

# Coordinating Maryland's Mapping Resources

Saving time and money through enhanced efficiency

## *A Vision For Improving GIS Coordination in Maryland*

*A partnership of the Towson University Center for Geographic Information Sciences and the Maryland State Geographic Information Committee has been awarded a federal grant to participate in the Future Directions Fifty States Initiative project to develop strategic and business plans for GIS coordination in Maryland. The grant is funded by the U.S. Geological Survey through the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), whose mission is to help and encourage all levels of government, the private and non-profit sectors, and the academic community to share geospatial data.*

*The Fifty States Initiative outlines a fundamental change in the way governments can work together to build the NSDI. The Maryland Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) will permit state and local government agencies to focus on their missions secure in the knowledge that the framework geospatial databases, such as roads, streams, elevations, and parcel, will be available at sufficient scales and accuracies to meet their needs.*

*The project partnership is aware of the GIS programs and resources that are already in place or in progress in Maryland. The Strategic Planning Committee membership includes a broad range of Maryland's GIS stakeholders.*

*The mission of the Maryland Spatial Data Infrastructure Strategic Planning Committee is to produce the design for an inclusive statewide GIS coordinating body and to coordinate the partnerships that will accomplish the nine criteria for GIS coordination as articulated by the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).*

Visit [www.marylandgis.net](http://www.marylandgis.net) to find out how you can get involved in MSDI. Our e-mail address is [msdi@towson.edu](mailto:msdi@towson.edu).

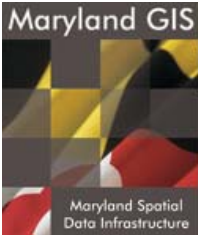
## What is GIS?

Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is a sophisticated software technology that not only preserves paper maps and other documents electronically through scanning and digital conversion, but also promotes competent decision-making by letting organizations quickly and effectively put large quantities of geographic data to work. With good geospatially referenced data in digital format, any organization can use GIS to enhance profitability and efficiency. GIS can also join geographic data with Web server technology so valuable information can be delivered quickly and easily to an organization, via an Intranet, or to everyone, via the Internet. By integrating innovative processes from a variety of disciplines, GIS applications give organizations powerful tools for mapping, analyzing, managing, and planning.



This effort is being coordinated through





## ***Geographic Information A Valuable Capital Asset, An Invaluable Resource***

*Maryland's design for GIS coordination will address NSGIC's suggested criteria.*

- A full-time, paid coordinator position is designated and has the authority to implement the state's business and strategic plans.*
- A clearly defined authority exists for statewide coordination of geospatial information technologies and data production.*
- The statewide coordination office has a formal relationship with the state's Chief Information Officer (or similar office).*
- A champion (politician or executive decision-maker) is aware and involved in the process of coordination.*
- Responsibilities for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and a State Clearinghouse are assigned.*
- The ability exists to work and coordinate with local governments, academia, and the private sector.*
- Sustainable funding sources exist to meet projected needs.*
- Coordinators have the authority to enter into contracts and become capable of receiving and expending funds.*
- The Federal government works through the statewide coordinating authority.*

***Local government, counties, and state agencies and departments that share data and build collaborative relationships save time and money.***



## **Coordinating Maryland's Geospatial Assets**

### **People**

- State / Local / Federal / Private / Nonprofit / University partnerships
- All members of Maryland's geospatial community working together to build an effective statewide spatial data infrastructure that serves and protects citizens and contributes to the NSDI.

### **Data**

- Cooperative Street Centerline Project
- Statewide Imagery Acquisition Partnership
- Sharing to The National Map

### **Shared Applications**

- County & Municipal GIS Applications
- Maryland Mapping Resource Guide
- EMMA (Emergency Management Mapping Application)
- Maryland Emergency Geographic Information Network (MEGIN)
- Maryland Shorelines Online
- MdProperty View
- Environmental Public Health Tracking System
- Many others...!

For more information, please visit <http://www.MarylandGIS.net> or contact Matt Felton ([mfelton@towson.edu](mailto:mfelton@towson.edu) / (410) 704-5292)