Ohio Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Plan Development

USGS Cooperative Agreement Program Category 3 – 50 States Initiative Strategic Plan Final Report

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The Department of Administrative Services, Office of Information Technology - Stu Davis, State CIO

Executive Summary
At the core of this project was the desire to position the Ohio Geographically Referenced Information Program (OGRIP) to fulfill its mission to benefit the users of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and spatial information at all levels of government and to help the GIS community realize the benefits of partnership opportunities that allow the leveraging of a shared GIS services environment to support the Ohio Spatial Data Infrastructure (OSDI). The importance of communicating the benefits of the OSDI and the ability to dedicate the resources necessary to support the geospatial needs of the State are critical to the success of the geospatial community as a whole. The plan confirms the critical role GIS technology as an enabler of success in achieving the five strategic mission goals of the Council, namely to,

- Encourage the creation of digital geographic data of value to multiple users
- Foster the ability to easily determine what geographic data exists
- Foster the ability to easily access data
- Encourage the informed use of geographic data.
- Leverage the partnerships that constitute OGRIP into network of resources to achieve its mission and goals

Project Narrative
This project developed a strategic planning document for the Ohio Geographically Referenced information Program Council to serve as a guide to the development and maintenance of the Ohio Spatial Data Infrastructure. The project engaged Ohio's extensive GIS user community to craft a planning document that will serve the State of Ohio and help steer the activities of the OGRIP Council. OGRIP contracted with Heartland GIS to obtain the services of Todd Tucky to provide staff augmentation and serve as OGRIP's Strategic Planning Consultant.

The plan blended the development of an OSDI strategic framework, with a State Owned Real Property (SORP) management strategy, and OGRIP's mission, to provide a practical guide and a scope within which the Council will focus its OSDI planning, development and management activities in years to come.

Key Stakeholder Agencies and Council Representatives

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Summary of Project Activities

Input was solicited in several formats. In early January, 2011 a survey was made available to a variety of stakeholder groups, listservs and email distribution groups. The survey was made available at the OGRIP
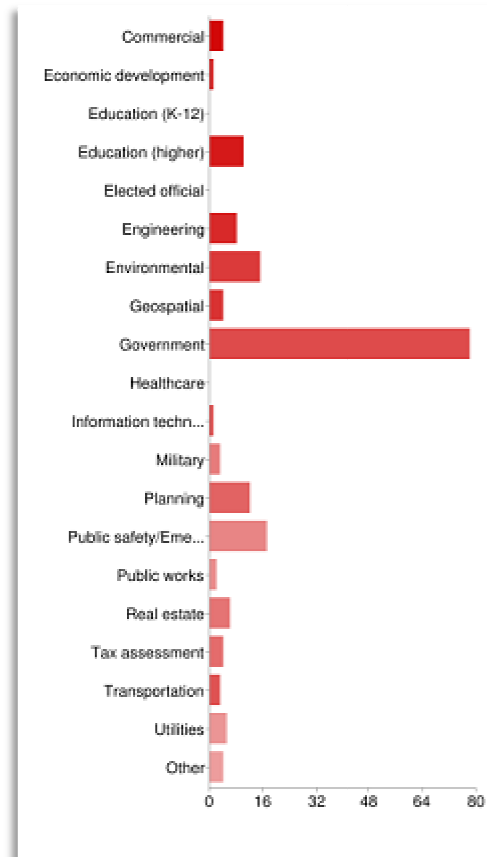

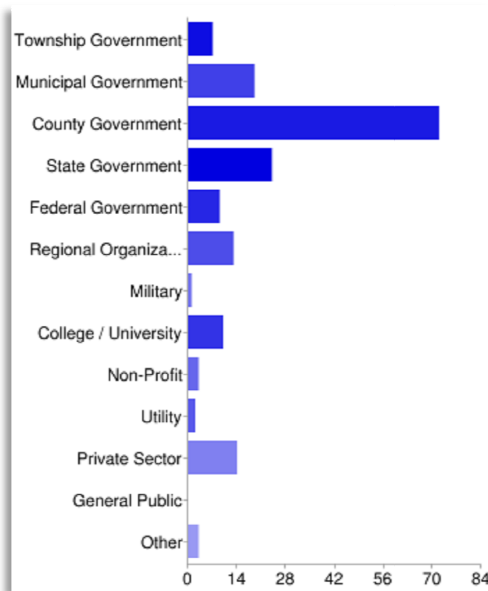webpage and was featured prominently on the home page. The survey was open anyone. Survey participation was encouraged by contacting existing members of the OGRIP forum and those participating in its listserv. Additionally, regional GIS groups promoted the survey to their members as well as other relevant stakeholder groups.

One hundred ninety eight (198) individuals responded to the survey with broad representation from a number of sectors.

Northwest Ohio Outreach Meeting
Bowling Green
February 8, 2011

Northeast Ohio Outreach Meeting
Cleveland
February 14, 2011

Central Ohio Outreach Meeting
Delaware
February 3, 2011

Southwest Ohio Outreach Meeting
Kettering
February 16, 2011

Southeast Ohio Outreach Meeting
Marietta
February 11, 2011

Following up on the survey, five outreach meetings were scheduled within the major geographic regions of the state. These outreach meetings were in conjunction with the respective geographic GIS user group meetings to increase the opportunity for attendance while also not burdening attendees with having to arrange multiple travel requests. Promotion of the meetings was made available through the same venues as the survey. One hundred one (101) individuals attended the outreach meetings with percentages of stakeholder representation similar to those obtained through the survey. The results of the survey and stakeholder meetings was then synthesized and incorporated in every element of the Strategic Plan.

The results of survey and outreach meetings were presented to the OGRIP Council, March 8, 2011. Based on this meeting an outline was developed for the planning document.

The OGRIP Council and representative members of stakeholder organizations and the USGS Liaison met at monthly intervals to review plan progress and redirect activities as necessary to maintain alignment with OGRIP mission and goals. A draft plan was presented to the Council for review and comment at the June 14, 2011 meeting.

Comments were compiled and modifications to the plan were made and presented to the Council for the July meeting for a final review with final completion of the document on August 26, 2011.

Next Steps

Development of the OSDI will involve the coordinated efforts of a number of organizations and the establishment of new partnerships necessary to insure the continued success of OGRIP's mission. OGRIP will work with stakeholder groups to define and establish data sharing and development agreements. These agreements will support the needs of GIS users for the discovery and dissemination of additional data maintained by these groups and provide for the population of the SDIs of both Ohio and the Nation. To that end OGRIP will establish a number of work groups tasked with the development standards and data models for participation in the OSDI as well as the identification and adoption of stewardship activities. OGRIP will continue its role of advocacy and education and look to expand its reach through partnerships with like minded GIS user groups.

Program viability will always be an issue; however building upon the successes of previous initiatives, OGRIP will continue to craft programs that rely on cooperative funding mechanisms rather than relying on a single sustainable funding source for OSDI activities.