

Minnesota Geospatial Information Office

2009 Policy Initiative Fact Sheet

Recommendation

The Governor recommends creating the Minnesota Geospatial Information Office (MGIO) with responsibility and authority to plan, coordinate, and guide the implementation of the state's geospatial information technology. The office would be located within the Department of Administration and build upon coordination activities of the Land Management Information Center (LMIC).

Background

Geographic Information System (GIS) programs are in place at more than a dozen state agencies and support everything from environmental protection to emergency response. Together, these agencies annually spend between \$12 million and \$20 million on geospatial technologies, with expenditures growing by 10 percent to 15 percent annually as they independently build their own GIS programs.

Creating the MGIO, a recent study concluded, would help control costs, focus the state's investments on strategic needs and dramatically improve GIS services available to all state agencies by guiding the implementation of Shared Services.

This initiative reflects a comprehensive analysis of current GIS capabilities and business needs of all state agencies, their partners and their customers. It accomplishes the following:

- Creates an enterprise GIS office in the Department of Administration headed by a Chief Geospatial Information Officer (CGIO).
- Assigns GIS coordination responsibilities and authorities to the MGIO.
- Creates a governance structure that provides for stakeholder input that is consistent with the framework established for other enterprise technology programs.
- Transfers the assets and base budget currently associated with LMIC, including the LMIC service bureau revolving fund, to the MGIO.

Geospatial Data Clearinghouse services provide users and applications developers with quick and efficient access to a wide variety of valuable data: Demand for these online services at LMIC increased 70 percent in the past year.



This collaborative recommendation has unprecedented support among state agencies and a broad cross-section of the state's partners who have actively shaped it. The project was originally sponsored by Commissioner Brad Moore of Pollution Control Agency and is now sponsored by Agriculture Commissioner Gene Hugoson and has been endorsed by the Governor's Drive to Excellence Sub-Cabinet. The recommendation was developed with the involvement of the Office of Enterprise Technology and supports and fully advances that agency's goal of coordinated information technology within state government.

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Benefits

Guided by the MGIO, Minnesota will be able to use GIS to effectively, efficiently and economically enhance services ranging from e-licensing to resource management.

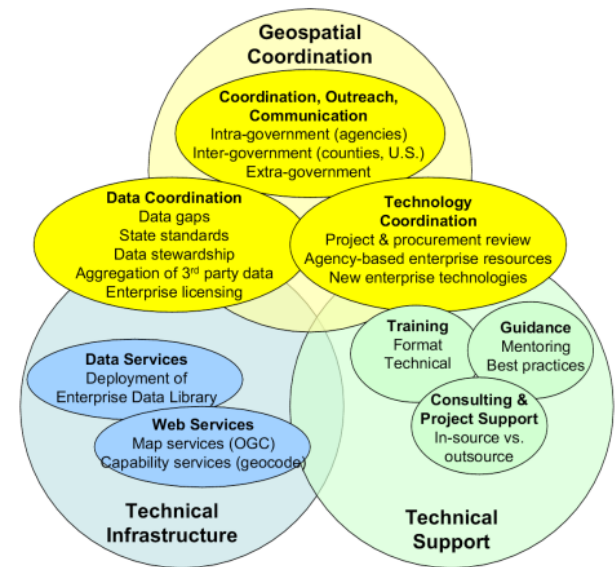
- **Cost management.** Reduced technology costs through enterprise license and purchase agreements, reduction of redundancies and adoption of GIS standards.
- **Strategic investments.** Priority-driven enterprise data and technology investments that support all agencies.
- **Improved accountability.** Single point of contact for state investments, budgets, information, data, services and applications related to GIS technology.
- **Shared services.** Implementation and support for Shared Service Centers that are coordinated to provide specialized GIS services for all agencies.
- **Leveraged workforce.** Coordinate management of specialized GIS staff to support strategic projects, enhance staff retention and maximize productivity.

Key measures and outcomes

Creation of the MGIO will realize:

- Integration of existing data to support state and local government GIS applications with common data.
- Implementation of Shared Service Centers that reduce redundancy, increase performance and reliability and provide paybacks in savings and avoided costs.
- Reduction of per-user licensing costs for GIS software by a minimum of 20 percent a year, saving \$375,000 in the FY2010/FY2011 biennium and more than \$2 million over the next three budget cycles.
- Streamlined purchasing for GIS-related technology and consulting, based upon State standards and best practices, resulting in higher quality products at reduced costs to the state and its GIS partners.

Minnesota Geospatial Coordination Model



Currently no agency coordinates geographic information systems within state government, although the Land Management Information center partially fills this void without a legislative mandate. The Minnesota Geospatial Information Office would offer enterprise services in three activities with eight elements.