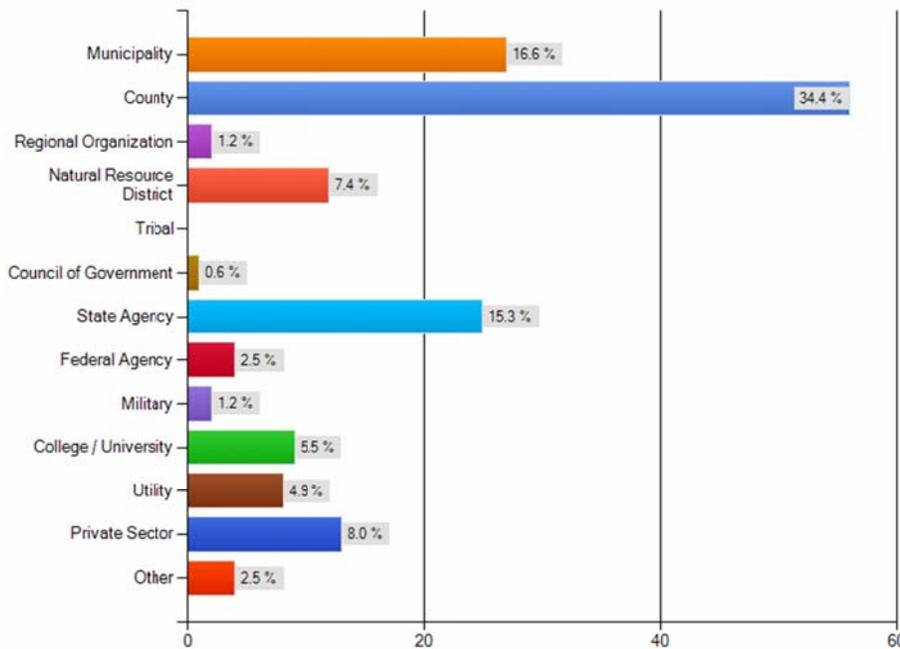


Nebraska GIS/Geospatial Strategic Planning Update March 7, 2012

The GIS Council is half way through their comprehensive Strategic Planning process. A total of six workshops were completed across Nebraska with 149 interested participants.

Workshop Attendees by Organization



448
Total Survey
Respondents To Date

**Workshop
Attendance**

Omaha	29
Lincoln	58
Grand Island	17
Norfolk	18
Gering	14
North Platte	13
Total	= 149

Additional workshop planned for Kearney late March or early April.

GIS Council and agency/association Director's Planning Retreat for mid-May.

2012 NE GIS/Geospatial Strategic Planning Effort

The **goal** of the Strategic Planning process is to better understand the GIS/Geospatial stakeholder community and to develop a Geospatial Strategic and Business Plan(s) for Nebraska that properly reflects stakeholder priorities. This strategic planning process is not like any other planning effort conducted to date. Resources to support the planning process was made possible through a cooperative grant effort called the Fifty States Initiative implemented between the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).

Through this grant, Applied Geographics, Inc. has been awarded the contract to facilitate the strategic planning and reporting process. In order to help characterize the Nebraska geospatial landscape a survey was sent out to a full spectrum of stakeholders from decision makers with little to no GIS experience to technical GIS users. Information was gathered from over 448 respondents to the survey during January and February of 2012. This is the largest response any state has received involved in the Fifty State Initiative. A total of six stakeholder workshops were conducted in February to gather city, county, and regional input from the survey findings and other topics. The workshops involved 149 participants in Scottsbluff, North Platte, Grand Island, Norfolk, Lincoln, and Omaha. Attendees typically included assessors, natural resource district managers, city/county GIS coordinators, clerks, sheriffs, emergency management, industry representative, public health managers and surveyors.

The general findings showed that there is an interest and needs at various levels of city, county, and state government for enhancing our geospatial infrastructure. There was also an indication of the lack of awareness of the GIS Council and it's representatives, need for education for various geospatial technologies, and awareness of benefits of using geospatial technologies and data sharing in day-to-day business operations. A SWOT analysis has been recently completed and efforts are underway to complete a draft report.

SWOT – Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats

<p><u>Strengths – Play to them</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing State GIS Coordinator position <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proximity to CIO Existing governance structure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Current Council and GIS/LIS Association NE in good position to learn from other states <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Many have grappled with similar issues Several strong state agency GIS programs Many strong local government GIS programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through direct county efforts - Through relationships with private sector Existing use cases demonstrate benefits of data sharing 	<p><u>Weaknesses – Deal with them</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of a cohesive GIS community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of overall communication between/amongst stakeholders History of poor communication between State and Locals No “one-stop-shop” for GIS data <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Nebraska Map does not have relevant or complete holdings Lack of awareness of GIS Council No Legislative Champion County GIS often remains within a single department Lack of GIS Education at various levels Locals need better GIS resources from state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training/education, contact info for “peers”, tools, “best practices”, data standards, grant/funding opportunities
<p><u>Opportunities – Seize them</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lots of GIS activity in Nebraska! New face in the GIS Coordinator role To improve representation on GIS Council To engage Assessors as key leaders at local level To engage NRDs, Public Health, EMAs as a unique, GIS-savvy level of government <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - With a regional outlook For creative partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Public Utilities, Environmental Trust, DOR - Sharing of data and resources Potential to increase private sector business activity 	<p><u>Threats – Avoid them</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suspicion of State persists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Viewed as “Disconnected” & “Irrelevant” - Perception that State will “pull plug” on support Perception that revenue will be “lost” at local level with data sharing The privacy issue Local’s view of GIS as overwhelming, costly Failure to engage western 1/3 of state <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - “Too many people think the state stops at Grand Island” GIS Coordinator does not get organizational & funding support to make improvements Failure to engage decision-makers

Next Steps

Strategic Planning Report – Applied Geographics, Inc. is currently working on developing the final report. The Strategic Planning committee will be conducting 3 working group meetings prior to the April 4, GIS Council meeting. They will be developing a draft vision and strategic goals summary from information obtained through the survey and workshops. Anyone from the GIS Council are invited to participate in our working meetings. They are March 12, 19, and April 2 from 9-10:30 am. Let Nathan Watermeier know if you are interested in attending.

Additional Agency Meetings – Nathan Watermeier will be finishing up meeting with various state agencies as a follow-up for additional information towards the strategic plan. Another informal workshop will be conducted in Kearney in late March or early April with local government officials.

Strategic Planning Retreat - Purpose is to provide the GIS Council members, designees, and key agency GIS staff an opportunity for final input before the strategic planning report is completed. Those agencies and organizations that are listed in the member statute will also be invited (including state agency directors, association directors, etc.). The group suggested a one-day agenda targeted Mid-May with lunch catered.

Nebraska GIS Council – Nebraska Information Technology Commission

This project is funded by a grant that is part of the Fifty States Initiative being implemented by the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) and the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC).