

*Executive Summary of the Business Plan for:*

# Rhode Island Enterprise GIS



*Developed for the:*

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## Executive Summary

The overall direction for the advancement of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) in Rhode Island is encompassed in two existing strategic planning documents. The first is titled “2005-2010 Strategic Management Plan for the Rhode Island Geographic Information System (RIGIS)” and was accepted by the RIGIS Executive Committee in December of 2004 (reaffirmed in March of 2007). The second is titled “Strategic Plan for Geographic Information Systems” and was prepared in 2006 for the Rhode Island Department of Administration, Division of Information Technology (DoIT). Both plans embody similar vision and mission statements and mainly differ in the audience they are directed to. The DoIT Strategic Plan contains the following vision and mission statements:

**Vision:** A coordinated Geographic Information System within state government will be an acknowledged leader for the utilization of GIS technology and an accepted source of quality geospatial information for all of Rhode Island.

**Mission:** To provide leadership and services related to the use of geographic information system technology in Rhode Island state government and together within the overall RIGIS organizational effort, support initiatives to provide access to a State Spatial Data Infrastructure (SSDI) database of comprehensive geographically related information for use by federal, state and municipal government, academic organizations and private sector enterprises.

This Business Plan is directed at helping Rhode Island build-out its State Spatial Data Infrastructure by developing and nurturing an enterprise GIS architecture for enhanced data sharing within state government. As such, carrying out this plan will help the state to realize its stated vision and carry out its acknowledged mission.

The overall goal is to develop an enterprise GIS for the State of Rhode Island that capitalizes on existing investments and organizational capabilities to the greatest extent possible. Such an enterprise GIS consists of five functional underpinnings:

1. The incorporation of **GIS technology into** the existing Rhode Island state government **IT enterprise architecture**.
2. The establishment of a **secure common repository** for the efficient storage and on-going maintenance of the existing collection of state agency geospatial data.
3. The provision for broad and **easy access** to the data repository for use by all state agencies.
4. The availability of a suite of **application tools and web services** that can be integrated with GIS and non-GIS applications to provide consistent and reliable access to spatial information throughout state government and to the general public to which it serves.
5. The formal establishment of a **GIS management committee** that coordinates GIS decision making and planning across all state agencies.

This document describes the current state of GIS in Rhode Island and lays out a two phased approach for making incremental improvements that will lead to a successful enterprise GIS architecture within State government. The plan documents how various *existing* GIS components can, through a coordinated effort, be brought together to form a successful enterprise GIS environment that benefits all of state government. In the first phase, resources currently in place in the four state agencies that are now somewhat independently involved with the use of GIS technology are more formally orchestrated into a collaborative federated model. This will initially provide for a high-performance and shared interagency GIS data repository and introduce jointly managed application services. As the enterprise architecture matures into the second phase, these agency-based services are further consolidated into a more centralized GIS infrastructure within the State's existing overall IT enterprise that will provide for more robust operational support and increased disaster recovery capabilities.