



## Fall 2012 Brief

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### Objective

The primary objective of the Geocoding Workgroup is to determine the need, input requirements, benefits, and estimated costs to the State to develop or acquire geocoding service(s) along with needed or recommended standards and applicable dataset(s) necessary for its operation. From 2009-2011, the workgroup completed much work, including developing the [Statewide Geocoding Service Requirements document](#)<sup>1</sup>, which outlines the “ideal” requirements for a geocoding service. As of April 2011, the workgroup stalled at the point of identifying potential geocoding solutions through an RFI that was to be issued by MnGeo. MnGeo did not have enough resources to shepherd the RFI and the workgroup chairs did not have sufficient time to continue the workgroup without it.

### Current Status

Regardless, the need for a “statewide geocoding solution” remains. Most organizations make do with the limitations of other available options, which lessens the urgency for a solution, but does not completely meet the need. Below is a simplified matrix of three options and their matches with high-level needs.

Geocoding Option	Available for free internal use?	Supports batch processing?	Statewide coverage?	Developed with local data?	Minnesota Focused?
Google Maps	No	No	Yes	Sometimes	No
ESRI	Yes	No	Yes	No	No
MetroGIS	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes

Due to a recognition of other, higher priorities, the Geocoding Workgroup is ready to “wait its turn” for more resources and direction from MnGeo. Additional resources in the form of a project manager, one-time or permanent funding, or a new champion to re-energize the effort would be welcome at any time. Much of the existing work performed by the workgroup would be available to leverage at that point.

<sup>1</sup> [www.mngeo.state.mn.us/workgroup/geocoding/Statewide\\_Geocoding\\_Requirements.pdf](http://www.mngeo.state.mn.us/workgroup/geocoding/Statewide_Geocoding_Requirements.pdf)