

VCGI Quarterly Operational Overview
For the Board of Directors of the
Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Inc.
December 2012 (FY 2013)

Funded Projects

Vermont Agency of Transportation:

VCGI provides technical assistance to VTrans in the form of GIS support services, RFP development, and other technical support services that enhance Agency and State objectives. VCGI has performed a prototype to verify the process of merging VTrans and E911 road datasets into a single master road centerline layer for the State of Vermont. VTrans has an RFP out to perform this work on the full dataset. Contract Value: \$100,000

Vermont Emergency Management:

VCGI continues to provide project design and emergency data support to VEM for their operations. Ivan Brown is the designated support individual for VCGI to VEM data and the Public Safety community. Ivan is coordinating with VEM on the development of a operational manual to provide guidance to all GIS support during an emergency. VEM gets volunteer help from VCGI and the RPCs during an emergency. This guidance will provide a consistent operational framework for those GIS personnel that come in to help.

VCGI is also working with VEM, Vtrans, E911 and the RPCs to coordinate on providing a single road closure data service that will be integrated into DLAN. Ideally this single service will provide both federal and local road closures. VTrans would be the supplier of the federal road information and the RPCs have taken responsibility for providing local road closure information during an emergency. Contract Value: \$30,000

VT Homeland Security Unit:

VCGI is coordinating the engineering and development of a Virtual VT application based upon the design of the Virtual USA model. The Virtual VT application is a browser based application designed to integrate various state geospatial, remote sensor and multimedia data feeds into a common operating picture for improved situational awareness. VT HSU has decided to fund the development and implementation of a Virtual VT prototype. VCGI was the lead on the design and development of this application. Ivan Brown, VCGI's new hire will be taking over the work with VEM and HSU in the upcoming months. Contract Value: \$150,000

VT E-911 Board:

VCGI has signed a Service Level Agreement with E-911 for VCGI to host web services using ArcGIS server for E911. VCGI has agreed to provide support for these services through normal business hours.

VT Dept. of Agriculture:

VCGI is working with personnel at the VT Dept. of Agriculture to help them develop their internal GIS data and services organization and capacity. Dejung Gewissler and Mike Brouillette are supporting them as consultants to inform them on best practices and provide support and guidance documents in order to best position them for the developing enterprise GIS environment in the state. This work is consulting support only and funded by VCGI's appropriation. VCGI is currently discussing database organization activities with Ag personnel. Because this data will be critical information for VEM and Public Safety in the future this effort is partially funded with Virtual VT and VEM monies. MOU Value is undetermined at this time.

VT Sustainable Jobs Fund:

VCGI is working with the VT Sustainable Jobs Fund to define, access, collect and organize their geospatial information in support of their alternative energy development goals. A new MOU was signed by VSJF enabling them to engage VCGI to upgrade the data and data models used in the Sustainable Energy website. Mike Brouillette is the project manager for this project. MOU Value: \$8,000 (Estimated)

NTIA State Broadband Initiative (SBI) Grant Updates:

The VT Broadband Mapping Team continues to maintain the BroadbandVT.org (www.broadbandvt.org) website. A full marketing effort will be underway until December to support continued public awareness of the site. The marketing effort may be extended.

The Regional Planning Commissions have completed their sub-grant to establish Regional Technology Planning Teams in the state. The effort is led by Bethany Remmers (NWRPC).

This past quarter there have been several changes within the subcontractors that support the SBI for VCGI.

The Dept of Public Service has moved Gregg Trask to another task and put Evan Shearer in charge of the task of being liaison with the providers. Evan does not have the web experience that Gregg did so website editing responsibilities will be moved to Dejung Gewissler and Caro Thompson at VTA.

Deb Shannon at VTA resigned her job as Director of Broadband Outreach and Coordination. After a short delay VTA hired Caro Thompson to take Deb's

position. Caro will be working more closely with Karen Marshall.

Dejung Gewissler has taken over technical contract management of the SBI grant at VCGI. Dave Brotzman remains grant manager.

The federal SBI management team has requested a fuller accounting and description of grant match items as claimed by the participants. This is only a precautionary review in order to be sure that the grantees have their match well documented.

The next delivery of SBI grant data to NTIA is scheduled for April 1, 2013. VCGI is also coordinating with Karen Marshall and staff at the Dept. of Public Services to provide derivative data from this effort that can be publicly released. Connect Vermont has hired Stone Environmental to create maps and statistics based upon the SBI data to show the availability of broadband in the state. Total SBI Grant Value: \$3,542,996

Core Activities

Staff

After several changes to VCGI staff last quarter, there have been no significant changes this quarter.

Board of Directors:

Rep. Tom Stevens has offered to fill the open House Legislature seat. VCGI has contacted the Clerk of the House to move this forward.

FY 13 Legislative Activities:

Best information at this time is that VCGI's appropriation will be \$378,700. This amount represents level funding from last year.

Imagery Data Program:

The statewide orthophoto imagery is made available free to the RPCs, and Towns in uncompressed format. The public has access to the same data in compressed format through our free data download capability and anyone may purchase the data in uncompressed format on a hard drive at very reasonable prices.

