

# VCGI Testimony to VT Legislature's Joint Fiscal Committee

RE: Act 50 Sec E. 123(a) of the FY2014 Session

David Brotzman  
VT Center for Geographic Information  
Executive Director  
11/21/13

## VCGI's Situation

- Yearly Revenue Supported By Grants and Contracts (~40% of budget)
- Project Emphasis Means VCGI is Less Able to Support State and Agency Needs
- Reduced or Level Funding – Increasing Costs
- No Increase in Personnel (6 people for ~15 Years)
- Coming to the End of Large Grant (\$3.5M Ends Sept. 2014)
- Loss of Revenue Will Require Staff Reductions
- State Needs for Geospatial and 'Open Data' Coordination Are Increasing

## VCGI Board Discussion

- Recognized Future Revenue Shortage In June 2012
- Three Strategic Planning Sessions in Fall 2012
- Facilitated Discussion
- Materials Available On-line and in the Report
- Thorough Analysis of VCGI Mission, State Long Term Needs, and Options
- Decision Was Made at December Board Mtg.
- Board Passed, One Against, One Abstained
- Directed Executive Director to Pursue a Merge into DII
- DII Selected Because of Shared Technology Focus

# Budget Analysis

- Moving Into State Govt. Would Eliminate Costs of Being a Business
- Would Enable Use of Shared Resources (Accounting, HR, Benefits Management, etc.)
- Projected Savings of \$74, 087 for FY 2015
- Similar in Following Years
- Does Not Include Executive Director's Time for Business Management, HR, Benefits, etc.
- Project Work Can Still Be Done
- Expenses Will Only Increase

## Benefits

- In-State Data Coordination Activities Save Money
  - Independent ROI Estimates Range from 3:1 to 50:1
- Sustained Access for Public To Valuable Resources
- Coordination Reduces Redundant Data Activities
- Provide Professional Development Activities
- Enable Sharing of Software and Hardware Costs
- Promotes Sharing of Expertise
- Future “Open Data” Needs
  - Geospatial Data Sharing Experience Supports Open Data Values
  - Coordination and Governance is Needed
    - Similar to State’s Enterprise GIS Consortium

## Summary

- VCGI Is Approaching A Crossroads – September 2014
- State Data Coordination Needs Are Only Increasing
- Money and Time Can Be Saved By Moving VCGI Into State
- VCGI and DII's Missions Are Aligned To Enterprise Technology Goals
- VCGI Can Focus Resources More on State Needs
- There Are Risks – They Are Manageable
- Consideration For Transition Planning Has Started
- In The Long Term – All Parties Will Benefit