

GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT 2019

Massachusetts Report Card

Overall Grade: B+

COORDINATION	GRADE: B
STATE-LED THEMES	GRADE
Address	A
Cadastre	A+
Elevation	A-
Orthoimagery Leaf-Off	A+
Transportation	B
FEDERAL-LED THEMES	GRADE
Geodetic Control	B+
Government Units	A
Hydrography	B
Orthoimagery Leaf-On	B-

METRICS:

A - Superior

C - Average

F - Failure

B - Above average

D - Below average

N/A - Not Applicable

The National States Geographic Information Council Geospatial Maturity Assessment provides NSGIC members and other partners with a summary of geospatial initiatives, capabilities, and issues within and across state governments. The NSGIC GMA now produces report cards for each state on central data themes and coordination topics. The assessment is performed every two years.



MASSACHUSETTS GMA RESPONSE

With one exception, the Geospatial Maturity Assessment (GMA) grades for Massachusetts correctly reflect the states investments in framework data layers (especially cadastral, roads, address points, and imagery) and the 30-year existence of MassGIS, the state's GIS Office. The exception is the "B" grade for coordination which does not reflect the inadequacy of our state-level coordination efforts. MassGIS' has a relatively high-profile location in the state's two-year-old Cabinet-level IT agency. Also, the scope of MassGIS' statutory language calls for statewide coordination and for standards setting. However, there is no statewide GIS coordinating body. Thus all the coordination is informal and rests largely with the efforts of MassGIS' Director. This bottom up approach is not mature and increasingly does not support effective approaches to key issues such as funding, governance, and the appropriate scale of technology deployment. Recent developments suggest that MassGIS' success in developing and maintaining the mapping and data used by the Next Gen 9-1-1 system and the higher visibility from being in a Cabinet-level agency may start surfacing the need for more systematic state-level GIS coordination.

As mentioned above, substantial data investments have been made and the state is realizing the benefits of this investment, although much more could be achieved. In particular, additional work on and investment in improving the accuracy and detail of hydrography is needed. The State's Department of Environmental Protection is now the steward for National Hydrography Dataset (NHD); however their efforts are very limited due to lack of funding, and they have no mandate to develop the NHD outside of watersheds involved in public drinking water supply.

While the "B" grade assigned to transportation is a correct assessment, on-going work on this data set should see this grade go up in the next GMA.

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