

Assignment

URPL 969 -- GIS Applications in Urban and Regional Planning
Spring 2007

GIS Application Summary

Prepare a summary of a real-world GIS application and discuss how the application influenced decision-making and benefited society.

Contact a GIS professional in a government agency and ask them to describe a GIS application they were involved with that showed that the agency's investment in GIS resulted in a benefit to the public. Here are some questions you may want to ask:

- Describe why the GIS application was undertaken?
- Briefly describe the GIS analysis that was conducted as part of the application?
- Describe how the results of the GIS analysis were presented to decision-makers and/or the public.
- Describe the nature of the societal benefit that resulted from the GIS application. What were the efficiency, effectiveness, and/or equity benefits? Were there any monetary savings for the agency?
- Did everything go as planned during the development of the application? What adjustments needed to be made during the process?
- Did the perceptions that supervisors and/or elected officials had of GIS use within the agency change as a result of the application?
- Are any changes planned to the application? How could it be improved?

Format: The paper should be single-spaced with 12pt text and should not exceed two pages. You are free to use maps or graphics to help convey your message.

Notes:

- I am available to discuss ideas and potential contacts.
- Some contacts may be busy and/or sensitive about discussing their GIS application. Let me know if you have trouble reaching your primary contact so we can develop a "Plan B." Don't wait until the last minute!
- Please send me the digital file. Papers will be placed online through the course website (after a post-grading edit) as a resource for those interested in communicating the benefits of GIS applications.

Due: Friday, February 23rd during class.