

NGAC Visioning

April 2024 National Geospatial Advisory Committee



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Federal Geographic Data Committee

2 April 2024

Topics

- NGAC Background
- NGAC's Role
- NGAC Member Roles and Responsibilities
- FACA Discussion
- PRA Discussion
- Non-legal blockers and how to break them down
- Subcommittee Discussion
- What topics FGDC needs help with
- Open discussion

National Geospatial Advisory Committee

As described in the GDA, “The Secretary of the Interior shall establish within the Department of the Interior the National Geospatial Advisory Committee to provide advice and recommendations to the Chairperson of the Committee.”

NGAC Overview

- Established administratively in 2008, statutorily authorized in 2018 through GDA.
- Operates under requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), GDA, and DOI FACA guidelines
 - GDA extended annual FACA renewal requirements to every 10 years for the NGAC
- Balanced membership:
 - Non-governmental organizations (private sector, non-profits, academia)
 - Governmental organizations (Federal, Tribal, state, local, regional)
- Reports to FGDC Chair through Designated Federal Officer (DFO)
- Sponsored by Interior Department – administrative support provided by FGDC Office of the Secretariat (FGDC OS), housed in USGS

Membership

- Composed of not more than 30 members, at least one of which will be from NGA, who shall
- be appointed by the Chairperson of the Committee;
- be selected to achieve a balanced representation of the viewpoints of various interested parties, with consideration of a geographic balance of residence of the members;
- be selected from among groups involved in the geospatial community, including—
 - (i) States;
 - (ii) local governments;
 - (iii) regional governments;
 - (iv) tribal governments;
 - (v) private sector entities;
 - (vi) geospatial information user industries;
 - (vii) professional associations;
 - (viii) scholarly associations;
 - (ix) nonprofit organizations;
 - (x) academia;
 - (xi) licensed geospatial data acquisition professionals; and
 - (xii) the Federal Government.

What is the role of NGAC?

Advice and Recommendations

- Management of Federal and national geospatial programs
- Development of NSDI
- Implementing GDA

Review and Comment

- Geospatial Policy
- Geospatial Management Issues

Convey Views

- Non-Federal interested parties
- National geospatial activities

NGAC Review and Comment Process

1. **Gathering** Information

- a) Receiving briefing at NGAC meetings
- b) Engaging with sectors you represent
- c) Engaging with other NGAC members
- d) Engaging with Subcommittees

2. **Developing** Advice

- a) In small groups or one on one prior to subcommittee meetings
- b) During subcommittee meetings or public meetings
- c) Engaging with sectors you represent or other NGAC members

3. **Approving** Recommendations or Resolutions by Consensus during Public meetings (usually only twice a year)

