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Using Web GIS to Track Government Spending and Performance

Presenter

Eric Floss
Transportation Practice Manager
ESRI
efloss@esri.com

Co-Presenter

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) transformed government spending and performance monitoring through the institution of new reporting guidelines that promote transparency and accountability in government. This new set of guidelines transcends ARRA and is now becoming the model used by Transportation agencies, applying it to all Transportation spending.

In this session we will present how an enterprise GIS can support the wide range of needs within a Transportation agency. GIS-based case studies on reporting and performance dashboards will be presented along with project tracking and management solutions. Case studies will focus on examples and best practices for communicating complex information and topics to the public. Web-based mapping solutions developed and implemented for Recovery.gov, Maryland StateStat, USDOT Recovery, Maine DOT, and the City of Lenexa, KS will be highlighted during this session. These GIS-based solutions demonstrate the power of mapping as a way to communicate government policy. They are amongst the best examples that allow people to see their government's decisions and the consequences of those decisions.

Recovery.gov relaunched in Fall 2009 with a specific emphasis on spending maps. The various web mapping pages on the site allow users to navigate all 50 states to show where federal contracts, grants, and loans are going and who's receiving the money. Users can then drill down to see spending for their own county or locality, including zip codes. Maryland's StateStat's performance-measurement and management tool implemented by Governor Martin O Malley was in operation before ARRA. Modeled after the CitiStat program that he developed as Mayor of Baltimore City, the State of Maryland is using this GIS data management approach to make government work more effectively for the residents in Maryland. USDOT and Maine DOT implementations both present Transportation agency examples on delivering project and budget information in an easy to interpret manner. Examples like these offer a preview of what's to come next in the Gov 2.0 era.