

VCGI HISTORY

Prior to 1994 the responsibilities for Vermont's state GIS data coordination and advocacy were designated to the Office of GIS (OGIS) within the VT Agency of Administration. To alleviate funding pressures at that time the legislature established the Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Inc (VCGI) within 1994 Act 204 (10 VSA Chapter 8). VCGI was directed to have the resources and responsibilities previously designated to OGIS. VCGI was created as a non-profit public corporation charged with the development and implementation of a comprehensive strategy for the Vermont Geographic Information System (VGIS). Further, VCGI is charged with ensuring that all data gathered by state agencies that is relevant to the VGIS shall be in a form that is compatible with, useful to, and shared with that geographic information system. Implicit in this charge was the need for VCGI to get grants, contracts and/or service agreements with federal or state agency partners to stabilize the organization's yearly finances. Those agreements were intended to provide professional level services in support of VCGI's statutory directives and augment the organization's yearly state appropriation from the Property Transfer Tax.

In September 2013, the VCGI Board of Directors began a lengthy strategic planning analysis aimed at reviewing VCGI's existing business model and alleviating increasing funding pressures at the organization. As a result of the strategic planning effort the Board voted to approve VCGI's Executive Director to advocate for legislation that would move VCGI and its statutory responsibilities inside of state government. The Legislature discussed this potential legislation during the FY2014 and FY2015 legislative sessions. In June of 2014 the legislature passed Act 179 of 2014 designating that VCGI should be "created as a division within the Agency of Commerce and Community Development..." thereby effectively bringing the organization full circle, back into state government.