



# Vermont's Enterprise Geographic Information System Initiative

*Better GIS through state agencies working together*

FEBRUARY 2008



## Why are Vermont State Agencies developing an Enterprise GIS Strategy?

In the past, State Agencies have been largely on their own in developing in-house GIS capabilities. Some agencies such as Transportation, Natural Resources, Agriculture, E-911, and Commerce have developed sophisticated systems. Other agencies are making less or limited use of GIS. The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) develops GIS technical guidelines, distributes GIS data to the general public, and promotes information exchange among the agencies. In order to efficiently expand and improve the state's use of GIS technology and to improve outreach and coordination with stakeholders outside state government, it makes sense for all state agencies to define a common vision and establish a formal alliance.

## Who is working on the Enterprise GIS Strategy?

An alliance of State agencies convened a taskforce (Enterprise GIS Taskforce – EGT) to prepare the strategic plan.

The EGT has the support of the Governor's administration and includes the following agencies and departments:

- VT Dept. of Information and Innovation
- VT Center for Geographic Information
- VT Agency of Human Services
- VT Dept. of Public Service
- VT Dept. of Education
- VT Dept. of Agriculture, Food and Markets
- VT Agency of Commerce and Community Development
- VT Agency of Natural Resources
- VT Dept. of Health
- VT Natural Resources Board
- VT Mapping Program
- VT Agency of Transportation
- VT Dept. of Labor
- VT Agency of Natural Resources

## What has the EGT accomplished?

- Established an EGT organizational charter
- Garnered participation from key agencies at monthly meetings
- Acquired funding and support from Federal sources for strategic planning
- Established an EGT web site with access to all resources
- Hired professional facilitators to assist with strategic planning
- Completed a multi-agency GIS assessment
- Drafted a preliminary Strategic Plan for Vermont's Enterprise GIS

## What's the timetable?

The EGT hopes to complete and begin implementing its strategic plan during the spring of 2008.

## What's next?

The EGT has received federal funding to support the development of a "business plan" to further refine strategic initiatives and identify financial and programmatic costs and benefits.

## To find out more:

- **Contact:** David Brotzman, Vermont Center for Geographic Information: davidb@vcgi.org or 802-882-3003
- **Review EGT reports & documents online at:** <http://www.vcgi.org/egt/>



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## Vision

- Identify opportunities for State Agencies to work together to enhance geographic information systems (GIS)
- Increase the collective effectiveness of state agencies
- Improve state agency efficiency
- Expand state agency access to a broad range of resources
- Increase the quality of decisions made throughout state government, and support each agency's mission, thus better serving all citizens of Vermont

## Strategies under discussion

- **Create a framework for an ongoing Enterprise GIS Initiative:**
  - Develop and maintain the state's Enterprise GIS Strategic Plan
  - Review and assess implementation of the Enterprise GIS Strategic Plan
  - Provide and exchange information with stakeholders inside and outside state government regarding the availability of Geographic Information Technology (GIT) resources and services
  - Encourage opportunities for shared contracts between state agencies
  - Identify and pursue shared funding opportunities for GIT initiatives
- **Data:**
  - Catalogue data layers developed by state agencies
  - Reduce redundant data development and maintenance
  - Coordinate the distribution of data for state agencies
  - Develop and maintain GIT standards and guidelines for state agencies
  - Reduce barriers for data sharing among state agencies
- **Hardware & Software:**
  - Foster sharing of GIT hardware among state agencies
  - Centralize GIT software licensing for state agencies
- **Human Resources:**
  - Coordinate GIS training and education for state government GIS technicians, users and managers
  - Develop model state government GIS job specifications and career ladders
  - Foster the capability of GIS for state government organizations not currently using GIS
  - Foster sharing of expertise and informal consulting among state agencies