

VCGI Quarterly Operational Overview
For the Board of Directors of the
Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Inc.
June 2013 (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, Homeland Security and Dept. of Public Safety:

VCGI continues to provide project design and emergency data support to VEM/HS and the Dept. of Public Safety for their operations. Ivan Brown is the designated support individual for VCGI to VEM data and the Public Safety community.

Between VEM, DPS, and Homeland Security, Ivan is spending a lot more time in support of the Public Safety sector. As these organizations are maturing their GIS capacity in a significant and meaningful way VCGI will continue to support them as needed. The ED had a meeting with Paco Aumand and Joe Flynn in April to discuss this increased need and suggested the yearly support grant will need to be increased and suggested that both organizations should contribute to the cost. 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. 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. This grant was completed in May, 2013. Contract Value: \$150,000

VT E-911 Board:

VCGI has 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. Services are provided to E911 on a developmental platform for evaluation and testing.

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. The Dept. of Ag has decided they do not have the resources to maintain a GIS in their organization and have asked us to stand down. They have put out a job opening for a GIS Technician.

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: \$4,000 (Estimated)

NTIA State Broadband Initiative (SBI) Grant Updates:

The VT Broadband Mapping Team continues to maintain the BroadbandVT.org (www.broadbandvt.org) website. The contract is coming in to the final year and half of the grant. While there are still issues that need attention for every delivery the processes in place have stabilized.

NTIA performed a review of the Match for the project. There were no issues found and both VCGI and NTIA are considered to be in agreement on Match.

A review of the expenditures of the sub-contractors showed that two sub-contractors were under spending their budget significantly. Those sub-contractors were the Dept. of Public Service and UVM, Center for Rural Studies. VCGI has sent both of them contract modifications to lower their full grant budget in to reflect the underspending and release those funds for other activities.

Dejung Gewissler (VCGI) and Caro Thompson (VTA) have defined revisions to the BroadbandVT.org website that were recently integrating.

The April 1, 2013 delivery of SBI grant data to NTIA is scheduled for. VCGI is also coordinating with 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

There have been no significant staff changes this quarter.

Board of Directors:

Additions or changes to the Board of Directors have been put on hold until we know what is going to happen with the potential merge with DII.

FY 14 Legislative Activities:

VCGI's recommended appropriation of \$378,700 for FY 14 passed. This amount represents level funding from last year. David met with both House and Senate Appropriations Committees to discuss this appropriation. There was good discussion about VCGI as always, but there was no strong opposition voiced during the meeting as regards this appropriation.

House and Senate Institutions Committees passed the yearly \$100,000 allocation in the Capital Fund in support of the statewide orthophotography program. This appropriation will fund year four of the five year program.

The passage of Act 50 Sec E.123(a) contained the following language;
(a) No transfer of functions of the Geographic Information System (GIS) program shall occur in fiscal year 2014 without legislative approval. The Executive Director of the GIS program shall report on or before November 30, 2013 to the Joint Fiscal Committee on potential options for administrative and business office functions to be supported by an appropriate state entity and any other recommendations for long-term financial sustainability of the program.

The ED will consult with resources in-state and within other states as to the sustainability models of other state programs and integrate that input into the report.

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 2013 over Chittenden, Grand Isle, Lamoille, Franklin and Washington county areas. That imagery will be processed over the summer and we are hoping for release in late 2013. There were some areas of snow at higher elevations in the Eden and Jay area.

VCGI has an agreement with Chittenden County (through Pam Brangan) and Dept of Homeland Security (through Lin Neifert – USGS) to perform buy-ups over the Chittenden and Barre-Montpelier areas in the spring of 2013. Chittenden was collected at 15cm GSD and Barre-Montpelier was collected at 30cm. With all of the acquisition flights that were necessary this past Spring we were fortunate to have a lot of sun during the collection period.

Enterprise Geospatial Consortium Activities:

VCGI continues to provide coordinating support to state agency related Enterprise GIS activities. In the past year the EGC has pursued the following strategic activities.

