

# West Virginia GIS Strategic Planning Workshop

## Informational Opinion Survey

*Administered by the WV GIS Coordinator's Office  
June 10, 2008*

The following survey is for informational purposes only.  
Please answer honestly, and in detail.  
Feel free to use the back of the paper if you need extra writing space.

Survey responses are **ANONYMOUS**.  
Answers will be evaluated by the Office of WV GIS Coordinator and the WV  
GIS Policy Council for consideration in the development of  
a new WV Strategic Plan for GIS.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION!!!**

# SURVEY I: GENERAL GIS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

1.) To which general organizational sector do you belong? *\*Please keep the identity of your specific organization anonymous as much as possible throughout the survey.*

- A – State or local government agency
- B – Other

2.) Which of the following best describes GIS in your organization?

- A – We don't have a GIS program or are just beginning to develop one
- B – It is a minor component of our operations
- C – It is a major component of our operations (our functionality would suffer without it)
- D – Other\_\_\_\_\_

3.) What is the strongest aspect related to GIS *within* your organization?

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4.) What is the most frustrating aspect related to GIS *within* your organization?

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5.) What is the strongest aspect related to GIS in West Virginia (statewide coordination)?

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**6.) What is the most frustrating aspect related to GIS in West Virginia (statewide coordination)?**

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**7.) How enthusiastic is the upper management in your organization about the use of GIS?**

- A – Very
- B – Somewhat
- C – Uninterested
- D – Very unsupportive
- E – Other\_\_\_\_\_

**8.) Currently, what do you feel is the need for upper management in your organization to be better exposed/informed of the potential benefits of GIS?**

- A – They are well informed about the potential benefits of GIS
- B – They could use some more exposure to the benefits of GIS
- C – There is a critical need that they be informed of the benefits of GIS
- D – Other\_\_\_\_\_

**10.) What estimated percentage of your actual work on a day-to-day basis involves GIS?**

- A – 80 – 100%
- B – Between 50% to 80%
- C – Between 25% - 50%
- D – Less than 25%

**Elaborate if desired:**

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11.) Which of the following ways best describes how you view the relationship between the field of GIS and the field of Information Technology (IT)?

- A – GIS is a component of IT
- B – GIS and IT have a number of overlapping areas
- C – GIS and IT are completely independent fields

Elaborate if desired:

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12.) Does your organization view the GIS/IT relationship in a similar way to how you view it?    Y        N

Elaborate if desired:

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13.) What is the main source for the GIS data that you work with?

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13.) Please rank the following 9 core framework GIS data layers for WV based on how much you would likely use them in your organization's activities if they were consistently updated and available (#1 = most):

____ hydrography (water)	____ transportation	____ orthoimagery (GIS-based aerial photography)
____ land ownership (cadastral)	____ elevation	____ geodetic control (reference points)
____ boundaries (governmental units)	____ structures	____ geographic names (landmarks)

14.) What is your greatest data layer need or wish that is not currently being met?

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15.) What is your greatest data accessibility need or wish that is not currently being met, and how could data accessibility be improved in your opinion?

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**16.) Please rate the following items related to data needs (1 = not important, 5 = highly important):**

- ☐ Development of a continuous statewide orthoimagery program
- ☐ Development and enforcement of GIS data standards for all data types
- ☐ Attainment of a complete and consistent statewide tax parcel boundary dataset
- ☐ Assignment of stewardship roles for all state framework core data layers
- ☐ Improved infrastructure and protocol to transfer and share data between organizations

**17. Please rate the following items related to data stewardship of core framework data (1 = not important, 5 = highly important):**

- ☐ Data development standards are set before stewardship is assigned
- ☐ The geographic location of the steward should be relevant to the geographic location of the data
- ☐ The steward should provide public access to the data free of charge
- ☐ Cost and effort of stewardship is spread among many stakeholders
- ☐ The organizational mission of the steward should be relevant to type of data they are a steward of
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

**18. Please rate how you think the WV GIS Program is doing in the following areas since the GIS Development Plan in 1993 (1 = poorly, 5 = excellent):**

- ☐ Minimizing duplication of data management and general inefficient business functions
- ☐ Increasing the volume and scope of business functions using GIS
- ☐ Establishing and acting upon a long-range plan for GIS
- ☐ Establishing and enforcing data standards inside and outside of state government
- ☐ Facilitating accessibility to both GIS data and analysis by multiple users
- ☐ Establish/maintain a database meeting needs of multiple users (state spatial data infrastructure)
- ☐ Pool financial, staff, and technical resources to optimize GIS development
- ☐ Establish cooperative development and sharing arrangements with various sectors

**19. What would you add to this list as far as future goals?**

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**20. What would you take away from this list as far as future goals?**

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**21. What do you think is the key factor(s) for the successful implementation of a new GIS Strategic Plan?**

