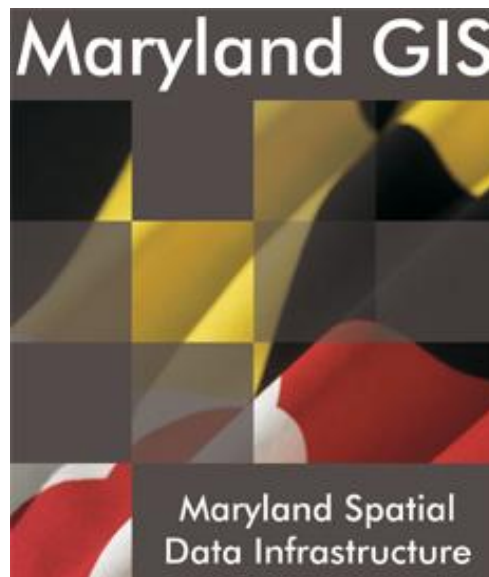


# **Statewide GIS Coordination In Maryland**

**Building an Effective Statewide Spatial Data Infrastructure**

## **Strategic Plan Executive Summary**

March 2007



**Prepared by**

**Strategic Planning Committee for  
Statewide GIS Coordination**

**Project Team Partners:**

**Towson University Center for Geographic Information Sciences  
Maryland State Geographic Information Committee**

## Executive Summary

### Status of GIS Coordination in Maryland

- Virtually every aspect of government utilizes data that is geospatial in nature.
- Current coordination efforts are driven only by volunteerism.
- Coordination efforts are not as successful as possible because there is no unified approach to GIS in Maryland.
- Maryland scores extremely low on a nationwide survey of statewide GIS coordination conducted annually by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).
- A strategic plan for statewide GIS coordination has been established through a year-long process of stakeholder- and consensus-building.
- A business plan has been established to guide Maryland toward creating an effective Maryland Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI).

### Recommendations

- Establish a state-funded, full-time Geographic Information Officer (GIO) position that reports to the State CIO.
- Establish a GIS Coordinating Council that includes representative membership from stakeholders in all sectors, State, local, academic and private.
- Establish a technical advisory board that recommends action to the GIS Coordinating Council.
- Designate and fund Towson University as the technical support for MSDI.

### Outcomes

*An effective statewide coordinating office will enable Maryland to*

- Rapidly integrate and communicate government performance for StateStat.
- Effectively plan for the impact that Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) will have on Maryland's citizens.
- Achieve a significant return on investment for the state.
- Reduce unnecessary redundancies.
- Leverage limited resources to their full potential.
- Improve emergency preparedness and regional homeland security.
- Facilitate Smart Growth efforts.
- Enhance Chesapeake Bay Restoration and Land Preservation efforts.

**Status of Maryland -  
NSGIC's Nine Coordination Criteria**

	<b>Functional</b>
	<b>Moving Forward</b>
	<b>Impaired</b>

Criteria	Status		Priority	Progress
	2006	2007		
#1 A full-time, paid coordinator position is designated and has the authority to implement the state's business and strategic plans.			Immediate	Drafting job description
#2 A clearly defined authority exists for statewide coordination of geospatial information technologies and data production.			Immediate	Strategic plan defines governance structure
#3 The statewide coordination office has a formal relationship with the state's Chief Information Officer (or similar office).			Immediate Dependant on 1,2	Executive sponsorship via IT Master Plan
#4 A champion (politician or executive decision-maker) is aware and involved in the process of coordination.			Fundamental Ongoing	Support from State CIO
#5 Responsibilities for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and a State Clearinghouse are assigned.			Dependant on 2	Unofficial but functional
#6 The ability exists to work and coordinate with local governments, academia, and the private sector.			Dependant on 1,2	Unofficial but functional
#7 Sustainable funding sources exist to meet projected needs.			Ongoing	None. Some initial awareness
#8 Coordinators have the authority to enter into contracts and become capable of receiving and expending funds.			Dependant on 1	No formal coordinating entity
#9 The Federal government works through the statewide coordinating authority.			Dependant on 1,2	No formal body to work through

## **For Additional Information:**

### **Contact Strategic Planning Committee**

#### **Chair:**

Matt Felton, Director  
Center for GIS, Towson University  
8000 York Road  
Towson, MD 21252

(410) 704-5292

[mfelton@towson.edu](mailto:mfelton@towson.edu)

#### **Co-Chair:**

Ken Miller, Acting Director, Watershed Services  
Maryland Department of Natural Resources  
Tawes State Office Building, Floor: E-2  
580 Taylor Ave.  
Annapolis, MD 21401

(410) 260-8705

[kenmiller@dnr.state.md.us](mailto:kenmiller@dnr.state.md.us)

or visit

<http://www.MarylandGIS.net/coordination>