- 1) **Vermont Enterprise GIS Consortium (EGC):** The EGC held monthly meetings throughout FY 2013. This allowed the EGC to maintain momentum on a number of work items identified in the FY 2013 Business Plan. EGC member participation has been steady.
- 2) **LiDAR Workgroup:** The LiDAR Workgroup (LWG) continued its efforts to further the development of a consistent statewide LiDAR dataset. The LWG crafted and released a LiDAR Acquisition Plan.
- 3) **GIS Careers in State Government:** As part of the IT reclassification analysis going on for all of state government, EGC representatives proposed a GIS track that expands the current GIS-specific positions in the state job classification system. The proposed track includes 3 tiers similar to the tiers used for all other IT tracks. EGC representatives will continue to work with the Department of Human Resources to move this proposal toward implementation.
- 4) **Data Warehouse Workgroup:** The EGC established the Data Warehouse Workgroup (DWW) and directed it to work with VCGI to redesign and rebuild the State's Geospatial Data Warehouse. The DWW had a kick-off meeting on May 20th to initiate the project. The DWW articulated the following vision for the project: *“Connecting publishers and consumers in a user-driven portal that facilitates finding, exploring, contributing, and consuming geospatial information.”* The Workgroup includes representatives from all State agencies and departments willing to participate, which includes most of the “big” agencies.

The project will be managed using an Agile/Scrum project management approach. The plan is to deploy a new solution by February, 2013.

- 5) **EGC GeoPoint GIS Portal:** The EGC's SharePoint portal (EGC GeoPoint GIS Portal) was maintained and used throughout FY'2013 to share data and documents. A Data Warehouse The EGC developed and released a SharePoint portal in FY'2011. The objective was to build an Enterprise GIS web portal that would support EGC initiatives and would act as a central reference point for Enterprise GIS data and resources. The site is available to State employees, EGC stakeholders, and the public.
- 6) **Implementation of Web Services Strategy:** The EGC focused on implementation of its web services strategy in FY'2013. The strategy was crafted in FY'2012 and focuses on the coordinated provisioning of geospatial web services supporting desktop, web, and mobile applications. Several EGC members (E911, ANR, VCGI) contributed to a successful implementation (90% build-out) of this strategy. The services are being actively consumed by desktop, web, and mobile application inside and outside of state government.

Strategic Planning:

Rich Boes and Dave Brotzman presented the VCGI/DII to the appropriate House and Senate Committees this past legislative season. The House Operations Committee created initial statutory language. There was further discussion in House Appropriations and Senate Government Operations.

During the discussion in the various committees there were a few questions that came up that require further discussion when things calm down after the session.

1. Coordination with the state employees union.
2. Coordination with the Dept of Labor on position transfers.
3. Finer clarification of the anticipated savings if VCGI moves inside state government.

This delay was not completely unexpected. Change can take a long time as the Legislature works with an abundance of caution. This delay is the reason VCGI requested the discussion start in the FY 2014 session, thereby leaving time for further discussion over the upcoming year.

If this change is implemented as it is currently under discussion, DII will take over full administrative responsibility for the Center. Only the statutory language that created the Center as a non-profit and the establishment of the Board of Directors was recommended for deletion. All of VCGI's other statutory requirements would remain as is. Changes were also recommended for DII's statutory language simply designating DII as having administrative responsibility

for the Center.

VCGI Website and Server Upgrades:

VCGI's new website and new services were made available beginning Feb. 1.

Those changes include:

New Website (<http://vcgi.vermont.gov>):

- Improved appearance
- Easier navigation
- Streamlined data access
- Direct access to pre-packaged data
- Custom data/imagery download and tiled data download are no longer available

New/Updated Web Services:

- Dynamic image services enable enhanced access to more VT imagery
- Latest imagery is available via cache (including 2012 VT Orthos)
- New geocoding services
- Must have ArcGIS 10.x or higher to use new ArcGIS 10.1 web map services

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 3.5M over 5 years. 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.