

Interim Report - FGDC CAP Grant Category 4

(Fifty States Initiative: Business Plan Development & Implementation)

Date: September 2010

Agreement Number: G10AC00171

Project Title: *Business Plan Development for Centralized Access to Consistent Cadastral GIS Data for New York State*

Organization:

New York State Office of Cyber Security
(formerly the New York State Office of Cyber Security and Critical Infrastructure Coordination)
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Project Narrative

In 2008 New York State completed a comprehensive Strategic Plan that set a vision and priorities to advance New York State's geospatial development for the next five years. The highest priority recommendation in the 2008 Strategic Plan is to formally pursue a program to develop a statewide parcel data layer. New York State is addressing this priority by developing a business plan with the assistance of a contractor and the input of the state's assessment and real property community. The final business plan will identify and provide strategies to successfully overcome the technical, legal, and policy barriers when developing a statewide cadastral framework data layer.

The Office of Cyber Security (OCS) assembled a team of local government representatives to define the Business Plan requirements and develop a Request for Quotation (RFQ). OCS released the RFQ, evaluated two responses, and recently secured the services of Applied Geographics, inc. of Boston, MA. Their team includes two subcontractors based in NYS who both have extensive consulting experience in the state including parcel data development/integration and in-depth knowledge of the stakeholders for our project.

The kick-off meeting with the contractor was held in late August. Research activities are now underway, including open and candid discussions with local government Real Property Tax Directors and Assessors to identify their policy issues and concerns, as well as soliciting their ideas and potential solutions to achieve our goal of centralized access to consistent cadastral GIS data. Initial outreach meetings with these key stakeholders in the assessment and real property community are scheduled for September.

OCS, in partnership with the NYS Office of Real Property Tax Services (ORPTS), is also developing a current snapshot on the status of digital parcel data in New York State. In July, County Real Property Tax Directors were sent a link to an on-line questionnaire seeking technical information about the current status of their digital tax maps, the quality of the data, and its public accessibility. Follow-up reminders from ORPTS included a PDF version of the survey which helped to boost the response rate. Currently, about 72% of the counties have responded to date which is about the same response rate ORPTS has had in previous annual requests to collect a subset of this information. The PDF version of the survey is provided as an attachment to this report.

Next Steps

Digital Parcel Data Status: Review the survey results and contact those counties that did not yet complete the survey. We expect that we can achieve or come very close to our goal of a 100% participation rate by talking directly with the respondents and explaining the importance of their input for a true snapshot of the status of digital parcel data in New York State. Both OCS and our contractor team have excellent relationships with many of the stakeholders that OPRTS unfortunately was not able to successfully obtain a response.

Stakeholder Outreach: Begin to engage in earnest, county and local government stakeholder groups across the state. Outreach will focus on a select set of local government Assessors and Real Property Tax Directors who can articulate different practices and points of view. Additional interviews with potential parcel data users will include state agencies, federal agencies, and the NYS GIS Coordinating Body. Discussions are also planned with for-profit companies that have a business need for parcel data to discuss possible public-private partnerships.

Project Presentation and Outreach: We are scheduled to lead a panel session at the NYS Association of County Directors of Real Property Tax Services annual conference in October to discuss the findings to date and to seek additional input, ideas and strategies for a successful

outcome. A presentation will also be held in late October at the annual NYS GIS Conference to solicit similar input from the NYS GIS user community.

Revised Timeline

Our project is currently almost three months behind our original schedule due to a delay in awarding the RFQ. The RFQ award could not be made until New York State's budget was passed by our legislative leaders. Given this delay, we anticipate that we will need a time extension so that the stakeholder outreach and research activities are not rushed and adequate time is spent completing these important tasks. In addition, New York State will have a new executive administration coming into office in January 2011. We believe that for the final Business Plan to be appropriately acknowledged and successfully adopted by the new administration, allowing adequate time for their review and input on the first draft Business Plan is critical. OCS is working with our contractors to revise our schedule and will submit a time extension request in early 2011.

Attachments

- Tax Map Questionnaire (*ORPTS Survey.pdf*)