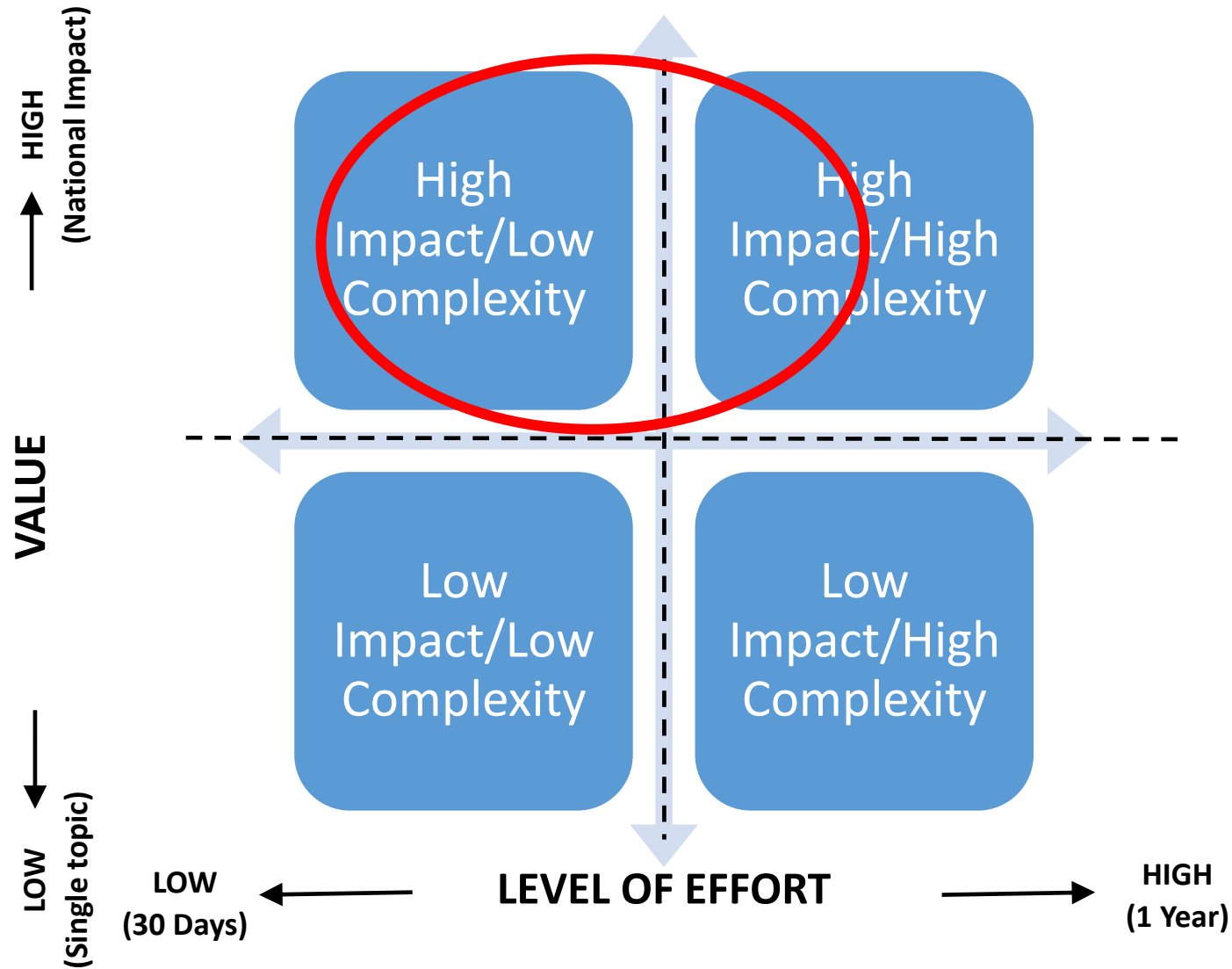
Advice and Recommendations Mechanisms

- Can be **developed by a sector and provided to the NGAC member** who shepherds the recommendation through NGAC process for a vote at a public meeting
- Can be **developed by a member** and shepherded through NGAC process for a vote at a public meeting
- Can be **developed by a subcommittee** and shepherded through NGAC process for a vote at a public meeting

Types of Recommendations

- Up to 30 Days – short term don't require a lot of research or coordination low complexity high
- Up to 90 Days
- Up to 120 Days
- Up to 180 days
- Up to 365 days

Recommendation Sweet Spot



What is the role of subcommittees?

The duties of **NGAC subcommittees** are described in the GDA:

- (1) may be formed for the purposes of compiling information or conducting research;**
- (2) shall be composed of members appointed by the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee
- (3) shall act under the direction of the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee and the officer or employee [DFO] designated under section 10(e) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) with respect to the Advisory Committee;
- (4) shall report the recommendations of the subcommittee to the Advisory Committee for consideration;** and
- (5) shall meet as necessary to accomplish the objectives of the subcommittee, subject to the approval of the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee and the availability of resources.

NOT LIMITED TO NGAC MEMBERS.

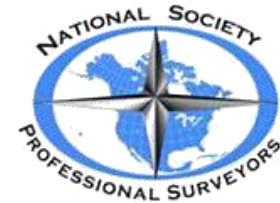
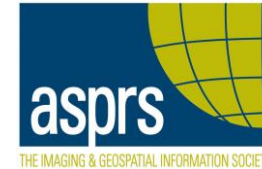
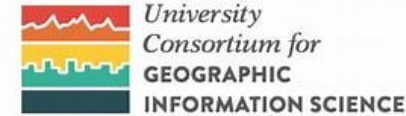
NGAC Charter/Bylaws

NGAC Member Role:

