



September 4, 2007

Governor Tim Pawlenty
Office of the Governor
130 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Governor Pawlenty:

On behalf of the Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information, I would like to thank you for your support of the Land Management Information Center's (LMIC) 2008-09 budget. The budget allows LMIC to continue providing services important to Minnesota and especially the GIS community.

An example of LMIC's value to Minnesota can be found in the recent I35W bridge tragedy. At the request of Mark Kam, acting State Duty Officer, LMIC sought out, processed and delivered before and after air photo imagery of the bridge site for use as a common reference system for rescue and recovery activities. Many GIS organizations provided the GIS data and support for incident response including the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County, MnDOT, and the private sector. As the number of organizations involved in an incident increases, the importance of coordination also increases. LMIC's coordination role is able to grow in large part due to the availability of its budget.

While incidents like the I35W tragedy are highly visible, it is the day-to-day work that makes it possible for organizations like LMIC to be able to respond. LMIC is leading the Statewide GIS strategic planning process, serving as liaison with federal agencies working within the state, promoting GIS coordination within the state through support for the Council and maintaining the Minnesota Geographic Data Clearinghouse. All of these activities help prepare us to be able to respond quickly and effectively when an emergency demands. It also is the thing that allows many government organizations to work together, saving taxpayers dollars and yet providing services needed by the citizens of Minnesota.

LMIC is an organization that cost effectively supports GIS programs throughout the state and is critical to the Council's ability to fulfill its mission "to promote efficient and effective use of resources by providing leadership and direction in the development, management and use of geographic information in Minnesota." Thank you for your support of GIS in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Rick Gelbmann, Chair
Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

cc: Dana Badgerow, Commissioner of Administration