



**"Information will be the fuel for the future economy. Access to information, and effective use of it, will also be the lifeblood for the planning process we believe is essential at all levels to achieve Vermont's goals."**

*Pathways to Prosperity*, Governor's Economic Commission, December, 1989.

Geographic Information Systems are powerful computer systems that can provide a sophisticated analysis and display of information highly useful to planners, analysts, and managers in government and business. This *Handbook* is designed to provide a single source of information concerning VGIS policies, standards, guidelines and procedures.

The Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI) has developed the *Handbook* to aid in the successful development of the Vermont Geographic Information System. The *Handbook* provides all users a common basis to carry out their GIS activities as described by Vermont statutes (3 VSA 20(b)) - "compatible with, useful to, and shared with" the GIS activities of others.

There are five sections in the *Handbook*. *Part 1, Policies*, provides the direction for development of the VGIS. *Part 2, Standards*, provides technical specifications for all activities related to building the GIS. *Part 3, Guidelines*, provide technical and advisory information that is recommended for all users of GIS. *Part 4, Procedures*, contains VCGI operating practices for managing the VGIS. *Part 5, GIS Glossary of Terms*, provides uses the description of commonly used terms in the GIS.

The *Handbook* is available by subscription with annual renewal. This will provide the subscriber continued updates and any new sections added during that year. Copies can be found in all Vermont Regional Libraries and Regional Planning Commission offices. Individual sections are available at the cost of providing the copy.

VCGI welcomes all suggestions and corrections. Ideas for additional policies, standards, guidelines or procedures are welcome. This document is an integral component in the success of the Vermont Geographic Information System. The *Handbook* will aid VGIS to become the system that the Vermont legislature and executive branch envisioned and guide Vermont to the 'information future' today.