

NSGIC '08: Addressing, Lessons Learned

Contributed by Bert Granberg
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One of the best lessons to take home from any National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) conference is that if you need to build a new geospatial solution, there's almost always going to be someone a step or more ahead of you who has good advice to share. That's not to say that the perfect solution will just be dropped into your lap. But, tracking down folks with existing resources, or works in progress, will make your project planning much smoother.

The importance of finding folks who have "been there, done that" is well-demonstrated in the area of point-based GIS addressing data (something currently on the drawing board in Utah). NSGIC has put together an excellent Address Coordinating Issues document and put together a great, experienced panel (from Indiana, Ohio, Oregon, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia) at its 2008 annual conference.

There was much variation in the approach described by the panelists. Both top down and bottom up approaches were successful for data collection. Costs ranged from \$15K per county to \$2-3 million upfront plus \$200-500K for annual ongoing maintenance and, these cost figures were highly dependent on the availability of existing GIS data resources (parcels, centerlines, place names, etc). Update cycles ranged from monthly to quarterly to annually.

Here are several of the panelists' general suggestions for project success:

- Conduct an extensive assessment of end user needs
 - Adopt a single standard, but allow flexibility at local level where possible. Consider existing standards (URISA/NENA draft addressing standard)
 - Design a protocol for update and maintenance, who will be responsible...make sure that they are sufficiently motivated?
 - Ensure management for entire life cycle of project
 - Build a sustainable funding source/mechanism, justify project with ROI study results
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- Encourage/facilitate communication among stakeholders
 - Implement trading partner agreements and consider matching funds and other incentives

GIS-based Address Data: Users and Purposes:

(source: Address Coordinating Issues document, NSGIC)