

National States Geographic Information Council 2009 State Summary
 2009 State Summary
 State of Alabama

Background Information

1	Please Choose the primary contact
Michael Vanhook	

3	Please select the answer that most closely describes your role in statewide GIS coordination.
Volunteer Working on State Government Only Issues	

4	What is your job title?
Other (please specify) Geographic Information Systems Coordinator	

5	Enter the name of your agency/organization.
Alabama Department of Finance, ISD - Geospatial Office	

6	Please select the answer that best describes the affiliation of your office/agency in state government.
Information Technology Agency	

11	Describe your state's top three geospatial accomplishments during the past year. (200 character limit per line)
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- [Accomplishment 1.](#)
Established a GIS Executive Council, Advisory Committee, and Technical Sub Committee on Ortho Imagery
- [Accomplishment 2.](#)
Established a common operating picture and visualization program in all 67 counties through Virtual Alabama
- [Accomplishment 3.](#)
Established a State ESRI Enterprise License Agreement for State government

12	Describe your state's top three geospatial goals for the coming year. (200 character limit per line)
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- [Goal 1.](#)
Complete and adopt the State Geospatial Strategic Plan and obtain funding through NSDI CAP Grant program
- [Goal 2.](#)
Complete and adopt a State Business Plan for Ortho Imagery
- [Goal 3.](#)
Enact legislation to permanently establish the GIS Executive Council and Advisory Committee

13	Describe the three most significant geospatial challenges for your state. (200 character limit per line)
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- [Challenge 1.](#)
Lack of funding and support for GIS development and activities from the General Fund and other sources.
- [Challenge 2.](#)
Volunteer efforts move more slowly than funded efforts
- [Challenge 3.](#)
Education of decision makers relative to the significant benefits associated with geospatial technologies and data.

14	Describe any significant cooperative efforts with federal, state or local partners. (200 character limit per line)
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- [Cooperative Effort 1.](#)
There are numerous cooperative efforts in Alabama, among partners at all levels. Generally, these are driven by specific needs or projects. More emphasis is being placed on cooperative efforts, such as shared data and services
- [Cooperative Effort 2.](#)
Entities at all levels of government are collaborating to develop the State Strategic Plan
- [Cooperative Effort 3.](#)
All 67 counties and 1450 agencies at all levels of government participating through the statewide visualization program
- [Cooperative Effort 4.](#)
23 state agencies participating on state ESRI Enterprise Licensing Agreement and utilizing GIS software
- [Cooperative Effort 5.](#)
State water systems program (ADECA) coordinating with regional councils to collect statewide water distribution network
- [Cooperative Effort 6.](#)
Statewide visualization program coordinating with 8 other states and US DHS

15	Describe any significant data development activities, innovative applications, cost saving measures, contracts, etc. that are on-going or that you have begun over the past year. (200 character limit per line)
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- [Activity 1.](#)
ISD - Geospatial Office is coordinating state contracts to reduce costs of geospatial software, hardware, and services.
- [Activity 2.](#)
Business plan development underway for statewide acquisition of ortho imagery and other framework data
- [Activity 3.](#)
Alabama Department of Homeland Security has developed Virtual Alabama to serve as a situational awareness tool for first responders and local government.
- [Activity 4.](#)
Al Department of Finance, Information Services Division - Geospatial Office has established the State ESRI Enterprise Licensing Agreement and is saving dollars on licensing and training.
- [Activity 5.](#)
Continuously Operating Reference Station (CORS) GPS Statewide Network schedule for completion in Fall '09. Multiple local, state and federal agency participation
- [Activity 6.](#)
The Governor's office has established the Alabama Broadband Initiative. <http://www.connectingalabama.gov/ca/default.aspx>

16	Please provide the URL link for the mission statement of your state GIS Council.
Digital File Available by E-mail	

17	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS Coordination Office.
No Web Page - Use E-mail Address Provided	
18	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS Coordination Council Web Page.
Council Does Not Have a Web Page	
19	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS Clearinghouse Node.
URL: http://portal.gsa.state.al.us/Portal/index.jsp	
20	Is your Clearinghouse Node set up to be harvested by the GOS Portal?
Yes	
21	Please provide the URL link to a list of GIS data stewards for your state.
No List Available	
22	Please provide the URL link to your state GIS Personnel Classifications.
URL: http://www.personnel.state.al.us	
23	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS data distribution policies.
No State Data Distribution Policy	
24	Please provide the URL link for your state GIS Data Standards.
Hard Copy Only	

Score Card for the fifty states initiative

1	Which of the following NSGIC Coordination Criteria are in effect in your state?					
<p>1 = We previously had this function and lost it over the past year</p> <p>2 = No plans at this time for implementing this criteria</p> <p>3 = We currently are planning to implement this within the next 12 to 18 months</p> <p>4 = Progress has been made and we reasonably expect this to be fully implemented within the next 12 months</p> <p>5 = Implemented at this time</p>						
	Not Applicable	1	2	3	4	5
1. A full-time, paid coordinator position is designated and has the authority to implement the state's business and strategic plans.	-	-	-	3	-	-
2. A clearly defined authority exists for statewide coordination of geospatial information technologies and data production.	-	-	-	-	-	5
3. The statewide coordination office has a formal relationship with the state's Chief Information Officer (or similar office).	-	-	-	-	-	5
4. A champion (politician or executive decision-maker) is aware and involved in the process of coordination.	-	-	-	-	-	5
5. Responsibilities for developing the National Spatial Data Infrastructure and a State Clearinghouse are assigned.	-	-	-	3	-	-
6. The ability exists to work and coordinate with local governments, academia, and the private sector.	-	-	-	-	-	5
7. Sustainable funding sources exist to meet projected needs.	-	-	-	3	-	-
8. Coordinators have the authority to enter into contracts and become capable of receiving and expending funds.	-	-	-	-	-	5
9. The Federal government works through the statewide coordinating authority.	-	-	-	-	4	-
2	Please identify the stakeholder groups that participate on your GIS Coordination Council and their level of participation.					

