Vermont

- Mostly Rural (Total Pop: ~625,000)
  - Second smallest by population
  - Sixth smallest by size
  - 255 Cities/Towns/Gores & Grant
  - Small Cities (Burlington ~45,000 residents)
  - Mostly rural, small towns
  - No formal statewide town boundary layer
  - 14,175 miles of traveled public highways

- Vermont Grand List
  - Property Assessments and tax amounts
  - Listers - elected official for assessments
  - Assessors - appointed or hired official for tax assessments

- No consistent way to link Grand List to Parcel data across the state
Quick Introduction to Parcels

- What is a Parcel?
  A piece of land under the same ownership that is contiguous

- Vermont has 296,825 parcels statewide that are landed

- Representing 5,596,014 acres (8,743.77 square miles)

- The value of the landed parcels is $95,026,089,313

- The Grand List is the listing of each parcel, owner, and valuation and other parcel details.

Source: 2018 Vermont Statewide Grand List - VT Dept. of Taxes
Why Parcels for Right-of-Way

- Link to State Grand List
- Solar Facility Siting
- Corridor Management
- Aid in update of town boundaries
- Property Ownership Patterns
- VTrans Resiliency Planning
- Hazard Assessments
- Encroachment Assessments of highway, rail, and aviation parcels
- Points of contact from adjoining landowners
- Quantifying/Assessing the valuation of parcels affected by projects
Issues with Vermont Parcel Data

- Incomplete data statewide - missing towns and non-standard, out of date data (1990’s)
- Inconsistent content and format
- Various ages of data - 1990’s to present
- Various formats - mylar, paper, shapefiles
- Not all data was accessible to the public
- Data lacking parcel IDs or SPAN (School Property Assessment Number)
- Unable to link data to VT “Grand List”
Project Background

- A Parcel Working Group is formed of stakeholders VTrans, VCGI, ANR, Tax, RPCs, VALA, VLCT
- Multiple needs for Parcel Data - ie: Use Value Appraisal Mapping by ANR
- VTrans assesses Parcel Data needs
- Management requests a Return on Investment Study
- Monthly meetings over a 2 year period
- The initial stages of the project had begun
Return on Investment Study Findings

- Existing tax maps showed VTrans ROW inaccurately
- Knowing where useable land and taxable frontage is important to tax assessment
- Statewide parcels map showing accurate VTrans ROW could enhance economic development potential
- Accurate ROW data in accessible GIS format would improve coordination with towns and provide appropriate data to the public on VTrans property ownership

Enabling Legislation - Act 158 of 2015

19 V.S.A. § 44. Statewide Property Parcel Mapping Program
(a) Purpose. The purpose of the Statewide Property Parcel Mapping Program is to:

(1) develop a statewide property parcel data layer;

(2) ensure regular maintenance, including updates, of the data layer; and

(3) make property parcel data available to State agencies and departments, regional planning commissions, municipalities, and the public.

(b) Property Parcel Data Advisory Board…

http://legislature.vermont.gov/statutes/section/19/001/00044
Cooperative Effort

- Project headed up by VTrans Right of Way
- Project support from **VCGI** (Vermont Center for Geographic Information)
- Outside contractor (AppGeo) to manage project and provide guidance
- 255 municipalities with listers/assessors
- 10 Vendors selected to develop parcel data
- 9 State Agencies saw the benefit to creating a statewide parcels layer and provided funding - Signed MOU
Project Funding

Federal Government
- FHWA (Federal Highway Administration)

State Agencies
- VTrans (Agency of Transportation)
- ACCD (Agency of Commerce and Community Development)
- AOA (Agency of Administration)
- VAAFM (Agency of Agriculture, Food, and Markets)
- Tax (Department of Taxes)
- ANR (Agency of Natural Resources)
- AHS (Agency of Human Services)
- DPS (Department of Public Safety)
- PSD (Department of Public Service)
Parcel Development

- 3 Year Parcel Development Process
  - 72 towns during year 1
  - 103 towns year 2
  - 80 towns year 3
- VCGI Provided outreach to communities to determine who would be included in each year
  - Surveys
    - Interest?
    - Existing Data (Date/Data Type)
    - Reappraisal
    - Covered under existing parcel standard
  - Regional Meetings
  - Direct Outreach
- Expected Completion - November 2019
Parcel Development

● Development of Parcel Standard
  ○ Pilot project with 14 municipalities (v1)
  ○ Updated Version 2.x prior to project
  ○ Updated in collaboration with VTrans and VCGI
  ○ Adopted by Parcels Advisory Council

● RFQ Development
  ○ Develop qualifications based process
  ○ Chose 10 qualified vendors

● *Main Requirement of Project*
  ○ 99% match to Grand List

Parcel Development

- **Selected towns competitively bid between existing vendors on state list of qualified vendors**
  - Vendors provided Response to each Task Order w/ process and understanding
  - Provide separate pricing quote
  - Team reviewed responses and ranked
  - Topped ranked firm awarded work if agreement in price
  - Tried to keep existing town vendors in place

- **No Spatial Accuracy Requirement**
  - How do you ensure good data without compromising budget
Lessons Learned

● **Rural communities**
  ○ Town Office staff are part time or seasonal with limited hours, making access to data and questions difficult

● **Ensuring the correct/best contacts**
  ○ Sorting out who is the best contact for the town to get the correct information
  ○ Providing current information to vendors

● **Town Review**
  ○ Originally no requirement for town sign off
  ○ Added requirement in Year 2, town had 3 week time limit to review data or it would be considered complete
Lessons Learned

● **Town-Vendor Relationships**
  ○ Importance of vendors maintaining good relationships
  ○ Vendors competing over individual towns - how do you deal with a town that is assigned one vendor and wanted to use another?
  ○ Work closely with towns and make sure they understand the goals of the project

● **Existing Data Update**
  ○ Create ETL’s if towns need to keep data in specific format
  ○ Allow towns to manage data in the way that works for them

● **Many towns don’t have GIS Capability**
  ○ Expected Project to cover software and training costs (keep expectations real)
Lessons Learned

- **Spatial Accuracy**
  - Although not an initial part of the project, spatial accuracy was included in Year 3 work to insure more accurate parcels.

- **Topology and GIS Tools**

- **Inactive parcels**
  - Improving the number of unmatched parcels through the inactive parcel layer

- **Maintenance of the Data is Critical**
Current State of Parcels (after Year 2)

175 Municipalities have current standard parcel data

80 Municipalities will be worked on in Year 3

VCGI is working to take over the Program

Current parcel data and information about this project are available on-line at the following links:

VCGI VSPPM Program Web Site - [http://vcgi.vermont.gov/data/parcels/overview](http://vcgi.vermont.gov/data/parcels/overview)


VT Parcel Viewer - [https://maps.vcgi.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer/](https://maps.vcgi.vermont.gov/ParcelViewer/)
Questions???

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VT Agency of Transportation
Policy, Planning & Intermodal
Development Division -
Mapping Section

2018 CLA Adjusted Value Per Acre Parcels - David Fox - VCGI