

BREAK-OUT SESSION NOTES

Thursday January 8, 2009

Compiled highlights from break-out groups

Vision for a Denver regional data consortium (edited from notes):

To support informed decision making in the Denver region by organizing, developing, maintaining, sharing, enhancing and distributing regional data. All organizations that are willing to collaborate are welcome as participants.

Afternoon break-out session

a) Is this the right vision?

- Without a vision the other break-out questions become problematic. We should tie what we do to be a part of other umbrella functions – the big issues of the day, for example, homeland security, the economy, infrastructure improvement, etc.
- Eliminate “contribute and ...”
- Eliminate “enhancing ...”
- Just put “anybody” in place of examples of individual institutions.
- Add “inclusive” and remove the second sentence.

b) What are key components for success?

- Timely, comprehensive, complete ...frequency is important!
- Process, stewardship, public accessibility, etc.
- Keep it simple!
- Develop a visually compelling presentation of the business case
- Should be a reduction of custom requests, phone calls – “More people are requesting our information but taking less of our time.”
- Political support important
- Defined roles and responsibilities.
- Time and temporal importance of data – participating should “Make it worth your while” to collaborate

- Public exposure of the data and information is important – the “Google Effect”
- Should develop a strategic plan.
- Governance in place and the ability to demonstrate it.
- High quality data important and should provide a cost savings (\$)
- Important to build trust among participants collaborating in the consortium.
- Important to keep it sustainable over time.
- Identify what business functions the data serves
- Data security and a disclaimer
- Accountability
- Protocols of who is in charge of what processes
- Develop an informal network and handshakes
- Attorney’s may have different view – important to educate
- Need an effective feedback loop – the more people that use it, the more the quality will improve
- Creating a better product – more people will use it!

c) What potential obstacles exist that might limit our success?

- Resources!
- Seems to be a need to clarify the perceived vs. the actual cost/benefit
- Hard to standardize and not duplicate other efforts – it’s hard to know what all is happening in the region at any one time
- Upper management and executive-level support
- Timeliness/temporal nature of this type of data/information
- Cultural – our geospatial culture in the region
- Need to be able to estimate Return on Investment (ROI)
- Are some jurisdictions only concerned about what happens within their political boundaries?

- Some commercial products our customers use require us to provide data, they package, and sometimes comes back in our customer systems with less accuracy

d) Our guiding principles – Who can participate?

- Everyone! But should not be like “Wikipedia” for data and information management
- Reduce duplication of efforts
- Should there be different levels of “access”
- Need more vision and scoping
- Identify the economic impact of sharing data and collaborating

e) What are the most promising opportunities for short-term collaboration?

- DRAPP, NCR, and MetCom 911 projects
- Find common data priorities and needs
- See if we can work together first
- Data needs – streets, addresses, parcels, administrative boundaries

f) Next actions?

- Get something out there quickly!
- Pilot projects, small areas – do some examples in small geographic areas first
- Build on small successes
- Provide people with a regional place to get regional data
- Establish a coordinator
- First decide what our successes would look like – “Worth our while”
- Establish steering committee
- Develop 4 or 5 objectives and goals and a framework to work through them
- Look at other states and other region’s examples
- Create a website and/or a communication framework