	Actively participates on our Council	Has an official 'seat' or voting privileges on our Council	Invited to participate in general meetings of our Council
Cities and Towns	Actively participates on our Council	Has an official 'seat' or voting privileges on our Council	-
Statewide City Organization	-	-	-
Counties and Parishes	-	Has an official 'seat' or voting privileges on our Council	-
Statewide County Organization	-	-	-
Regional Government Organizations	Actively participates on our Council	Has an official 'seat' or voting privileges on our Council	-
State Agencies	Actively participates on our Council	Has an official 'seat' or voting privileges on our Council	-
Tribal Governments	-	-	Invited to participate in general meetings of our Council
Federal Agencies	-	-	Invited to participate in general meetings of our Council
Utilities	-	-	-
Academic (Colleges & Universities)	-	Has an official 'seat' or voting privileges on our Council	-
Education (K-12)	-	-	-
Private Sector (GIS Industry Vendors and Users)	-	-	Invited to participate in general meetings of our Council
General Business Community	-	-	-
Surveying Community	-	-	-
Non-Profit Organizations	-	-	Invited to participate in general meetings of our Council
General Public	-	-	-
Local URISA Chapter	-	-	-
Local ASPRS Chapter	-	-	-

3 Please provide the URL link to your current Statewide Strategic Plan for GIS.
Under Development - Not Available at this Time

4 Please provide the URL link to your current Statewide Business Plan for GIS.
Under Development - Not Available at this Time

5 Please provide the URL link to your current Statewide Marketing Plan for GIS.
No Marketing Plan Available

6 Under what authority was your State Council created?
Governor/Executive Order

7 Please provide the URL link to the Law or Executive Order that established your GIS Coordination Office and/or Council.
URL:
<http://geospatial.alabama.gov/EO38.aspx>

8 Please provide a URL link to your state's law(s) related to privacy issues as they affect data and information technology.
Not Applicable - No Law in Effect

9 Please provide a URL link to your state's law(s) related to data security issues.
Not Applicable - No Law in Effect

10 Does your GIS Coordination Council have adequate funding to support its operation? (This refers only to the activities of the Council and not to your Coordination Office or projects like data development.)
Not Funded

11 What fund sources does your Coordination Council use to support its operations? (Check all that apply)

Agency Contributions As Required	
12	Does your GIS Council officially endorse the use of appropriate OGC, FGDC, ANSI or ISO standards as appropriate?
Yes	
13	Does your state make its own GIS Inventory tool available to users?
No, but we actively support use of the Ramona System	
14	Does your state actively develop and promote the use of data sharing agreements?
Yes for all applications	
15	Does your GIS Council or State Coordination Office actively participate in The National Map?
Other (please specify) USGS Liasons are invited to attend GIS Council meetings and individual state agencies participate in framework data programs, such as the Geological Survey of Alabama and Economic and Community Affairs	

Hot Topics

1	Does your state have a shared Orthoimagery Program that involves local and state agencies?
Yes	
2	Have you completed a Return on Investment (ROI) Study or Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) to justify a shared Orthoimagery Program?
No	
3	Please provide a URL link so we can obtain a copy of your ROI or CBA study.
Not Applicable	
4	Does your state have a shared Road Centerline file project that involves local and state agencies?
Yes	
5	Have you completed a Return on Investment (ROI) Study or Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) to justify a shared Road Centerline File program?
No	
6	Please provide a URL link so we can obtain a copy of your ROI or CBA study.
Not Applicable	
7	Does your state have a statewide (or multi-jurisdictional) address database? (pick one)
No	
8	Is this database based on individual addresses or address ranges? (pick one)
Not Applicable	
9	Have you completed a Return on Investment (ROI) or Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) to justify this Address program? (pick one)
No	
10	If applicable, please provide a URL link so we can obtain a copy of your ROI or CBA study. (fill-in if applicable)
11	Please tell us who was identified as the designated entity to apply for grant funds to map broadband access in your state.
Please Provide Name of Entity Regardless of Selection Above: Governor's OfficeAlabama Broadband Initiative & ConnectingALABAMA	

Role of State GIS Coordinators

1	Please choose the mechanism that created your position.
Agency Administrative Decision	

2	Please provide the URL link for the document(s) that created your position (Legislation, Executive Order or Other Action).
Digital File Available by E-mail	

3	Which choice most closely matches the title of your boss?
State Chief Information Officer	

4	What choice best describes how closely you are aligned with the State CIO?
The CIO is My Boss	

5	Please select the number of staff that you supervise.
Less than 3	

6	Does your GIS Coordination Office have adequate funding to support its operation? (This refers only to the activities of your office and not to the Coordination Council, or projects like data development.)
Not Funded	

7	What fund sources does your Coordination Office use to support its operations? (Check all that apply)
Agency Contributions As Required	

8	When an administration change occurs following a statewide election is your position?
Not Likely to be Affected	

9	Please rank the importance of these characteristics/skills to the effective performance of your job.				
	Not Important	Not Very Important	Important	Very Important	Critical
GIS Evangelist/Cheerleader	-	-	-	-	Critical
GIS Architect	-	-	-	Very Important	-
Political Savvy	-	-	-	-	Critical
Technological Savvy	-	-	-	-	Critical
General Management Skills	-	-	-	Very Important	-
Procurement/Contracting Skills	-	-	-	Very Important	-
People Skills	-	-	-	-	Critical
Understanding the Business Needs of Your Customers	-	-	-	-	Critical