EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 38

WHEREAS, State and local governments' information sharing needs, in the geospatial data technical environment, have grown considerably over the last several years; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and other governmental agencies, educational institutions, and private industry have developed increasingly powerful computer systems designed to process and analyze map and other spatial information, collectively called Geographic Information System (GIS) technology; and

WHEREAS, the coordination, promotion, and facilitation of the development, effective use, and sharing of geographic information, geospatial data, and the effective and efficient use of GIS and related technologies in the State of Alabama to promote and assist in economic development can have a long term economic benefit to the citizens of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to remove barriers to, and provide guidance in, development and implementation of GIS technology to improve the delivery of emergency services, other public services, reduce redundancy and duplication of effort, manage and protect natural resources, and provide for wise and coordinated planning activities related thereto; and

WHEREAS, it is to the benefit of the state, local governments, education entities, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and the citizens of Alabama to develop high-quality, accurate framework geospatial data; and

WHEREAS, State policymakers are increasingly called on to distinguish wants from needs, and to judge what the State can afford, both now and in the longer term; and

WHEREAS, State policymakers also face a world in which local, regional, and state boundaries are becoming less relevant when addressing a large range of issues; and

WHEREAS, In the process of making the difficult decisions required by these challenges, it is essential that policymakers are able to choose programs backed by solid strategic planning, technical evaluation, and that provide measurable results for the taxpayers of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, GIS technology can be used strategically as a management information and decision making tool in such areas as water resources, air resources, agricultural resources, energy resources, cultural resources, land resources, mineral resources, environmental management, forestry, geology, health, local government, planning, public safety, criminal justice, social services, transportation, utilities, waste management, homeland security, and wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Research has shown that states with the most successful GIS coordination programs universally have a strong state-level oversight body; and

WHEREAS, Statewide GIS resource coordination fosters a performance-based and results-oriented environment that directly serves several of the six top priorities established as part of the SMART Budgeting initiative;

NOW THEREFORE, based upon these considerations, and for other good and valid reasons which relate thereto, I Bob Riley, as Governor of the State of Alabama, by virtue of authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Alabama do hereby establish the Alabama Geographic Information Executive Council. Such establishment shall comply with the following requirements:

Section 1. Purpose.

The purpose of this statewide geographic information coordination effort shall be to establish policies relating to the use of geographic information, geospatial data, and related technologies; to further cooperation among state, federal, and local government agencies; academic institutions; and the private sector to improve the quality, access, cost-effectiveness, and utility of Alabama's geographic information and to facilitate the employment of geographic information as a strategic resource in the State.

Section 2. Establishment

The Alabama Geographic Information Executive Council is created and shall operate as an independent council. The Council shall have the duties, responsibilities, functions, and authority set forth in this order and otherwise provided by law.

Section 3. Duties Generally.

The Alabama Geographic Information Executive Council is established to develop policies regarding the utilization of geographic information, GIS systems, and other related technologies. The Executive Council shall be responsible for the following activities:

1. Strategic planning for a sustainable state program to coordinate GIS
2. Resolution of policy and technology issues
3. Coordination of interagency development of high-quality, accurate framework for geospatial data
4. Coordination, direction, and facilitation of state, county, and local government GIS efforts
5. Educational outreach program to coordinate geospatial training efforts
6. Advising the Governor, the Legislature, and local governing bodies as to needed directions, responsibilities, and funding regarding geographic information
7. Evaluate and determine the staffing requirements for GIS Coordination at the state level
8. Seek input from all stakeholders at all levels of government, and the private sector to include public utilities, business professionals, industry leaders and others with a vested interest in GIS

Section 4. Executive Council Membership

There is hereby created an executive council to meet on the call of the Chair to perform the duties outlined in this order.

Members - The council shall consist of the following members, or their designees:

1. Director, Alabama Department of Finance
2. Commissioner, Alabama Department of Revenue
3. Director, Alabama Department of Transportation
4. Director, Alabama Emergency Management Agency
5. Director, Alabama Department of Environmental Management
6. Director, Alabama Department of Homeland Security
7. Director, Alabama Department of Economic and Community Affairs
8. Commissioner, Alabama Department of Conservation
9. Director, Alabama Department of Public Safety

Council members shall serve terms coinciding with their respective offices. The Governor shall appoint a Chairman from the council membership to serve for a term of two years. The council shall adopt bylaws to govern its proceedings accordingly. The council shall meet at least quarterly on the call of the Chair. The council shall subdivide itself as necessary into standing committees and workgroups to accomplish the stated purposes of the council. All council members shall serve without compensation, and will be reimbursed for expenses by their respective agencies.

No person or individual shall continue to serve on the council when he or she no longer officially represents the function or serves in the capacity enumerated in this section as a member to which he or she was appointed.

The council shall report at least annually to the Governor and the Alabama Legislature on the progress made toward accomplishing their missions.

Section 5. Advisory Committee

There is herby created an Advisory Committee to ensure that state and local interests are represented. The Advisory Committee's purpose will be to foster communication and cooperation among stakeholders throughout state, local, and federal agencies; educational institutions; private industry; and others in the field of Geographic Information Systems; provide guidance for the Executive Council in fulfilling the objectives of the Strategic Plan; provide an arena for discussions of relevant GIS issues within the state; and provide expert advice to the Executive Committee and the GIS community on GIS related issues. Members of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed by the Governor for a four year period. Additionally, the Governor shall appoint two members of the Advisory Committee to serve a one year term as voting members of the Council.

The Advisory Committee shall have representation from stakeholders throughout the state to include the areas of water resources, air resources, agricultural resources, energy resources, cultural resources, land resources, mineral resources, environmental management, forestry, geology, health, local government, planning, public safety, criminal justice, social services, transportation, utilities, waste management, homeland security, and wildlife.

Section 6.

This Order is effective immediately. This Order shall remain in effect until amended or modified by the Governor or until terminated by operation of law.

DONE AND ORDERED this 27th day of November, 2007.

Bob Riley
Governor

Attested:

Beth Chapman
Secretary of State

EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBER 38
AMENDMENT

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 38 was issued on November 27, 2008, establishing the Alabama Georgraphic Information Executive Council; and

WHEREAS, as the Alabama Georgraphic Information Executive Council moves toward achieving its mission and goals, it has became apparent the need to include additional members.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Bob Riley, Governor of the State of Alabama, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of Alabama, and for other good and valid reasons, which relate thereto, do hereby amend Executive Order No. 38, dated November 27, 2008, by adding the following members to the GIS Council:

Director , Alabama Department of Industrial Relations, or his designee; and
Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Industries, or his designee.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that in all other respects, the terms and conditions of Executive Order No. 38 shall remain in full force and effect, and that this Amendment shall become effective immediately upon signing and shall remain in effect until amended or modified by the Governor.

DONE AND ORDERED this 3rd day of March, 2008.

Bob Riley
Governor

Attested:

Beth Chapman
Secretary of State