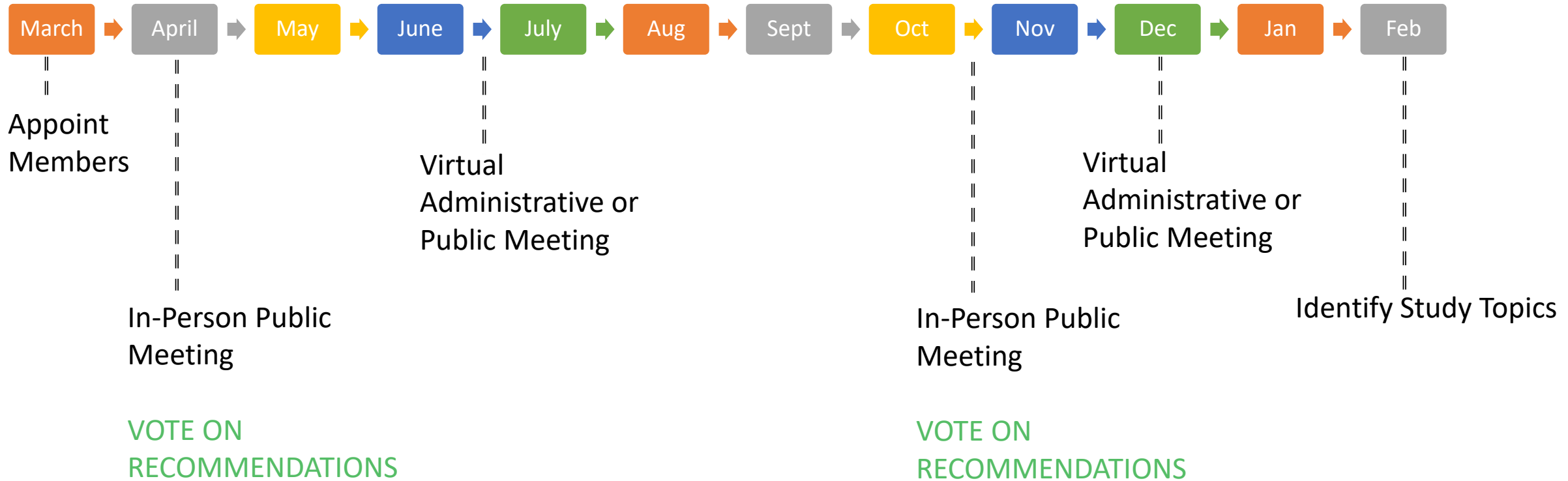
- Represent the viewpoints of interests they were appointed to represent on the NGAC.
- Communicate back to the sectors/organizations they represent.
- Work collaboratively to develop consensus on priority issues.

How do you coordinate with the sectors you represent?

- States
- local governments
- regional governments
- tribal governments
- private sector entities
- geospatial information user industries
- professional associations
- scholarly associations
- nonprofit organizations
- academia
- licensed geospatial data acquisition professionals
- the Federal Government



Notional NGAC Timeline



NGAC Subcommittees must plan development of recommendations for vote in fall or spring.

Federal Advisory Committee Act

- FACA defines an “advisory committee” as any committee, board, commission, council, conference, panel, task force, or other similar group, or any subcommittee or other subgroup thereof which is established –
 - by statute or reorganization plan,
 - established or utilized by the President
 - established or utilized by one or more agencies
- the function of advisory committees should be advisory only
- new advisory committees should be established only when they are determined to be essential and their number should be kept to the minimum necessary
- No advisory committee shall be established unless such establishment is specifically authorized by statute or by the President or determined to be in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on that agency by law.
- Unless otherwise specifically provided by statute or Presidential directive, advisory committees shall be utilized solely for advisory functions.
- Determinations of action to be taken and policy to be expressed with respect to matters upon which an advisory committee reports or makes recommendations shall be made solely by the President or an officer of the Federal Government.

Source - <https://www.gsa.gov/policy-regulations/policy/federal-advisory-committee-management/legislation-and-regulations/federal-advisory-committee-act>

Paperwork Reduction Act

- Applies when collecting information from members of the public (i.e., people or groups outside of the federal government) and include individual people (including federal contractors), Businesses and associations, State, territorial, tribal, and local governments and Foreign governments, businesses, and individual people
- If you're only collecting information from federal employees or military personnel as part of their job, then you don't need PRA clearance.
- Over a 12-month period, if you are requesting the same information from ten or more people or entities, you need PRA clearance. If you are only seeking 9 respondents, but more than 10 people can respond, you may also need clearance.
- If you're requesting information from fewer than ten people or groups, but they represent the majority or all of an industry or sector, you may need PRA clearance.

