia does not have a National Geodetic Survey (NGS) Advisor and is not participating in the National Height Modernization Program. See item 12 above.





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	<p><a href="http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/INFO/WhatWeDo.shtml">http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/INFO/WhatWeDo.shtml</a></p> 
	<p><b>37. The state participates in the National Digital Elevation Program (NDEP).</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> NDEP promotes the exchange of accurate digital land elevation data among government, private, and non-profit sectors and the academic community and to establish standards and guidance that will benefit all users. Georgia is not participating in NDEP.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ndep.gov">http://www.ndep.gov</a></p>
	<p><b>38. The state participates in the USGS/NGA Homeland Security (133 Urban Areas Program).</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Localized/metro areas in Georgia are participating in the 133-Urban Areas Program (ATL, Augusta, Columbus). <a href="http://glsdata.usgs.net/IADD/factsheets/fact.html">http://glsdata.usgs.net/IADD/factsheets/fact.html</a></p>
	<p><b>39. The state participates in the USDA/FSA National Aerial Information Program (NAIP) and the USGS National Orthoimagery Program.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The GISCC worked with the USGS via the orthoimagery program in 1993 and 1999, but not since. Georgia has been the recipient of free 2-meter NAIP photography for 2005 and 2006 and has coordinated \$300K Department of Community Affairs' funds for 1-m 2007 imagery. See item 26.</p> <p><a href="http://165.221.201.14/NAIP.html">http://165.221.201.14/NAIP.html</a> <a href="http://online.wr.usgs.gov/ngpo/dog">http://online.wr.usgs.gov/ngpo/dog</a></p>
	<p><b>40. The state participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Map Modernization Program.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Map Modernization is a cornerstone for helping communities be better prepared for flood disasters. Georgia is participating in the Flood Map Modernization Program.</p> <p><a href="http://www.georgiadfirm.com/ppt/RDC_Scoping.ppt">http://www.georgiadfirm.com/ppt/RDC_Scoping.ppt</a></p>
	<p><b>41. The state participates in the Census Bureau MAP/TIGER Modernization / Local Update of Census Addresses (LUCA), and Boundary and Annexation Survey (BAS) Programs.</b></p>
	<p><b>42. The State participates in the Homeland Security Infrastructure Program (HSIP).</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> HSIP Freedom is conducted by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS). HSIP features two-way data sharing between the state and federal government. The federal government is collecting and validating geospatial information from each state on 100 data themes; such as highways, hospitals, correctional facilities, urgent care clinics, EMS locations, police and fire stations. In all cases, the data collected from state and local governments is being checked for correct addresses, facility names, and other attributes before it is added to the HSIP database. The verified databases will be returned to the states with no restrictions on redistribution.</p>








## 2008 GEORGIA GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT

	Fully Implemented
	In Progress - Fully Resourced to Complete
	In Progress - Partial Resources Available
	Planned - Resources Assigned
	Not Planned - No Resources Assigned
	Not Applicable

	<p>Participation in this program does not require funding. Georgia has complied with all HSIP data requests. Contributed data are fed back to the states with added value. Georgia's datasets are intended for distribution via Geogiaplanning.com and the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nsgic.org/events/2007midyear/nga.ppt">http://www.nsgic.org/events/2007midyear/nga.ppt</a></p>
	<p><b>43. The State participates in the National GIS Inventory Program.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The GIS Inventory's primary purpose is to track the status of GIS in US, state and local government to aid the planning and building of Spatial Data Infrastructures. Georgia's 5 basemap layers have been published to the national GIS Inventory. A GIS Inventory Training session is scheduled for July 2008, and the Regional Development Center (RDC) Executive Directors have agreed to have all GIS Leads participate. Currently, state, regional and local orgs in Georgia are not fully participating in the GIS Inventory Program and leveraging this tool to the state's advantage.</p> <p><a href="http://www.qisinventory.net">http://www.qisinventory.net</a> and <a href="http://qa.qisinventory.net">http://qa.qisinventory.net</a></p>
	<p><b>44. The State participates in the Presidential High Growth Training Initiative (Geospatial Technologies).</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Presidential Executive Order 12906 defines the NSDI as "the technology, policies, standards, and human resources necessary to acquire, process, store, distribute, and improve utilization of geospatial data (see also Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16) Geospatial Technologies is one of 14 sectors that fit within the following criteria:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) They are projected to add substantial numbers of new jobs to the economy or affect the growth of other industries; or</li> <li>2) They are existing or emerging businesses being transformed by technology and innovation requiring new skills sets for workers.</li> </ol> <p>Georgia is not currently participating in the geospatial High Growth Training Initiative. However, Gainesville State College (GSC) has just been announced as 1 of 8 GeoTech Centers across the country established to increase the number and quality of educated geospatial technicians for rapidly expanding fields among geospatial technology industries, which include Geographical Information Systems (GIS), Global Positioning Systems (GPS), remote sensing, mobile- and location-based services. GSC is already discussing the roll-out of geospatial training with the Technical College System of Georgia.</p> <p><a href="http://www.doleta.gov/BRG/JobtrainInitiative">http://www.doleta.gov/BRG/JobtrainInitiative</a></p>
	<p><b>45. The State participates in the U.S. National Grid.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The U.S. National Grid, actively promoted by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is a means to present existing state and local government GIS data in a specific format to help in disaster response across the nation. The National Grid, already adopted by the U.S. Army, should allow diverse emergency responders with GPS equipment to coordinate recovery efforts, especially when street signage and other landmarks are missing</p>
<b>Geospatial Policies, Standards, Specifications and Best Practices</b>	
	<p><b>46. A state organization has the responsibility and authority to recommend, adopt, promulgate and implement geospatial policies, standards, specifications and best practices.</b></p>







