

2.2.2 Florida DOT Enterprise GIS – Establishing a Business Case

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Like many other DOTs, metropolitan planning organizations (MPO), and municipal governments, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) also has realized the importance of establishing relationships between spatial data and business processes, and integrating various localized information systems. Though the department has invested significantly in GIS technologies, due to the decentralized organizational structure and needs, several localized GIS databases and applications are developed. The result is a fractured GIS, where data sharing, data creation, application development, and techniques are not shared across functional groups, which in turn creates redundant data storage and ineffective workflow. Hence, Florida DOT initiated its effort towards an Enterprise GIS.

Florida DOT understood the magnitude of such initiative in terms of requiring substantial sustainable resources and hence embraced a phased approach, intending to tread in smaller steps towards their ultimate vision. The initiative was envisioned to consist of three phases wherein the first phase dealt with formally establishing a business case for an Enterprise GIS. Upon demonstration of a business case and with management support, Florida DOT plans to proceed to the subsequent phases where data models and pilots we developed and implemented.

This presentation focuses on the ongoing first phase of the project which was started in July 2007 and expected to be completed by January 2008. The presentation will discuss in detail the findings from the first phase with an emphasis on various steps and methodologies involved in the process such as defining the concept of Enterprise GIS, identifying key business mandates and associated data flows and identifying redundant datasets, sources, and needs. Some of the key success factors and challenges as perceived by the stakeholders who are involved in the initiative will also be discussed in the presentation.