Source - <https://pra.digital.gov/>

Paperwork Reduction Act Applies

- Asking for information to be sent to the government, for example:
 - Forms, such as the IRS 1040.
 - Written reports, such as grantee performance reports.
 - Surveys, such as customer satisfaction or behavioral surveys.
 - Recordkeeping requirements, such as small businesses keeping all tax-related documents for 3 years.
 - Third-party or public disclosures, such as nutrition labeling requirements for food.
 - Program evaluations, such as looking at the outcomes of a subsidized housing initiative for seniors.
 - Research studies and focus groups with a set of the same questions or tasks.
 - Applications for benefits and grant programs.

Source - <https://pra.digital.gov/>

Paperwork Reduction Act Does Not Apply

- Direct observation, such as watching how long it takes someone to complete a transaction, or how someone uses a new website to find answers.
- General requests for public input and comments, such as a “Tell Us About Your Experience” sheet with open-ended space for someone to respond.
- Information for voluntary commercial transactions, like payment and delivery details.
- Information asked for or received in connection with a public hearing or meeting.
- Information at public meetings and online
- The discussion and conversation at a public meeting is exempt from PRA clearance, and [many online or interactive communications fall under this exemption](#). Interactive meeting tools like public conferences calls, webinars, discussions board and forums, and chat sessions are considered the electronic equivalent of in-person public meetings and do not need clearance.

Source - <https://pra.digital.gov/>

PRA Approval Process

- Most agencies estimate six to nine months for PRA clearance from agency development to OIRA's decision.
- By law, this process in most cases includes at least three months of public comment

Source - <https://pra.digital.gov/>

Non-legal Barriers for Recommendation Action

The scope of the topics on which NGAC can provide advice and recommendations is broader than the actions Federal agencies or the FGDC can implement.

- Level of resources / unfunded mandates
- Recommendations need to align with authorities
 - The LAG and 3DEP recommendations are examples
- Need an NGAC and agency champion or sponsor to help you understand the constraints and operating environment and ultimately to implement the recommendation(s) you are making
- Funding may take an Act of Congress
- Federal agencies can not ask Congress for money, only OMB can through the President's budget request, once vetted and accepted at Program, Bureau, Department, and OMB levels
- NGAC recommendations can compete with mission resources

It is important to consider what the result is that you are looking for out of a specific recommendation and then ask yourself who will implement this and do they have the authority, interest or motivation and resources to do it.

Current NGAC Activities

Standing Subcommittees (No Change)

- **Landsat Advisory Group Subcommittee (LAG)** – Provide continuing advice to the Federal Government, through the NGAC, on the requirements, objectives, and actions of the Landsat Program.
- **3DEP Subcommittee** – Conduct assessment of trends and developments in 3D elevation data; assess effectiveness, management, and implementation of the 3DEP Program. Established through National Landslides Preparedness Act (NLPA) - P.L. 116-323
- **GDA Reporting Subcommittee** – Coordinate NGAC’s statutory role in the GDA reporting process. Develop NGAC comments on annual GDA report summaries

Current NGAC Activities

2024 Previously Approved Subcommittees

- **NSDI Subcommittee** – Provide advice and recommendations on development & implementation of the NSDI Strategic Plan; complete Geo competitiveness paper initiated by former Geo Excellence & Innovation Subcommittee.
- **FAIR Data Subcommittee** – “Umbrella” subcommittee to address multiple data-related topics, which may include advice and recommendations on: GeoPlatform, Geo AI, and Standards.

Newly Proposed NGAC Subcommittee

2024 New Subcommittee Structure

Dissolve the “Umbrella” FAIR Data Subcommittee and institute the following:

- **Standards and Data Access Subcommittee** – Assess the creation and improvement of data standards, and data access/user interface process for government agencies.

