



Public/Private Partnership Working Group

Final Report

November 2, 2007

Background

The Public/Private Partnership Working Group was chartered by the GICC at the November 2006 meeting to explore the opportunities for public/private partnerships in order to achieve the vision of NC OneMap. Chaired by Susan Johnson, City of Charlotte and Herb McKim, McKim & Creed, membership included Ron York of Duke Energy, Andrew Vondrak of Piedmont Natural Gas, John Correllus of NC Department of Commerce, Lee Mandell of the NC League of Municipalities, Tim Johnson of CGIA, George Glenn of NC One Call, Greg Thorpe of NC Department of Transportation, and John Dorman of NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety.

Process

Five meetings were held over the winter, spring and summer. The Working Group focused on identifying the barriers to the use of the existing NC OneMap, explored the current data inventories, and discussed issues associated with educating decision makers on the importance of current and accurate spatial data.

In the fall, Working Group attention turned to addressing the barriers and exploring opportunities to pilot a partnership to demonstrate the value of public/private collaboration using the NC OneMap as the source.

Findings

1. Barriers do exist in provisioning the NC OneMap as a current, accurate and contiguous base map to the public and private sectors. These barriers include:
 - a. Lack of adherence to a common set of standards by mapping entities in both public and private sectors;
 - b. Critical assets are not geo-coded, creating expensive and difficult conversion processes to move them to a common base map;
 - c. Inaccurate, inconsistent or outdated data from sources resulting in data conflicts;

- d. Lack of geospatial referenced point data, attributes and, in some cases, inconsistent coordinate bases;
 - e. Privacy or confidentiality barriers created by the lack of a standard practice for protecting sensitive information and concerns;
 - f. NC Surveyor's Law requiring data to be certified by a licensed surveyor before sharing can occur from the private sector to public entities;
 - g. Lack of comprehensive "source book" of geospatial data across the state; and
 - h. Reliance on local funding streams for collection of key land base data sets (e.g., street centerlines) creating a "best effort" effect by each entity which results in an inconsistent and non-contiguous base map.
2. The private sector has a great interest in using the NC OneMap if the barriers can be overcome. Private sector members of the Working Group listed their top priorities as:
- a. Coordination of public safety responses;
 - b. Opportunities to partner on application development efforts;
 - c. Reduction in the cost of doing business;
 - d. Economic development opportunities;
 - e. Education by the public sector on geospatial data and applications capability to be shared with private sector firms; and
 - f. Finding their role in educating key decision makers.
3. There is strong bi-lateral recognition of the value of having more formal partnerships, especially in the area of data sharing between the public and private sectors.
4. All recognize that public agencies and private firms place a priority on the use of GIS for public safety operations as well as normal business activities, individually and jointly.
5. There is mutual interest and priority to have the NC OneMap evolve to a contiguous map of the state, not just the individual counties.
6. Six key layers have been identified as a priority to the Working Group:
- a. Cadastral;
 - b. Municipal boundaries;
 - c. County boundaries;
 - d. Building footprints;
 - e. Street centerlines; and

f. Aerial photography.

7. Major issues for these layers today include lack of currency, lack of data, cycle time for recordation of plats in different counties and a need for new aerials to include “leaf on”.
8. Discussion with Google Earth and Microsoft's Virtual Earth representatives revealed their interest in dealing with a state-level entity to gain access to street centerlines, aerial photography and any 3-D representations of cities and towns. There was little interest in working with the public sector to address funding issues.
9. The value of having a contiguous, current and robust NC OneMap is difficult to calculate, but one utility recently estimated the value of a similar effort in another state at over \$7 million.

Recommendations

To achieve the vision of NC OneMap as an authoritative source of geospatial data to be used by both public and private entities will require close cooperation and dedication in both sectors. To facilitate this level of cooperation, it will be necessary to create the “infrastructure” to support such a wide scale effort. To provide this “infrastructure”, commitments will need to be made by all interested parties to create the policy, the standards, the practices and the funding bases necessary to support a robust and ever changing geospatial repository.

It is essential that all decision makers understand that geospatial data requires on-going maintenance and investment in order to maintain its usefulness. The growth of the State over the next twenty-five years is going to be very significant. It is important to start laying the ground work today to support and perhaps enhance that growth to ensure North Carolina's prosperity and high quality of life.

The Public/Private Partnership Working Group makes the following recommendations for consideration by the NC Geographic Information Coordinating Council:

1. Confirm the NC OneMap as “the” authoritative source of geospatial data for the State of North Carolina and create requirements and incentives for all agencies and local governments to contribute their data to this source.

2. Require agencies and provide incentives for local governments to adhere to standards established by the GICC within five years.
3. Create a source of support, coordination and funding within the Center for Geographic Information and Analysis (CGIA) to enable the transition of agencies and local governments to standards. CGIA should be staffed to perform the role of central coordination for all data activities.
4. Create a dedicated funding model/mechanism to ensure that key data is collected and maintained both at the state and local government level.
5. Establish formal data sharing agreements between CGIA and utilities for the collection and exchange of data with appropriate privacy and security protections.
6. Reconsider the current NC Surveyor's Law requirement for surveyor certification of geospatial data to be exchanged between private sector entities and NC governments.
7. Consider the development of a statewide standard for the digital recordation of development plans. Such a standard would significantly impact the currency of data as well as provide a vehicle for the geo-codification of major assets.
8. Promote the value of the NC OneMap to the Legislature to support the ongoing investment necessary for the maintenance and expansion of this important resource to maximize its value for economic development, public safety, education and tourism.

In addition to these recommendations, the Working Group felt it important to lead the way. George Glenn, Executive Director of the NC One Call Center together with Ron York, Duke Energy, will be collaborating in a proof of concept effort to collect, overlay and transfer discrete data in the NC One Call Center for Mecklenburg County. Mecklenburg County underground locate requests represent approximately 15% of locate activity; therefore the proof of concept should provide significant results that will bolster the recommendations outlined above. The Working Group is willing to serve through the term of this experiment and report back to the GICC its outcomes.