



State of Vermont

Enterprise GIS Consortium

Annual Report – FY 2014

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Document History

Version	Date	Author(s)	Revision Notes
DRAFT1	7/1/2014	Steve Sharp, VCGI	Draft FY’14 Annual Report released for review by EGC
DRAFT2	7/7/2014	Steve Sharp, VCGI	Second draft based on EGC input
FINAL	7/11/2014	EGC	Approved by EGC via E-vote

Executive Summary

This report documents the initiatives and accomplishments of Vermont's Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC) in FY'2014. The EGC had another productive year, continuing efforts to foster efficient and effective use of the State's geospatial resources. The EGC made headway in a number of areas including revisions to its Web Services Strategy, and the establishment of three workgroups addressing the 1) creation of a new VT Open GeoData Portal, 2) statewide parcel data, and 3) improved use of GIS resources in support of emergency response activities.

The Vermont Legislature passed a bill in May 2014 that will change VCGI's legal standing 2014/2015. VCGI will be established as a Division within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD). The legislation provided that six positions (same as the number of positions VCGI currently employs) be created, and that existing employees shall be permitted to transfer to the positions created within the new VCGI. VCGI's duties have not been changed, so it will continue to provide public geospatial data, information, training, and technical support to the citizens, businesses, nonprofits, and public agencies of Vermont. VCGI will be working with its colleagues in ACCD along with EGC partners to ensure a smooth and orderly transition.

EGC History

The EGC is a voluntary consortium of state government organizations focused on effective management of State's Enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS). The EGC was chartered¹ by the State of Vermont in August 2008, culminating a yearlong strategic planning effort managed by the Enterprise GIS Taskforce² (EGT). The EGC has established a realistic and effective Enterprise GIS Strategic Plan³ (referred to as the *Plan* herein); a vision and a plan that supports a wide range of needs within and outside of state government. The Plan is an important part of the state's 'comprehensive strategy' for the development and use of Vermont's Geographic Information System (VGIS)⁴. The VGIS represents a broad spectrum of geospatial activities and constituencies throughout the state of Vermont, including academic, town, regional, non-profit, state, private sector, and the general public. The Plan articulates a strategic vision for the development and use of geospatial technology within state government; a critical component of the VGIS.

FY'2014 Accomplishments

- 1) **Vermont Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC):** The EGC held monthly meetings throughout FY 2014. This allowed the EGC to maintain momentum on a number of work items identified in the FY 2014 Business Plan⁵. EGC member participation has been steady.
 - **Strategic Plan Alignment:** Meets Objective 1, 2, & 3

¹ [EGC Charter 2008A final.pdf](#)

² The EGT has been replaced by the EGC.

³ [EnterpriseGIS_SP_v2008A.pdf](#)

⁴ Vermont Statute (Title 10 VSA - Chapter 8 § 121)

⁵ [EGC BusinessPlan FY2014 final.pdf](#)

- 2) **Parcel Workgroup:** A Parcel Workgroup was established in 2014. The Workgroup held periodic meetings focused on facilitating the goal of creating and maintaining a consistent and up-to-date statewide parcel layer for VT. The Workgroup is working with VTrans on a Return on Investment (ROI) analysis that will look at potential organizational arrangements that would support a statewide parcel data program. VCGI also received a grant from the Northern Borders Regional Commission (NBRC) to support the creation and/or update of parcel datasets for 14 towns in the NB region. The results of the NBRC project will help inform the Parcel Workgroup's efforts.
 - *Strategic Plan Alignment: Meets Objective 4, 5, 6, 7 & 9*

- 3) **Emergency Management Workgroup:** An Emergency Management Workgroup (EMW) was established under the EGC to create GIS capabilities and procedures that improve the use of GIS technology which supports State of Vermont Emergency Management planning and response activities. The Workgroup had a successful kickoff meeting, and has identified a number of work items in support of its goals and objectives.
 - *Strategic Plan Alignment: Meets Objective 4, 5, 6, 7 & 9*

- 4) **Geocortex Workgroup:** Five agencies (ANR, AHS, E911, VTrans, and VCGI) continued to share hardware and software used to support the State's Geocortex Essentials interactive mapping platform. This enterprise application has allowed these agencies to develop and maintain interactive mapping platform that meet the specific needs of their target constituencies. In 2014 the Workgroup agreed to purchase their own technical support "hours" from Latitude Geographic (the company that makes Geocortex Essentials). The Workgroup also successfully upgraded both the development and production systems to the latest version of the software.
 - *Strategic Plan Alignment: Meets Objective 4, 5, 6, 7 & 9*

- 5) **Open Data Workgroup:** The EGC established the Open Data Workgroup (formerly called the Data Warehouse Workgroup) and directed it to work with VCGI to redesign and rebuild the State's Open GeoData Portal. The Workgroup
 - i) Drafted and ranked requirements (user stories) for a new VT Open GeoData Portal.
 - ii) Tested several platforms that could be used to build and deploy a new Portal.
 - iii) Drafted, released, and received responses to a "VT Open Data Portal" RFI (Request For Information).The release of an RFP has been put on hold pending a decision by VCGI, ACCD, and EGC representatives.
 - *Strategic Plan Alignment: Meets Objective 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, & 12*

- 6) **GIS Careers in State Government:** As part of the IT reclassification analysis going on for all of state government, EGC representatives proposed a GIS track that expands the current GIS-specific positions in the state job classification system. The proposed GIS track includes 3 tiers similar to the tiers used for all other IT tracks. The EGC began to craft job descriptions. EGC representatives will continue to work with the Department of Human Resources to move this proposal toward implementation.

- *Strategic Plan Alignment: Meets Objective 15 & 16*
- 7) **EGC SharePoint site:** The EGC's SharePoint portal (EGC GeoPoint GIS Portal) was maintained and used throughout FY'2014 to share data and documents. A new sub-site was created for the Parcel Workgroup where all meeting minutes and other relevant documents are posted. The EGC's SharePoint site supports EGC activities, and acts as a central reference point for EGC documents and resources. The site is available to State employees, EGC stakeholders, and the public.
- *Strategic Plan Alignment: Meets Objective 12 & 18*
- 8) **Revised Web Services Strategy:** The EGC revised the Web Services Strategy and released a version 2.1 in January 2014. This revision addressed version naming, life cycle policies, https/ssl, service maintenance, ArcGIS Server upgrades, ArcGIS Online strategy, and included some new EGC web services.
- *Strategic Plan Alignment: Meets Objective 4 & 13*

Conclusion

The State's Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC) has continued to make significant strides toward advancing the "efficient use of the state's Geographic Information Technology sources". It has furthered this goal by improving and simplifying access to geospatial data and services, and by providing a venue where agencies can coordinate efforts. The EGC anticipates that FY'2015 will be another productive year.

Attachment A – EGC Member Directory

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