

GEOSPATIAL MATURITY ASSESSMENT 2019

West Virginia Report Card

Overall Grade: B+

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

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.



WEST VIRGINIA GMA RESPONSE

Analysis of the Geospatial Maturity Assessment (GMA) data used to calculate a “B+” grade for West Virginia shows that the result is primarily due to insufficient funding for creation, maintenance and updates of some framework layers, a dated strategic plan and lack of strategic plans for individual layers.

The WV Office of GIS Coordination is pleased to report that efforts to address these deficiencies are underway.

The State GIS Policy Council, which includes high-ranking state officials, has been made active again. On April 29, 2019, the Council approved the development of a new strategic plan and a series of programs and projects that will enhance the state’s GIS program. It is through this body that additional funding for the development of new statewide layers, the maintenance and updating of existing framework layers, and the development of strategic plans for specific layers can and will be advocated.

Led by the State GIS Coordinator in partnership with the GIS Steering Committee (Steering Committee) and the WV Association of Geospatial Professionals (AGP), an update to the 2010 State GIS Strategic Plan is underway. Development of strategic plans for individual layers is being explored by the GIS Technical Issues Committee.

The groups mentioned above are active in their collective efforts to educate state, regional and local elected and appointed officials on the importance of GIS for government, economic development, emergency management, cadastre, and other activities. This initiative has been part of an advocacy agenda for the Office of GIS coordination and the AGP. Activities such as “GIS Day at the Legislature” and other events held during the State’s legislative session and presentations at government officials’ trade conferences have proven useful in this task.

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WEST VIRGINIA GMA RESPONSE

Support for several new GIS programs has resulted from the advocacy cited above. Among them:

- GeoEnabled Elections (GEE) Pilot program led by the State GIS Coordinator and in partnership with the WV Secretary of State has been authorized and funded. This initiative grew from NSGIC's GEE project.
- High school certification program in geospatial technologies is being developed by the Department of Education in partnership with the Office of GIS Coordination.
- Broadband Mapping program developed by the WV Development Office and the WV Broadband Enhancement Council, in partnership with the WV Office of GIS Coordination.
- Enterprise software agreement that provides regional and local governments access to GIS software secured by the Region 1 and Region 4 Planning and Development Councils in partnership with a major GIS Software vendor.

West Virginia believes current and planned efforts will increase our grade in future GMAs.

Tony Simental
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Coordinator's Office*