

MINNESOTA'S STRATEGIC PLAN FOR GIS

Minnesota Governor's Council on Geographic Information

www.gis.state.mn.us

The Governor's Council on Geographic Information recently adopted a strategic plan in three parts: organizational, technical, and data. In sum, these plans address Governor Pawlenty's goals in his *Drive to Excellence* initiative as well as the IT profession's goals of building a sound *Enterprise Architecture*.

Presently, the Minnesota Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) is in fairly good shape, but it could be better. Most of what is in place today is the result of hard work by a few organizations and a cooperative spirit within the state. The new plan provides a more comprehensive strategy for moving forward.

Organization

The state needs fresh thinking about roles, responsibilities, and organizational relationships. The plan calls for designation and funding of a recognized authority that would oversee the development and implementation of the MSDI. Among other things that authority would be responsible for:

- Coordinating work across state agencies.
- Working with state and local stakeholders to identify GIS needs and priorities.
- Maintaining and expanding the MN Geographic Data Clearinghouse.

The full plan, *A Foundation for Coordinated GIS, Minnesota's Spatial Data Infrastructure*, is available at <http://server.admin.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=9084>

Technology

An enterprise architecture is needed to support sharing of data and application resources. The Council has developed a conceptual plan for this. The envisioned system would promote interoperability among providers, reducing long-term costs in data and software development. Among other things, the plan calls for:

- A catalog of data and application resources that are available in real time.
- Resource providers: public and private, state and local.
- A centralized "Broker," responsible for the catalog, standards, security, resource integrity, and growth of the system.

The full report, *Minnesota State GIS Enterprise Conceptual Architecture Design*, is available at <http://server.admin.state.mn.us/resource.html?Id=17091>

Data

The Council is focusing on eight thematic areas identified as high priority in surveys of the state GIS community. For each, the Council has a team working to document current status, costs of improvement, and strategies for advancement. The list includes the seven *framework* themes of national priority, plus *soils* which is particularly important for Minnesota.

- Cadastral (parcels)
- Geodetic Control
- Hydrology
- Soils
- Elevation
- Governmental Boundaries
- Imagery
- Transportation

The status of each theme is documented in Appendix B of *A Foundation for Coordinated GIS* listed above, and also on: <http://www.gis.state.mn.us/MSDI/>