[illegible]

**THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING SURVEY I.**

**Please add anything other thoughts, concerns, and ideas related to the general GIS needs for your organization below, then please wait before moving on to the next survey.**

[illegible]

## **SURVEY II: WV GIS COORDINATION ENTITIES**

### **Part 1. WV Statewide GIS Coordinator**

**1.) How clear is your personal understanding of the role of the State Coordinator in relation to your organization?**

- A – Very clear
- B – Somewhat clear
- C – Unclear in a number of areas
- D – Very confusing
- E – Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please elaborate if desired:

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**2.) From the following list, please mark the factor that you feel should be the TOP mission of this entity:**

- ☐ Coordinate/expand use of GIS among state/local government (resources, personnel, projects)
- ☐ Coordinate development of a state spatial data infrastructure (SSDI)
- ☐ Promote and communicate the benefits of GIS in state government and West Virginia in general
- ☐ General implementation of the State Strategic Plan
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**3.) How do you hope your organization can benefit from the State GIS Coordinator?**

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**4.) What, in your opinion, is the greatest strength of the Coordinator position as it has evolved over the last decade?**

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**5.) What, in your opinion, is the greatest need for improvement (if any) of the Coordinator position as it has evolved over the last decade?**

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**6.) What are your thoughts on an expansion of the concept of the “Office of GIS Coordinator” to a “Geographic Information Management Unit” (or other name), with more formal participation/responsibility from other state GIS personnel at the manager level and/or more?**

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**7.) Do you feel that a state Geographic Information Management Unit can be successful as a de-centralized but organized network of GIS managers and/or personnel?**

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## **Part 2. State Steering Committee**

**1.) Should a State Steering Committee be re-activated to focus on state/local government GIS issues?**

Y    N    \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**2.) If a formal external Advisory Board were to be created for broad-scale GIS coordination, what should the relationship between the Advisory Board and the State Steering Committee be?**

- A – They should meet *separate/y* on a regular basis and not have any formal interaction
- B – They should have *separate* meetings on a regular basis to discuss and vote on issues, but they should have overlapping sub-committees/workgroups on relevant topics
- C – They should have *combined* meetings on a regular basis to discuss and vote on issues
- D – Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**3.) Please rate the following from 1 – 5 (1 = not important, 5 = highly important):**

- \_\_\_\_\_ State Steering Committee by-laws are created (clarifying membership)
- \_\_\_\_\_ The State Steering Committee Chair is rotating, instead of solely the Coordinator
- \_\_\_\_\_ Local government representatives are more formally included
- \_\_\_\_\_ Membership is mandated and not voluntary to those appointed to it
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meetings are held regularly
- \_\_\_\_\_ Remote meeting technology (web conferencing, etc.) is highly utilized
- \_\_\_\_\_ The State Steering Committee has a formal relationship with the State IT Council

**4.) What, in your opinion, is the greatest strength of the State Steering Committee concept?**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
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**5.) What, in your opinion, is the greatest need for improvement of the State Steering Committee concept?**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### **Part 3. WV Association of Geospatial Professionals (WVAGP)**

**1.) How clear is your personal understanding of the concept and the goals of WVAGP?**

- A – Very clear
- B – Somewhat clear
- C – Unclear in a number of areas
- D – Very confusing
- E – Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please elaborate if desired:

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**2.) From the following list, please mark the factor that you feel should be the TOP mission of this entity:**

- ☐ Coordinate development of a state spatial data infrastructure (SSDI)
- ☐ Provide a forum for bringing together multiple GIS stakeholder groups
- ☐ Provide GIS outreach and education
- ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**3.) Do you feel that WVAGP is ready to assume some type of formal role in state GIS coordination?**

- A – Yes, at this time WVAGP is ready to be incorporated into the state coordination structure
- B – I know of specific changes or progress with WVAGP that will need to be made first,  
but if this is done it could be incorporated
- C – I still need clarification about some aspects of the organization
- D – No, WVAGP should not formally be included in state GIS coordination
- E – Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please elaborate if desired:

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**4.) What should the formal role of the WVAGP be, in your opinion?**

- A – WVAGP Board fulfilling the role of external Advisory Board for broad-scale coordination, and the WVAGP membership acting as a formal GIS User Group
- B – WVAGP fulfilling the role of formal GIS User Group only
- C – This organization should not fulfill a formal role in state GIS coordination
- D – Other \_\_\_\_\_

Please elaborate if desired:

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**5.) Do you support the following definition of “formal role” as it refers to an Executive Order?    Y    N**

“The entity would be appointed by the GIS Policy Council/Governor to serve in the roles of “Advisory Board” and/or “Formal User Group” as defined in a revised Executive Order, along with the other coordination entities (“Policy Council”, “State Steering Committee”, “State Coordinator”, and “Technical Support Center”) whose definitions/roles may also be clarified or revised”.

