



VGIN Coordinator Report to the VGIN Advisory Board
January 9, 2008

VGIN Website Redesign and Release

The new VGIN website was released in November 2007. The site reflects our reorganization with Public Safety Communications and Radio Engineering through the Integrated Services Program. Go to <http://www.isp.virginia.gov> (the old VGIN URL works as well) and click on “Geospatial Services” on the left to access VGIN information or “VGIN Advisory Board” to access VGIN Board information.

2006/2007 Orthophotography Status

The orthophotography project continues to run smoothly. Currently we are running 4-6 weeks ahead of schedule and hope to maintain that pace. 45% of the 2007 imagery has been completed (including passing QA/QC) and 25% of the 2007 jurisdictions received their data at the end of 2007. Information on the progress of the jurisdiction deliveries as well as other useful ortho project information can be found on the VGIN ortho web page at <http://www.isp.virginia.gov/vbmporthophotography.shtml>

Three delivery dates to state agencies have been established. This information is available on our website at <http://www.isp.virginia.gov/stateactivities.shtml>

PSAP Grant Program Support

At the end of 2007, VGIN and Public Safety Communications staff completed a series of informational meetings in support of the PSAP (Public Safety Answering Points) Grant Program. The grant program serves to distribute a portion of the funds collected from the cell phone E-911 surcharge back to the jurisdictions. There is approximately \$10 million dollars expected to be available to the grant program in FY 2008-09.

The initial year for the grant program was 2006. Approximately 26% of all the grants submitted in 2006 contained a GIS component and resulted in 29% of all awards being given to projects with a GIS component.

The goal of the work sessions just completed was two fold.

1. Gather data to create a GIS Project Prioritization list to guide the Grant Committee and the Wireless Board in prioritizing the GIS related grants expected in future years.
2. Advise GIS Managers in local jurisdictions of the grant program to incentivize cooperation between the PSAP and the local GIS programs.

The work sessions were successful and it is hoped they will result in an increased awareness for localities about the opportunities for GIS through the PSAP Grant

Program. We also expect that a larger number of grants will have had input from the GIS Manager and result in projects that are well planned and can benefit the enterprise along with the major goal of supporting the PSAP.

A survey is being used to gather the data. It will be summarized and compiled into the priority list in mid-January.

Metadata Outreach and Training

As stated in Virginia Code § 2.2-2026 and § 2.2-2027, VGIN is responsible for overseeing the development of a catalog of GIS data available in the Commonwealth. Virginia Code § 2.2-2027 specifically states:

“all state agencies that maintain GIS databases shall report to [VGIN] the details of the data that they develop, acquire, and maintain. Each agency shall submit quarterly reports to [VGIN] specifying all updates to existing data as well as all data development and acquisition currently in progress. Data exempt from the Virginia Freedom of Information Act (§ 2.2-3700 et seq.) need not be reported to [VGIN].”

To assist state agencies meet this mandate, VGIN implemented the Virginia GIS metadata portal <http://gisdata.virginia.gov> with the **goal to have all state agency GIS metadata submitted to the portal by the end of March 2008**. VGIN staff are always available to support state agencies with creating and reporting their metadata to the portal.

Additional metadata training sessions are schedule for:

- January 10 at VCU
- January 11 at CESC
- January 25 at the Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center in Abingdon
- January 28-30 in Chesapeake

The goal of the sessions in the Richmond area is to support state agencies in their task of reporting spatial data holding to VGIN. The sessions in Southwest Virginia and Tidewater will support some state agency efforts but will include local jurisdictions that did not have the opportunity to attend the previous sessions.

The training itself will be organized to provide basic metadata information in the morning while focusing on hands-on metadata develop and uploading the new records to the portal in the afternoon. This is a condensed version of the training VGIN conducted in partnership with Virginia Tech over the last two summers.

Emergency Management Mapping Application (EMMA)

VGIN has concluded the deployment of the Emergency Management Mapping Application (EMMA) to the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC), the City of Richmond Office of Emergency Management, and the Albemarle County/Charlottesville Emergency Communications Center. EMMA end-user training was conducted December 7, 2007. The final step in the EMMA project is to “whiteboard” a technical and administrative solution for enabling interoperability between the disparate installations of

EMMA and to enable other localities and organizations to access, use, and contribute to EMMA. The EMMA project will close out on March 31, 2008.

Project Homeland

VGIN is coordinating Virginia's participation in a pilot project under a federal program called Project Homeland. The primary goal of Project Homeland is to enable sharing of homeland security GIS data between local, state, and federal levels of government and the multitude of disparate GIS applications these entities support. Project Homeland is funded by the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) and all project services are delivered by ESRI, NGA's partner, at no cost to VGIN other than staff time.

Participants in the Virginia pilot project include VGIN, the Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness (OCP), the Virginia State Police (VSP), the Virginia Fusion Center (VFC), and possibly the counties of Arlington and Alexandria (**not yet confirmed**).

The goals of the pilot project will be achieved by developing key elements of a GIS service oriented architecture (SOA). This architecture will enable deployment of centralized map services and geoprocessing services that can be integrated into GIS applications across the Commonwealth. Project planning meetings are scheduled for the week of January 21, 2008 and will result in a documented set of tasks that will be accomplished under this pilot project.

LiDAR Cost Benefit Analysis

VGIN is developing a cost/benefit analysis for the collection of statewide or regional LiDAR data that would meet many of the elevation data needs of Virginia's state and local government agencies, non-profit organizations, some for-profit businesses, and the general public. LiDAR is an acronym that stands for "Light Detection And Ranging". The collected data can be used to create highly accurate elevation models of the bare earth and/or features on the earth (such as trees and structures). These elevation models have myriad applications in state and local government and the private sector.

VGIN is currently working on gathering background information and identifying and measuring the costs and benefits. VGIN hopes to complete the cost/benefit analysis in mid-2008.

More information will be presented during the Board meeting.

Road Centerline (RCL)

The transition from Timmons Group to VGIN was completed in December 2007. Steady state maintenance will now be performed by VGIN staff beginning in January 2008. Regional and locality datasets are being delivered in January 2008. VDOT continues its effort to fully incorporate RCL data within its GIS, as well as providing regular updates to VGIN.

State Agency Geospatial Services Rate Structure Established

Last quarter of 2007 VGIN established Geospatial Rate Structure for state agencies, pursuant to Code of Virginia mandates. These have also been approved by JLARC. Go to http://www.isp.virginia.gov/geopdf/Rate_structure_Nov2007.pdf to view.

Imagery For The Nation (IFTN) Proposal

The VGIN Coordinator will make a presentation about IFTN to the Board on January 9. The Coordinator will be recommending formal support of IFTN from the Board through the form of a letter of support.

More information to be presented at Board meeting.