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	Not Applicable

	<p><u>Comment:</u> As an arm of GTA, although not formally recognized via legislation/executive commitment, the GISCC is promulgating geospatial standards (example: comprehensive planning, legislative redistricting, etc.). As stated, however, the GISCC has no given responsibility or authority to execute these activities.</p>
	<p>47. The state has adopted and implemented as appropriate FGDC, OGC, ANSI and ISO or more detailed state and local geospatial standards and specifications.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Geospatial datasets submitted to the Clearinghouse must meet minimum, current FGDC standards.</p>
	<p>48. A data sharing standard or policy has been adopted to promote the open and free exchange and sharing of non-sensitive geospatial data with appropriate metadata to all NSDI stakeholders.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> A de-facto data sharing standard exists via the Clearinghouse; however, no policy exists or could be enforced via the current framework which is lacking authority.</p>
	<p>49. The state has addressed homeland security and privacy issues for public access to GIS data through laws and administrative rules.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Georgia legislation allows for the sale of geospatial data. See O.C.G.A. GORA exception to FOIA: <a href="#">O.C.G.A. § 50-29-2</a></p>
	<p>50. If the state has an exception to the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) regarding the sale of GIS data, a business model(s) and/or guidelines regarding uniform and equitable fees for GIS data reproduction and distribution have been provided.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The above code identifies "Any fees or license fees . . . shall be based upon the recovery of the actual development cost of creating or providing the geographic information system and upon the recovery of a reasonable portion of the costs associated with building and maintaining the geographic information system." However, parcel data between metro Atlanta counties, for example, ranges anywhere from free (Fulton County) to \$22,000 (Cobb County).</p>
	<p>51. Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC) specifications have been adopted to promote interoperable geospatial Web services, a Web Services Definition Language (WSDL) standard has been adopted and a standard for information content display requirements has been adopted (e.g. disclaimers, contact info, parent links).</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The Georgia GIS community, on balance, understands and implements OGC specifications. Non-participation in the National Map, however, yields a lack of promotion of these specifications.</p>
	<p>52. Best practices for contracts containing geospatial requirements for state agencies have been adopted.</p>
<b>Training, Education, and Professional Networking Activities</b>	
	<p>53. The state maintains an internal user helpdesk for GIS users that provides guidance, helps solve technical problems, and answers questions.</p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Resources can be leveraged via informal networking and the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse.</p>



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	<p><b>54. The state has a program to provide GIS technical training and professional development opportunities for staff and other stakeholders.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> No formal state training program currently exists. However, Georgia Regional Commissions, the DCA, Georgia URISA, several USG institutions, a couple Technical Colleges (Ogeechee Tech and Central Georgia Tech), and some cities offer training programs that fulfill this need. Educational articulation is completely non-existent, however. See item 44 for a recently federally-funded, more formalized training approach forthcoming in Georgia.</p>
	<p><b>55. A program exists to connect universities, community colleges and professional and trade schools that are seeking partnerships and opportunities for students to gain experience solving real-world problems with state geographic information science and technologies programs (i.e., educational articulation across institutions).</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> See item 44 for a recently federally-funded, formalized training approach forthcoming in Georgia. Also, the Board of Regents is currently compiling a "Geospatial Industry Profile" for Georgia which will help assess connectivity between students and educational institutes.</p>
	<p><b>56. A program exists to train GIS stakeholders on NSDI concepts and principles (e.g. metadata, standards, clearinghouse operations, NSDI roles and responsibilities, et cetera).</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The GISCC and Clearinghouse members inform GIS stakeholders on NSDI and GaSDI concepts and principles on an as-needed basis. An FGDC-sponsored metadata "Train-the-Trainer" session was held in Georgia, 2007, to assist agency and regional GIS leads on training their staff.</p>
	<p><b>57. The GIS Coordination Council has formed affiliations with geospatial professional organizations operating in the state such as URISA, GITA, AAG, ASPRS, professional surveyors and software user groups.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> Georgia URISA, Chapter of the year 2002 and 2007, has a representative participate in GISCC meetings. Also, ESRI representatives are involved as GISCC members, and they host regional User Groups across the state(s). The American Society of Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ASPRS) and the Surveying and Mapping Society of Georgia (SAMSOG) have not affiliated with the GISCC but are targeted for 2008-2009 inclusion.</p>
	<p><b>58. A state classification or job description system exists for GIS professionals.</b></p> <p><u>Comment:</u> The State Personnel Administration (SPC) maintains very few statewide definitions for GIS practitioners/professionals in Georgia. However, some agencies have standard descriptions that are leveraged by other agencies to "cross-walk" existing job classifications with typical descriptions of GIS jobs. Often a GIS practitioner gets hired as a "Statistical Analyst" or other title, due to the lack of a more appropriate statewide GIS-related description.</p> <p><a href="http://www.spa.ga.gov/jobdescriptionsapp/jobsalaryinfo.asp">http://www.spa.ga.gov/jobdescriptionsapp/jobsalaryinfo.asp</a></p>



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