

USDOT and Geospatial Information

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Innovation for a Nation on the Move



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Topics

- Current State of Geospatial in USDOT (aka The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly)
- Internal Agenda
- External Agenda

Current State: The Good

- Transportation data/information is inherently geospatial
- Many talented geospatial professionals
- Increasingly recognized by senior leadership

Current State: The Bad

- There is no single USDOT Geospatial Program



"They're not stovepipes, they're Cylinders of Excellence"

"Cylinders of Excellence"

- USDOT is comprised of 9 Operating Administrations, OST, OIG, SLSDC, and STB
- Most, if not all, have some geospatial components
- Some have multiple programs (FHWA has at least 4)
- Some programs are relatively new, some have been in existence for more than 20 years
- Little or no coordination between the programs

Current State: The Ugly

- Turf Wars
- Duplication of Effort
- No coordinated USDOT response to FGDC and OMB Data Calls

Internal Agenda

- Attempt to change the culture
 - OneDOT, why not OneGIS?
 - Separate programs are ok, but all should work together to meet DOT goals
 - Promote sharing and a sense of camaraderie amongst the programs through a USDOT Geospatial Community of Interest

Geospatial Community of Interest

- Many attempts to form such a community in the past, but they were all regulatory
- Current GCOI designed to share information about and among the various programs
 - Includes members from throughout USDOT
 - Meet regularly
 - More than 50 members
- GCOI will work together to develop Strategic Plan

Internal Agenda: GIS for Everyone?

- Promote the use of geospatial information throughout USDOT by providing simple mapping and analysis tools
 - Google Earth?
 - Virtual Earth?
 - ArcGIS Explorer?
 - Customized ArcGIS Server “dashboard”?

External Agenda

- Participate in FGDC and OMB e-government initiatives
- Reach out to counterparts in other Federal agencies
- Become an active participant in NSGIC and Transportation for the Nation

USDOT and TFTN

- What role will USDOT play in TFTN?
 - Help bridge the gap between NSGIC State Coordinators and State DOT Geospatial Programs
 - Promote the initiative within USDOT, AASHTO, TRB, Congress, etc
 - Provide funding to develop the TFTN Strategic Plan
 - Participate in the Steering Committee for the Strategic Plan development
 - Become the caretaker for resulting transportation geospatial data

Funding the TFTN Strategic Plan

- Maybe the “OneDOT, OneGIS” doctrine is working!
- 3 different USDOT Geospatial Programs are offering funding for the TFTN Strategic Plan development:
 - RITA/BTS
 - FHWA Office of Policy
 - FHWA Office of Planning

TFTN Final Thoughts

- You've probably heard this before from me, but:
 - TFTN has to be about more than roads
 - Let's tackle the roads, then move on to other modes of transportation
 - Expanding TFTN is the only way to ensure buy-in from throughout USDOT and the Transportation Geospatial Community

Questions?

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