

DECISION MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Geospatial Data Sharing Partnership

DATE: September 11, 2006

BACKGROUND

Geospatial information – any dataset with a locational element, such as an address or a tax lot ID – is an essential component of the business of government. The vast majority of all information used in the management of government at all levels can be referenced to a location. Public institutions and private firms expend considerable resources collecting and managing geospatial information in many formats and scales. A modern automated system of accessible geospatial information and technologies is required to serve the essential needs of individuals, businesses, and government agencies.

Unnecessary duplication of effort and cost is incurred by government agencies because currently available geospatial data and land records: (1) are not consistently collected and maintained from jurisdiction to jurisdiction and agency to agency, (2) are not maintained in a manner that assures integrity of the data for supporting the business of government, (3) often do not meet National Map Accuracy Standards, and (4) are not readily available or useful for cooperative planning or policy decisions.

Government business processes share a fundamental need, in particular, for foundational geospatial data, referred to as Framework data. Framework data is the underlying base information to which all geospatial data can be referenced. Framework data is the map linework and the minimum data that describes that linework. For example, road data is Framework data and includes the road centerline depicted on a map, as well as the name(s) of the road, the ID numbers of that road used by the jurisdictions through which it passes, the government agency that owns/maintains the road, and perhaps a few other descriptive data elements. Aerial imagery is another example of Framework data.

RATIONALE

The essential component of all automated land information systems is valid, consistent, comprehensive, available, and current data. Since federal, state, regional, tribal, county, and municipal agencies, state universities and colleges, private firms, and others require the same geospatial Framework data, it is desirable that unnecessary duplication of effort be avoided, that existing data be shared in a coordinated manner, and that new data be developed in an accurate and usable form based on agreed upon standards.

There is a need for a partnership between local governments and the State to ensure that Framework data is produced and maintained consistently and comprehensively statewide and made easily accessible in support of all government business processes. To accomplish this objective, an intergovernmental structure is needed to set the parameters of the partnership, coordinate geospatial activities of the partners, and work with all government agencies to support services for the citizens of Oregon in a more efficient and effective manner.

There is also a need for additional funding to support Framework data development, maintenance, and access for all jurisdictions. The current level of investment in Framework data development is not sufficient to complete the data in a timely manner. Statewide completion of Framework data and accessibility of that data will result in

substantial savings for state and local government, according to the business case developed by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Association of Oregon Counties explore a partnership with the State of Oregon to:

- A) Develop a shared intergovernmental structure authorized to provide leadership in planning and policy with regard to the development, maintenance, use, and accessibility of geospatial Framework data. The intergovernmental structure will be developed jointly by AOC and the State, in collaboration with other stakeholders. The intergovernmental structure will be supported with existing state funds, leveraged against federal and other funds, at least for the first biennium. The intergovernmental structure will:
 - i. Provide for equitable membership among the stakeholders, which includes county, city, state, federal, and tribal governments
 - ii. Be provided administrative support through the Department of Administrative Services' Geospatial Enterprise Office
 - iii. Collaborate with all government agencies in the sharing, development, and maintenance of Framework data through a partnership agreement
 - iv. Determine, define, and implement short and long-term strategic partnerships related to the collection, use, management, maintenance, and funding of spatial Framework data that will result in improved decision making, effective asset management, the efficient delivery of governmental services and reduced costs for the citizens of Oregon
 - v. Review current statutes pertaining to local government liability and risk associated with spatial data development and use, and recommend changes to the Legislature that will substantially reduce or limit that liability and risk
 - vi. Develop and recommend to the Legislature methods of long-term financing for the development and maintenance of Framework data
 - vii. Assist local and state government agencies in defining technical specifications and standards to use in the collection, development, distribution, and reporting of spatial information
 - viii. Coordinate with the Federal Geographic Data Committee, the United States Geological Survey, the Census Bureau, FEMA, and other federal agencies in the development of Oregon spatial Framework data to ensure that data can be incorporated in federal programs
- B) Support a legislative request for additional funding for continued development of a geospatial data utility that will accelerate Framework data development at the local and state levels, provide ongoing funding for maintenance of that data, and provide the technology and institutional infrastructure needed for data accessibility and security in support of efficient and effective services to citizens.