



Business Plan for the Development of a GIS Office for Delaware State Government

Executive Summary

This Business Plan was developed to provide a **business case** and further **implementation details** for the major proposal that resulted from the State of Delaware's Geospatial Strategic Plan from July, 2010. That plan put forward the following two "overarching strategic goals:"

1. *Delaware will establish a formal state government **GIS Office**, led by a state Geographic Information Officer (GIO), that will report into its parent agency and fall under the current geospatial governance framework provided by the Delaware Geographic Data Committee's Executive Council.*
2. *The Delaware **GIS Office** will be provided recurring funding that is dedicated to the expansion and improvement of Delaware's framework data and spatial data infrastructure.*

The Business Case:

The business case is predicated on the fact that the state – through a wide variety of agencies - has made substantial investments in geospatial technology over the past ten years and that there is a need to protect and leverage those investments. As an example, the plan identifies over \$3.7M of investments from just four significant initiatives made since 2004. With this volume of spending a more coordinated approach to future investments, orchestrated by a dedicated GIS Office, should help to harvest synergies and avoid duplicative spending.

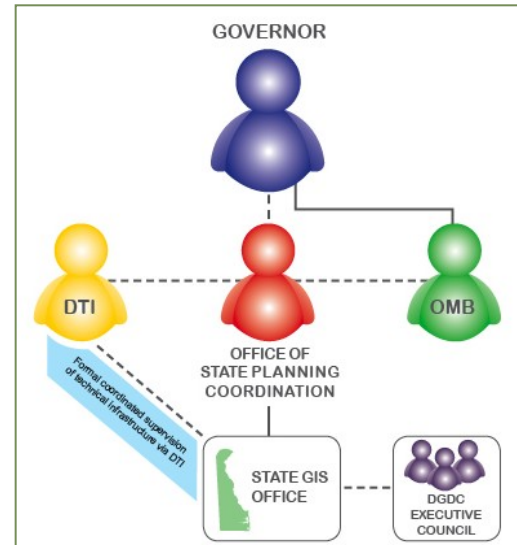
In addition, the business plan identifies three classes of specific "benefits and efficiencies" with specific examples of anticipated savings:

1. **Protecting and leveraging geospatial investments.** Examples include:
 - Ensuring that investments in the Department of Technology and Information's (DTI) Geospatial Data Exchange are protected by staff who manage the content found within the exchange.
 - Planning for the potential consolidation of the Delaware DataMIL with the Geospatial Data Exchange to create a single system with potential annual savings of \$60,000.
 - Exploring opportunities for interagency technology sharing for things such as web hosting that would avoid new expenditures by smaller agencies.
2. **Development of shared resources.** Examples include:
 - In 2008 the Delaware Coastal Program with Natural Resources and Environmental Control performed a return on investment study that documented close to \$1,000,000 of program savings emanating from their access to shared orthoimagery services. Savings were realized from:
 - \$15,000 - \$30,000 per year of avoided field work by accessing aerial imagery
 - \$925,000 in avoided contracting since aerial imagery is required for routine flood and hydrodynamic modeling projects
3. **Controlling the cost of geospatial technology growth.** Use of geospatial technology within state government continues to grow just as consumers are increasingly using GPS navigation for their

private vehicles and location-based services take root on smart phones. As documented in the plan, estimates for public sector geospatial spending growth approach 15%. A more focused geospatial investment strategy, orchestrated by a dedicated GIS Office, and employing an enterprise-wide approach for state government, has the potential to significantly contain new geospatial spending.

Implementation Details:

Organizational: The business plan recommends that a small, new GIS Office be created as a unit within the Office of State Planning Coordination. The proposed GIS Office would have three staff members and would be led by a Geospatial Information Officer (GIO). The Office would be created under the existing state geospatial governance model. The Delaware Geographic Data Committee Executive Council would serve as a Board of Directors to the office. In addition, there would be explicit coordination with DTI on technology infrastructure issues.



Mission and activities: The following mission statement was created for the new office:

*“Managing and fostering the development and maintenance of a **statewide geospatial data infrastructure** and **enterprise geospatial technology platform**. The technology platform and data infrastructure will be available to, and utilized by, all units of state government. The state’s public geospatial data assets will be made available to the state’s public and private sector partners and the general public.”*

Specific activities identified in the plan include:

- **Geospatial Coordination, Outreach & Communication**
 - **Intra-governmental** between state agencies
 - **Inter-governmental** between state and federal and local governments
 - **Extra-governmental** between state and private and academic sectors
- **Geospatial Data Coordination**
 - Providing access to state’s geospatial data assets
 - Aggregating third-party data from other levels of government for state use
 - Facilitating standards development and enhanced data quality
 - Catalyzing the development of new data, including collaborative funding strategies
- **Geospatial Technology Coordination**
 - Project and procurement review for large GIS expenditures
 - Planning and implementation of new, shared enterprise technologies
 - Enterprise licensing for GIS software and data

While Delaware has already developed substantial GIS capabilities, at the current increased level of activity and with escalating use in the public safety realm, informal coordination and a decentralized implementation model are leading to inefficiencies and lost opportunities for expanded capability. This plan documents that it is both feasible and practical for Delaware to join the majority of other states in establishing a dedicated GIS Office to coordinate state government geospatial activity.