Session 3.1.3   Beyond A Strategic Plan, Developing An Enterprise Geospatial Information Management System

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Geographic Information Systems (GIS) have been around for a long time, and the promises that have been made of simplifying lives by making all the information we need available at our finger tips seems a distant memory. The reality is that technology, or better yet, the public perception of technology, has raised customer expectations of the amount of factors that are to be considered in transportation decisions. GIS and other information technologies have struggled to keep pace with customer expectations. The question with which GIS managers must contend: What will it take to deliver an enterprise GIS that can integrate data from various sources and formats throughout the organization to deliver relevant information to decision makers reliably and consistently?

This paper discusses two aspects of the development of an enterprise geospatial information management system in Caltrans. The first is the context or domain in which the strategic decisions were made, and the second is the fundamental strategic decisions that shaped the operations and development of the system. Both perspectives are essential to understanding what the decisions were and why they were made.

The discussion then focuses on the development of a strategic planning process and three key decisions to develop a custom data model for Caltrans linear referring system, develop dynamic segmentation web services, and develop a geospatial web messaging service as the backbone of an enterprise service bus.

Then we'll move to the business advantages that the technology and policies provide and their application to department operations.