



**State of Vermont
Enterprise GIS Task Force (EGT)**

**Evaluation of Agency and Departmental Strategic Plans
Identification of Strategic GIS Elements**

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Revision History

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Overview

Members of the EGT were asked to review and identify any strategic plans within their agency or department that contained elements potentially relevant to the EGT's strategic planning initiative. In looking at the submitted material from the EGT partners it was clear that there were very few agencies or organizations that include GIS specific references or elements in their strategic plans. Plans were usually focused on generalized organizational goals or project specific goals.

Identification of Strategic GIS Elements within Agency & Departmental Plans

The following section attempts to document strategic elements within Agency or Departmental plans that should be considered by the EGT during the development of a Strategic Plan for GIT in the State of Vermont.

- **Agency of Transportation (VTrans)** – No GIT specific elements. The strategic plan focused primarily at the higher-level goals such as safety, organizational excellence, transportation system planning and transportation system preservation.
- **Agency of Natural Resources (ANR)** – ANR's materials included GIS specific elements, but they focus on specific technical goals such as software, hardware and file management plans. There are plans to increase partnerships and data sharing through technology arrangements but they are specific to project or data planning.
- **Agency of Human Services (AHS)** - In their CIO Plan (2006) AHS has two items that are GIS related
 1. Development of an application to display offender data with demographic data - Dept. of Corrections
 2. Create Provider Maps - Office of Health AccessBoth of these are specific projects and are not related to interagency strategic planning.
- **Department of Agriculture** - A paid consultant created a functional analysis for the agency that contains recommendations. The Agency's IT recommendations specifically suggest pursuing Enterprise solutions including a single IT dept. for the agency, information sharing strategies and enabling enterprise database solutions. There are additional recommendations, but they were more department or project specific.
- **VT Center for Geographic Information (VCGI)** – VCGI's strategic plan and enabling legislation includes extensive references to GIS, geospatial information sharing, and the establishment of interagency relationships. Most fundamental to VCGI's mission is its enabling legislation. See http://www.vcgi.org/about_vcgi/?page=./documents/enabling_legislation.cfm

Section 122 and Section § 123 are seen as informing VCGI's internal strategic planning needs and these might provide some guidance to the EGT's strategic planning also.

- **Agency of Administration and Office of CIO** - The State of Vermont's Information Technology Plan (2007-2011) recognizes the value of Enterprise GIS. It states Enterprise GIS is "A plan to bring diverse groups of GIS users together to create a common system that will support the needs of all." Additionally the Plan defines the driving goals of the state's Enterprise efforts as follows;
 1. *VERMONTERS ARE THE ONE*. They are the citizen who renews a driver's license, the business owner who has questions about incorporation, the young mother who needs help to ensure her child's continued good health and the traveler who depends on foolproof communications when a crisis occurs on our roads. They are our customers. They are Vermonters. Improving services for them is the reason why we use technology.
 2. *WE WILL THINK AS ONE*. By working collaboratively, agency executives and technology managers will work together to ensure that all technology solutions work as efficiently and effectively as possible for Vermonters both today and in the future.
 3. *WE WILL ACT AS ONE*. State government services are many and they are diverse. Regardless of service, the state's agencies and departments will work collaboratively and follow best practices - uniform technology practices and policies - to help ensure the quickest delivery of services in the most efficient and cost-effective way possible.
 4. *WE WILL HAVE ONE DRIVER*. Mission based business processes will drive technology issues, not vice-versa. We will employ technology solutions when appropriate. We will evaluate business processes and consider changes, when necessary, to take advantage of technological advances.

- **Other States** - While most agency and departmental plan do not include GIS specific elements, it is possible to see the results of what some other states have accomplished under the USGS 50 States Program. See <http://www.fgdc.gov/policyandplanning/50states/50states> (Click on the individual states in the 50 States 2006 CAP Grants section). The author recommends closer review of Louisiana's, Wisconsin's, and Rhode Island's strategic plans.

Conclusion

While existing agency and departmental plans should be considered by the EGT, the author believes that (as of today) there are few plans in the state that contain strategic GIT-specific elements. The primary exception is VCGI's enabling legislation, which includes numerous goals and strategies that should inform the EGT's strategic planning efforts. The EGT should also review strategic plans developed by other states, especially those which have participated in the 50 States Initiative.