Statewide Data Collection Strategic Plan

Create a strategic plan that will leverage existing technologies for implementing an enterprise-wide approach to data collection and procurement.

WHAT IS THE NEED?

Caltrans lags behind other State departments of transportation (DOTs) by not implementing a unified and coordinated statewide approach to data collection and management. This plan will help to minimize duplication and maximizes data value and operational efficiency through a collect once, use it many times approach.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The approach for the Statewide Data Collection Strategic plan is comprised of six tasks below:

- Task 1: Project management and facilitation of teamwork and communication
- Task 2: Review existing data deficiencies and needs
- Task 3: Stakeholder outreach
- Task 4: Determine best practices to manage the data lifecycle
- Task 5: Synthesize findings to propose strategic plan
- Task 6: Pilot technology demonstration
WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The objectives of this research project are:

• To develop a coordinated and repeatable process to evaluate and prioritize what, where, when, why, and how data should be acquired.
• To implement a coordinated statewide field asset data collection strategy based on a collect once, use it many times approach.
• To implement a coordinated statewide data procurement practice based on a procure once, use it many times approach.
• To identify data storage, discovery and access solution.
• To clearly define the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders who will help implement the plan.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

This project will help achieving significant net cost savings by capitalizing on the efficiencies gained through a “collect once, use it many times” strategy, maturing beyond a traditional siloed approach that has led to redundant data collection efforts covering the same study areas multiple times.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

Caltrans seeks to hire the experts at University of California, Berkeley and University of California, San Diego to develop the statewide data collection strategic plan.

• The survey was completed with a total of 49 responses. The responses were comprised of 31 people from headquarters and 18 from Districts.
• The results were reported to the Task Team.
• A full report on the results was provided as a deliverable for the project.

The project is on track for completion. The results of the survey indicate the current state of data collection activities within the organization. As expected, there was a low level of data awareness across the organization as well as data sharing. The detailed report breaks down these results across assets and organizational boundaries. This indicates that a Strategic Plan for Data Collection could greatly improve the organizational use of data and support the vision of “Data is collected once and is usable and findable by all”.

Plan For Next Quarter:

• Evaluate survey response and report results to the Task Team.
• Gain access to and evaluate another contractor’s work focused on identifying all datasets resident on inter/intranet.