



**WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF
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Dear Land Information Stakeholders,

We are pleased to announce the release of the *Version 1 Parcel Project Interim Report*, which reports on the V1 Parcel Project and makes recommendations on WLIP Strategic Initiative grants.

The State Cartographer's Office (SCO), a key partner in the Parcel Initiative, led in creating the V1 statewide parcel map, which will be available online July 31st, and the *V1 Interim Report*, posted online at <http://www.sco.wisc.edu/publications>.

DOA management will consider the recommendations in the *V1 Interim Report* along with stakeholder feedback when finalizing the priorities for the 2016 Strategic Initiative grant application, which is to be released by October 1, 2015.

To complement the report, we would like to provide the following supplemental information about Strategic Initiative grants for your review and comment.

- **2016 Strategic Initiative Grant Eligibility.** The Wisconsin Land Information Program will make available \$50k in 2016 Strategic Initiative grant funding per county, in addition to Base Budget and Training & Education grants. Wisconsin Administrative Code, Adm. 47.04(4), states that the department may provide Strategic Initiative grants “. . . for expediting and fostering statewide and regional strategic initiatives consistent with specific statutory requirements and standards adopted by the department.”
- **Strategic Initiative Grants and Benchmarks for Parcel Data.** Strategic Initiative grants will be used to address statutory directives to create a statewide parcel layer and to post certain parcel information online in a standard searchable format. Standards will be in the form of “benchmarks” as described in the *V1 Interim Report*.
- **Situation in Which a County has Already Met All of the Benchmarks.** If a county has already met the parcel benchmarks specified, it will still remain eligible for \$50k in 2016 Strategic Initiative grant funding. Such a county may use the funding for a county project, for example, to complete or comprehensively update another Foundational Element layer, such as LiDAR, orthoimagery, address points, street centerlines, land use, zoning, or administrative boundaries. For the expanded list of Foundational Elements, see the 2015 Instructions for County Land Information Plans (www.doa.state.wi.us/WLIP). Strategic Initiative grant funding may not be used for renewing annual software vendor contracts, ongoing operational costs, or maintenance of existing layers.
- **Local Match Requirement.** For Strategic Initiative grant eligibility, there is to be a 20% local match requirement to be comprised of non-WLIP funds (defined as both WLIP grants received under s. 16.967(7) and the \$8 of the \$30 Register of Deeds recording fee retained for land information under s. 59.72(5)). This means that a condition of the 2016 Strategic Initiative grant would be for a county to contribute \$10k in non-WLIP funds to its Strategic Initiative grant project, so that the project would actually total \$60k (\$50k grant + \$10k local match). WLIP staff will be available to work with counties on how to meet this requirement. The advantage of the 20% local match requirement is that it will leverage a total of \$720,000 statewide in non-

WLIP funds, and will at least partially address some land information officers' concerns that the non-WLIP funding portion of land information office budgets would be reduced in response to receiving a Strategic Initiative grant.

- **Projected 2016 Strategic Initiative Grant Timeline**

Grant recommendations released	June 30, 2015
Webinar on V1 Interim Report	July 16, 2015
Deadline for comments on recommendations	August 7, 2015
Grant application released	By October 1, 2015
Grant application deadline	December 31, 2015
Grant agreements executed	By February 28, 2016
First 50% of funds distributed	By March 31, 2016
Remaining 50% of funds distributed	Upon project completion
Grant project deadlines	March 31, 2017

- **2017 Strategic Initiative Grants.** We intend to continue awarding Strategic Initiative grants on an annual basis at the \$50k level, as the revenue source and statutory direction are not scheduled to sunset. Recommended benchmarks for 2017 grants will likely be similar to 2016 parcel benchmarks. However, 2017 Strategic Initiative grant benchmarks will likely require the searchable format standard for parcel data, as described in the *V1 Interim Report*. After 2017, Strategic Initiative grants may expand to encompass other statewide land information objectives.

DOA and SCO will be hosting a **joint webinar on the V1 Interim Report on Thursday, July 16, 2015 at 9:30 a.m.** You may submit questions in advance to wlip@wisconsin.gov.

We welcome your comments on the *V1 Interim Report* and its 2016 Strategic Initiative grant recommendations by **August 7, 2015**. Please submit written comments to wlip@wisconsin.gov. If you have any questions, also feel free to contact me at (608) 267-7982 or Grant Administrator Peter Herreid at (608) 267-3369.

Sincerely,

Mike Friis
Program Manager
Wisconsin Land Information Program