

VT Open GeoData Portal – Project Overview

Prepared for the VCGI Board of Directors

3/17/2014

Executive Summary: The VT Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) currently hosts a VT Open GeoData Portal (herein referred to as the GeoData Portal) which allows users to access and use geospatial information and services. The current GeoData Portal is over a decade old, and lacks the capabilities and functionality that end users and publishers need and expect. This project endeavors to build a modern VT Open GeoData Portal supporting the needs of users and publishers. The project is being coordinated by the State’s Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC) with VCGI has the lead organization.

Vision Statement: Connecting publishers and consumers in a user-driven portal that facilitates finding, exploring, contributing, and consuming geospatial information.

Strategic Alignment: This project aligns with several strategic objectives.

- **State’s Enterprise GIS Strategic Plan¹:**
 - Objective 8: Catalogue geospatial datasets developed by VT state agencies.
 - Objective 10: Coordinate the distribution of data for VT state agencies.
- **VCGI’s Strategic Plan²:**
 - Objective 1: VCGI is the recognized clearinghouse for GIS data in the state.

Stakeholder Representatives: The EGC is the coordinating body for this project. The EGC has established an EGC Open Data Workgroup (formerly called the Data Warehouse Workgroup) to spearhead this initiative. The EGC has representatives from nearly every State agency. The needs and interests of State agencies are represented by their EGC member representatives. The EGC has also engaged stakeholders outside of State government, including Regional Planning Commissions (VAPDA representative), the University of Vermont, and the private sector.

Accomplishments to Date: The EGC’s Open Data Workgroup has accomplished the following

Project Milestones	Date
Kickoff Meeting – EGC Data Warehouse Workgroup	May 2013
Drafted Project Charter	June 2013
Identified Requirements (Ranked by Priority) & Defined Target Audience	Sept 2013
Completed Competitive Analysis	Oct 2013
Evaluated COTS Solutions and Software Platforms. Tested top candidates (Socrata, CKAN, GeoPortal Server ³)	March 2014

¹ https://outside.vermont.gov/sites/egcgeo/Documents/EnterpriseGIS_SP_v2008A.pdf

² <http://vcgi.vermont.gov/sites/vcgi/files/aboutvcgi/Strategic%20Plan%202012%20Final.pdf>

³ Testing not fully complete.

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EGC Vote: The EGC conducted an “e-vote” on the following question the week of 3/10-3/14/2014.

Should the EGC/VCGI move forward with building a new VT Open GeoData Portal (Data Warehouse) now OR wait and hope that the State's new Open Data Portal will support the requirements identified by the EGC?

- DO NOT WAIT: build the new VT Open GeoData Portal now based on EGC requirements.
- WAIT: Geodata should be distributed via the State's Open Data Portal, so the EGC/State should spend the time necessary to "harmonize" these efforts.

Results: *5 voted for “DO NOT WAIT”. 1 voted to “WAIT”.* A total of 6 votes⁴ were cast.

Next Steps: Based on the EGC’s vote, VCGI would like to move forward with building a VT Open GeoData Portal. To do this VCGI needs to allocate \$30K from its budget so that it can hire a contractor from the State’s pre-approved GIS contractor list. If approved VCGI would get a Statement of Work out in the April timeframe. We are looking for support from the VCGI Board of Directors.

⁴ There are 8 EGC member organizations that qualify as “voting members”. Others are non-voting members.