**Appendix B: Background Information for Budget Analyst (11/1/2012)**

The Maryland Department of Planning (MDP) currently provides parcel based data to Federal, State and local government agencies, and to private sector organizations (including universities and non-profit organizations). This data is provided on a licensed, subscription basis for one or more of the following products (*MdPropertyView*, *FINDER, FINDER* Online).

Existing State Agency subscribers generated approximately $227,000 in revenue and include the following agencies:



Data sales from other entities (non-state agency contributors) generated approximately $250,000 in FY 2012 revenue broken up as follows.



Revenues have been declining over the last several years as other sources of information become available, including MDP’s support for providing parcel data to MDiMAP. The declining revenue has meant that MDP has had to make up that revenue deficit through general operating funds. The table below shows the revenue trend over the past 5 years for *non-state agency subscribers*. Our belief is that the true deficit (not counting existing state agency revenues) is approximately $300,000.



MDP is the designated agency responsible for maintaining the State Department of Assessment and Taxation’s legislatively mandated tax maps. We have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in place with SDAT to support this activity. We are also responsible for providing copies of the tax maps to each of the State’s Assessment offices for public and agency level use. The parcel based data and associated products are also framework GIS datasets that are used extensively for analysis and mapping purposes. Parcel maps are also viewed extensively as part of the SDAT Real property data search (over 200,000 hits per month).

Proposed Approach

MDP and the Department of Information Technology (DoIT) propose to make to make funding of parcel data maintenance a reimbursable fund expenditure – and making this product a part of the open data initiative. Existing state agencies who contribute to the ESRI Enterprise License Agreement (ELA) would provide the funding. These would be agencies that have established, higher end GIS functions. MDP would work with DoIT to provide an acceptable allocation for each agency. In general, existing ELA subscriber agencies would be asked to contribute more, and agencies that are not currently subscribers would be required to contribute a small amount. Since many of these agencies are current users of parcel data via iMAP or through collection of County based data, it would be reasonable to have them contribute to this effort. This process would take effect with the 2014FY.

Benefits

An abbreviated summary of some of the benefits is provided below.

* Restrictions on the use a parcel data will be lifted. This means that parcel data will be able to be provided for open use on MDiMAP, Socrata, etc. Currently we limit the number of fields and graphic features available on MDiMAP.
* Increasing the availability of parcel maps and data within State agencies, and between and amongst the State and other organizations allows the Governor’s vision of “One Map” for Maryland to be fulfilled. As it currently stands the parcel data is the last major dataset to be excluded from this vision.
* Counties and local government agencies would be able to utilize this data more fully.
* MDP would be able to develop desktop / mobile applications that provide full access to this parcel information.
* The SDAT Real Property Data search would be able to be modernized.
* The private sector and universities will be able to leverage this data more extensively for additional applications.
* The open distribution model is more consistent with other GIS datasets that have been developed by the State. It is also more consistent with what is happening in other states. A recent survey by MDP confirmed that the vast majority of states do not charge for parcel data.
* MDP would be able to post data to a data download site and would eliminate the need to ship and mail individual DVDs to subscribers.

Implementation of this change will enable this dataset to be available to 100% of Marylanders versus the current situation that enables it to be available to less than 0.001% percent of Marylanders that are subscribers.