**If no, please explain:**

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**6.) If you feel WVAGP should not fulfill an Advisory Board role representing external organizations, what form should an external Advisory Board take in state GIS Coordination?**

- A – There should be no formal external Advisory Board- the state should continue to coordinate informally with external organizations as needed
- B – Advisory Board members should be individually selected by the GIS Policy Council
- C – The WVAGP Board should fill this role, with Board members elected by the WVAGP membership in representative proportions as defined in WVAGP by-laws
- D – Other \_\_\_\_\_

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**7.) What, in your opinion, is the greatest strength of WVAGP?**

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**8.) What, in your opinion, is the greatest need for improvement of WVAGP (if any)?**

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## **Part 4. Technical Support Center (WV GIS Technical Center)**

**1.) How clear is your personal understanding of the role of the Technical Support Center in relation to your organization?**

- A – Very clear
- B – Somewhat clear
- C – Unclear in a number of areas
- D – Very confusing
- E – Other\_\_\_\_\_

Please elaborate if desired:

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**2.) What, in your opinion, is the greatest strength of the Technical Support Center as it has evolved over the last decade?**

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**3.) What, in your opinion, is the greatest need for improvement (if any) of the Technical Support Center as it has evolved over the last decade?**

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**THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING SURVEY II.**

**Please add anything other thoughts, concerns, and ideas related to state GIS coordination entities, then please wait before moving on to the next survey.**

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## **SURVEY III: WV STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS**

### **1. Who should be the main audience targeted in a WV Strategic Plan?**

- A – The plan should be relevant to the entire GIS community
- B – The plan should be exclusive to state and local government
- C - Both A and B- the plan should focus on state/local government, but with overlapping relevance to the entire GIS community
- D - Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **2. What should be the Strategic Planning Team composition be (all committees below include the State Coordinator)?:**

- \_\_\_\_\_ State Steering subcommittee + User Group/Advisory Board subcommittee
- \_\_\_\_\_ State Steering subcommittee + User Group/Advisory Board subcommittee + private consultant
- \_\_\_\_\_ State Steering subcommittee + or - private consultant
- \_\_\_\_\_ User group/Advisory Board subcommittee + or - private consultant
- \_\_\_\_\_ Private consultant only
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

### **3. In your current opinion, how should the FGDC 50-States Strategic Planning Template be utilized in the Strategic Planning process?**

- A - The plan should strictly follow the template
- B - The plan should loosely follow the template
- C – The plan should not follow the template
- D – Not sure

### **4.) How transparent should the Strategic Planning process be to the public?**

- A – Progress reports and drafts throughout the process should be made available for public comment
- B – The final draft of the plan should be made available for public comment before proceeding
- C – The process does not need to be transparent
- D – Other \_\_\_\_\_

**THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING SURVEY III.**

**Please add anything other thoughts, concerns, and ideas related to the Strategic Planning process below. If you are a state/local govt. employee, please go on to the final survey. If not, thank you for your input today!**

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## **SURVEY IV: State and Local Government-Only Survey**

**1. Are you generally aware of the other GIS programs and activities of your peers in state and local government?**

- A – Yes, I actively try to keep up to date with what my state/local govt. peers are doing
- B – My awareness is generally limited to those I work with on related projects
- C – My awareness is generally limited to what I learn at the WV GIS Conference
- D – I feel very in the dark about other state/local govt. GIS programs and activities

**2. Would your organization be interested in participating in any type of state-sponsored GIS software license cost-sharing and license maintenance program(s) for one or more GIS software products?**

- A – Absolutely
- B – Maybe
- C – Unlikely
- D – Absolutely not

**3. Do you feel state and local organizations interested in starting a GIS program have (and are aware of) adequate resources available to them to successfully develop and implement it?    Y    N**

**Please elaborate** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**4. What do you feel is the main challenge in optimizing state/local government use of GIS?**

- A – Not enough funding to support a GIS program (equipment, personnel, etc.)
- B – Lack of effective communication between organizations
- C – No clear way/lack of resources on how to go about implementing a GIS program
- D – Lack of support from the organizational (or higher) management
- E - Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Please elaborate** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Does your organization have a GIS manager-level position?    Y    N**

**5(a) - If NO: does the management of your organization understand GIS, or if they don't understand it, do they effectively communicate with GIS personnel?    Y    N**

**5(b) - If YES: is communication effective between your GIS management and the other**

Please elaborate \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

A – General funds of your organization  
B – Federal funding supplied as part of a continuous program  
C – Specific grants (time-limited funding)  
D – Other \_\_\_\_\_

A – Absolutely  
B – Maybe  
C – Unlikely  
D – Absolutely not

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on the right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.