NGAC Subcommittee Membership – March 2024

	Landsat Advisory Group	3DEP Subcommittee	GDA Subcommittee	NSDI Subcommittee	Standards and Data Access Subcommittee
Chair	Frank Avila	Gary Thompson	Chad Baker	Bert Granberg	Clio Andris
Vice Chair	Vasit Sagan	Gale Blackmer*	Mark Meade	Curtis Pulford	Holli Howard
Members	Mariel Borowitz* Holli Howard Keith Masback* Anne Miglarese* Devaki Raj *Non-NGAC Members	Garet Couch* Lynn Dupont Karen Gaffney* David Maidment* Mark Reichardt* Jim Van Rens* Breece Robertson Steve Steinberg* Stewart Walker* *Non-NGAC Members	Maggie Cawley Leslie Jones Phil Thiel Gary Thompson	Jack Dangermond Leslie Jones Ryan Mattke Siva Ravada Vasit Sagan Tim Trainor	Nadine Alameh Byron Bluehorse Tony LaVoi Siva Ravada Breece Robertson Kathleen Stewart Phil Thiel
Member Total	7	11	6	8	9
Federal Contact(s)	Tim Newman/ Tim Stryker	Mike Tischler/ Vicki Lukas	Libby DuBan	Josh Delmonico/ Deirdre Bishop	FGDC Executive Committee Members

What topics do the FGDC need help with?

- Advice and recommendations on:
 - Landsat Advisory Group
 - established in 2012 as a standing subcommittee
 - 3DEP
 - mandated subcommittee per the National Landslide Preparedness Act
 - GDA Reporting
 - standing subcommittee to meet GDA requirements
 - NSDI
 - Review and Comment on NSDI Strategic Plan
 - Recommend NSDI roles and responsibilities for each sector
 - Document NSDI stories (successes, return on investment, value)
 - Recommend implementation plan for the NSDI
 - Recommend resourcing strategy for NSDI
 - Recommend NSDI Pilots (coordinated with NGC and OGC)
 - What is the right way to make federal data available to the NSDI?
 - What is the relationship of private sector SDIs (e.g., Esri's Living Atlas, Google Maps, Geospatial Insurance Consortium or Overture Foundation) and crowdsourcing SDIs (e.g., Open Street Map) to the NSDI?

What topics do the FGDC need help with?

- Data/National Geospatial Data Assets
 - Review NGDA portfolio and recommend changes
 - Are NGDAs the same as NSDI data assets?
 - Recommend governance mechanisms for NGDAs
 - How do we get to self-updating maps?
 - What do we need to do to support autonomous vehicle navigation?
 - Are we that far off from the NSDI or What is possible today leveraging existing capabilities (Living Atlas, Open Street Map, Overture, GeoPlatform, Apple, Google Maps, Geospatial Insurance Consortium) to deliver an NSDI?
 - If I want to seed the existing ecosystem with authoritative data how do I do that? Is OSM the gatekeeper?
 - What is the role of opensource data in the NSDI?
 - Many sectors and organizations create the same data for different reasons creating confusion, legal and management issues leading to wasted time, money and even lives. Trails and Mapland Act are a good example. What does right look like here? How can we reconcile this?
 - How do we implement FLAIR Act?
 - How do we implement MAPLand Act? With an eye towards MAPOceans?
- Standards
 - Recommend NSDI standards profile for Nation
 - How do we solve the metadata problem – CSDGM, ISO and DCAT? What about STAC? Can AI help with metadata? Can we teach computers to just know enough about our data to use it without metadata?
 - Recommend process FGDC should use to endorse standards
 - Are FGDC standards the same as NSDI standards?
 - Evaluate existing standards processes
 - What do we need to do to our data and metadata to make it AI Ready, machine readable and integrated into large language models like chatgpt?
 - What are the problems we need to address with AI – attributes must be in English, can't search entire internet for data,
 - Can we use AI to query data where it is without standardizing it or conflating it?
- Policy
 - What are our policy gaps for NSDI?
 - What are barriers to FGDC and NSDI? What are the fixes?
 - Do we have the right authorities to engage in P3 or P4?
 - Why haven't P3's become a reality in geospatial?
 - How can we encourage investments in the NSDI?

Open Discussion

Want to Learn More?

- **Geospatial Data Act of 2018**
- **OMB Circular A-16 (2002) and Supplemental Guidance (2010)**
- **Federal Advisory Committee Act**
- **Paperwork Reduction Act**
- **NGAC Key Documents**
- **<https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/key-documents>**