Color and infrared ortho imagery was successfully acquired in the Spring of 2012 over Addison, Orange and Washington county areas. This imagery has been delivered to VCGI and it has been sent to the QC contractor for initial review. A change in QC contractor personnel has slowed the final acceptance of the data, but the data should be available before mid-January.

VCGI is coordinating with the Town of Waterbury (through Dan Currier), Chittenden County (through Pam Brangan) and Dept of Homeland Security (through Lin Neifert – USGS) to enable buy-ups over the Waterbury, Chittenden

and Barre-Montpelier areas in the spring of 2013. Chittenden and Waterbury will be collected at 15cm GSD and Barre-Montpelier will be collected at 30cm. Estimates have been secured from the contractors, now the partners have a few weeks to discuss and commit. VCGI will begin the discussion about making a contract mod with BGS as soon as possible. None of the buy-up work impacts the existing statewide 50cm GSD ortho collection already contracted for the Spring

Enterprise Geospatial Consortium Activities:

VCGI continues to support state agency related Enterprise GIS activities. The EGC partners have initiated a revision of the "look and feel" standard for MAPS.VERMONT.GOV sites.

The EGC partners have coordinated an upgrade of the Geocortex software and training was provided for each agency that provided funding to the upgrade. The EGC is working on Geocortex implementation.

Strategic Planning:

VCGI staff and leadership have been discussing changes to the VCGI business model over the past several months. There were two Strategic Planning meetings held with the Board where participants discussed future options, VCGI services and customer support. The question of whether VCGI can remain outside of state government was also discussed.

VCGI Website and Server Upgrades:

Given the age of our equipment VCGI has begun to change the implementation of our web site and redesign of our data warehouse. We are interested in integrating our web mapping suite to use current geospatial web mapping services and open standards. As a part of this process, our server infrastructure has been upgraded. DI&I stood up virtual server capacity for VCGI in early September. VCGI is loading our foundation data services (cached imagery, LiDAR derivatives and vector data) to provide public and state access through the DI&I facility.

VCGI released a new Interactive Map Viewer for public access. We are working with DII on a new front to our website.

VCGI continues to consult with the EGC on what data and services would be most useful to the enterprise. We will do whatever our budget will allow to support the enterprise.

NTIA State Broadband Initiative Grant Overview

VCGI, as prime contractor representing the larger team from VT, was awarded Broadband Mapping Grant by NTIA for 1.2M. The original award was for 5 years, but only the first 2 years were funded. Subsequent to the first award, in late

September 2010, NTIA awarded additional funding for years 3 thru 5 as an Amendment to the existing grant. VCGI's partners in this grant are the VT Telecommunications Authority, UVM- Center for Rural Studies, VT Dept. of Public Service and VT E911. There is also a significant role for private sector contractors. The full grant covers broadband telecommunications data collection, verification, and display for federal fiscal years 2010 thru 2014.

- VCGI awarded the wireless voice and data propagation mapping and verification contract to a team lead by Pericle Communications Inc.
- VCGI awarded the contract for the development of a BroadbandVT.org Website to a Team lead by Applied Geographics.
- VCGI awarded the contract for marketing support for the project to Marketing Partners.
- The last full delivery of Broadband data, with limited verification, was provided to NTIA in mid-November, 2010. Provider coverage data is being compiled and integrated by VCGI with support from DPS and the Providers themselves.
- DPS, VTA and VCGI have each hired a full time employee, with benefits, to support the State Broadband Data and Development grant activities. The latest data and information relating to the NTIA Broadband Mapping Grant is available at; <http://www.vcgi.org/projects/bmi/>
- When the Team was awarded the Amendment in September 2010, all of the proposed initiatives were accepted at the requested funding level with the exception of the e-Vermont School Modernization Initiative which was not funded at all.

The initiatives that were funded thru the Amendment are as follows;

1. Data Collection, Integration, Verification, and Display – Vermont's Broadband Mapping Initiative (BMI) is a collaborative broadband data collection and verification effort involving partners from the public, private and academic sectors. The Team will collect broadband availability data from the Providers and from public sources. Broadband availability data will be verified by drive testing, field checking, public surveys (offline and online), and through interaction with the providers. Data and broadband related information will be made available through the BroadbandVT.org website. The requested amount for this effort is \$1,562,000.
2. Broadband Capacity Building – The Vermont Telecommunications Authority will create a position for a Director of Broadband Coordination and Outreach. The Director will act as a liaison between Providers and government and the bodies they serve to instill the broadband vision, preserve its consistency and create an atmosphere of common mission. The liaison will be a bridge between state offices and regional planning agencies to convey information in both directions about infrastructure, aggregation, adoption and policy efforts. The proposed Director will accelerate opportunities to achieve the outcomes set forth in the VT Telecommunications Plan. The requested amount for this effort is \$531,900.
3. Regional Broadband Planning - Vermont's participating Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) will develop a network of contacts in communities and local

sectors to assess where promising opportunities are available to develop broadband adoption and/or access. Regional Technology Planning Teams will be formed to plan and realize these opportunities. Through these partnerships, groups will have new opportunities to access various technical assistance programs available for others. The Regional Technology Plan will offer the State and other groups a plan for rolling out broadband technologies at the local and regional levels. The requested amount for this effort is \$250,034.