

State of New Hampshire

GIS Gap Analysis and Recommendations:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

New Hampshire GIS Technical Advisory Committee

February 2017

A working group of the GIS Technical Advisory Committee (GTAC) has been tasked by the NH House Bill 377 Committee (the Geographic Information System (GIS) Committee) with conducting a gap analysis of the current status of GIS in New Hampshire in the context of the Guiding Principles recently adopted by the GIS Committee. The working group compared the 2007 New Hampshire Geographic Information System (GIS) Strategic Plan (available online at <http://granit.unh.edu/resourcelibrary/specialtopics/nhGISplans/nhGISplans.html>) with the current status of GIS in state government, identifying recent successes in implementing portions of the plan, noting challenges from the plan that still exist, and describing major opportunities for improved and expanded GIS activity. The resulting document analyzes each Guiding Principle in turn and identifies specific short-term actions that can be taken to maximize the early benefits of a NH State Spatial Data Infrastructure to the greatest number of stakeholders in the state.

Summary of Recommendations

The GTAC proposes that a formal subcommittee of the GTAC be established to prepare a two-year Action Plan

- **Outputs**

- A sequence of steps that must be taken, or activities that must be performed effectively, for a strategy to succeed
- Three major components:
 - Specific tasks that will be completed and by whom
 - Time horizon when things will be completed
 - Capital and human resources needed for specific activities to be completed

- **Required outcomes**

- GIS Committee agreement to review, amend and adopt the action plan
- Commitment to seek required resources to implement the action plan

- **Action Plan to address:**

- **Strategy #1 – Develop and maintain** NH statewide basemap and derivative data products that meet the operational needs of stakeholder agencies.
 - **Objectives -**

- Develop a statewide data acquisition plan for updates of aerial imagery, LiDAR, and derivatives on a regular schedule tied to the biennial budget.
 - Recommend a formalized protocol for data collection and aggregation similar to successful statewide projects such as Statewide Asset Data Exchange Service (SADES) & T² Parcel Mosaic, that may be used by other agencies to maintain local-scale authoritative data.
 - Implement a common way to locate geospatial features of interest to a location on the earth e.g. US National Grid as a master index for enterprise level data sharing
- **Strategy #2** - Fully realize GRANIT's potential to better support state agency operations by elevating GRANIT to the official NH State GIS Clearinghouse.
 - **Objectives –**
 - Promote common awareness of and accessibility to enterprise GIS data sets e.g. Making users aware of what GIS data is available and how to get access to it
 - Research and promote task- and cost-appropriate analytical tools e.g. Identify and promote use of the same GIS software and tools for managing and editing GIS data
 - Provide common GIS presentation tools and platform e.g. Web Viewers like Google Earth; NHDES One Stop
 - Increase outreach to state, regional, local governments, and private stakeholders e.g. Large unmet need for GIS educational and technical support aimed at the municipal government level.
- **Strategy #3** – Ensure that access to GIS technology is equitable and affordable to all state agencies
 - **Objectives –**
 - Develop best practice guidelines for data collection, storage, and management.
 - Example: Adopt official geographic data indexing system as a common way to locate geospatial features of interest e.g. US National Grid as a master index for enterprise level data sharing
 - Identify software & managerial solutions to improve license management within & across agencies.
 - Consider existing industry standards and apply when possible to effectively collaborate with organizations outside state government..
- **Strategy #4** - Enhance statewide GIS governance and policies to guide best practices.
 - **Objectives -**
 - Renew GTAC charge and outreach plan
 - Elucidate uniform legal guidance with respect to GIS and NH public records law.