

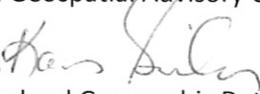


United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

March 22, 2010

To: Anne Hale Miglarese
Chair, National Geospatial Advisory Committee

From: Karen Siderelis 
Acting Chair, Federal Geographic Data Committee

Subject: FGDC Guidance to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee

This message is to provide guidance from the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) to the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) and identify key issues for the NGAC to address over the coming year.

The FGDC views the NGAC as an important component for ensuring the success of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and the Administration's goals. This set of issues for review and consideration by the NGAC has been identified through discussions with Interior leadership, FGDC agencies, and the NGAC Chair, Vice Chair, and membership. The goal in providing this guidance is to establish a general framework that will allow the NGAC to focus its efforts on high priority issues, including issues within the list presented below, while still providing the NGAC with the flexibility to organize, prioritize, and refine the tasks it is being called upon to address. Key issues for initial NGAC review during 2010 are as follows:

1. Geospatial Platform

The President's FY 2011 budget proposal includes the following direction related to Federal geospatial programs:

"Geospatial Platform — In 2010 and 2011, Federal data managers for geospatial data will move to a portfolio management approach, creating a Geospatial Platform to support GeoOneStop, place-based initiatives, and other potential future programs. This transformation will be facilitated by improving the governance framework to address the requirements of State, local and tribal agencies, Administration policy, and agency mission objectives. Investments will be prioritized based on business needs. The Geospatial Platform will explore opportunities for increased collaboration with Data.gov, with an emphasis on reuse of architectural standards and technology, ultimately increasing access to geospatial data."¹

¹ President's Budget, Fiscal Year 2011, "Analytical Perspectives, Special Topics, Information Technology (p. 325)" (www.whitehouse.gov/omb/budget/fy2011/assets/topics.pdf)

Over the coming year, the FGDC will develop strategies and products to address this direction from the Administration. The FGDC Executive Committee will be the primary point of contact for the NGAC in this effort. Initial topics for consideration include the following:

- Feedback on the draft blueprint for design and organization of the Federal Geospatial Platform concept.
- Feedback on draft strategies and products, as they are developed, related to portfolio management, common services, collaboration with data.gov, and potential development of a National Basemap
- Feedback on approaches to improve the governance framework to address the requirements of State, local and tribal agencies, Administration policy, and agency mission objectives.

2. Place-based Policies

Provide advice and recommendations on the effective application of geospatial technology to inform the development and implementation of the Administration's Place-based Policy initiative, as described in Executive Office of the President Memorandum M-09-28, "Developing Effective Place-Based Policies for the FY 2011 Budget."

3. Emerging Technology

Provide analysis, advice, and recommendations on the impacts that new and emerging technologies are likely to have on the management and use of federal geospatial data and programs. Provide a forecast of likely technology changes and their impact on Federal programs. Potential topics for consideration include cloud computing, reuse of architectural standards, and opportunities for increased collaboration with Data.gov.

4. National Basemap / National GIS

Provide input on scoping and approach for possible development of a National Basemap / National GIS. Provide feedback and comments on the development and implementation of the new strategic plan for The National Map.

5. Broadband Mapping

Feedback on implementation of the broadband inventory mapping initiative authorized under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Specific direction on this feedback will be coordinated through the DOC National Telecommunications Information Administration, the Federal Communications Commission, and the USDA Rural Utilities Service.

6. Geospatial Workforce

Provide recommendations on possible approaches to develop intergovernmental and public-private strategies to facilitate the development, training, and retention of a highly skilled workforce to meet the expanding geospatial needs of public and private-sector organizations.

7. Partnerships

Continue to identify opportunities and best-practice models to enhance the effectiveness of public-public and public-private geospatial partnerships. Identify and evaluate possible geospatial commerce models that may be applicable within the Federal geospatial community

Future Issues

The FGDC may also request feedback, advice, and recommendations on additional issues. Potential issues for future consideration include the following:

National Geospatial Policy

Advice and recommendations, as requested by the DFO and the FGDC Executive Committee, on development and/or refinement of a National Geospatial Policy.

Data/Programmatic Issues

Feedback and comments on specific data or programmatic initiatives, which may include the following:

- Federal Imagery Portfolio – Advice and recommendations on strategies to coordinate major federal imagery programs and initiatives, including the National Land Imaging Program, AmerciaView, and Imagery for the Nation.
- Development of a National parcel data strategy
- Development/implementation of a National Lidar concept
- Development/implementation of the Transportation for the Nation initiative
- Potential approaches to implement a Land Cover Change initiative.

Research and Development Agenda

Advice and recommendations for prioritization and coordination of Federal geospatial research and development funding to support innovative research on issues of national importance to maintain world-class expertise and leadership in support of the NSDI.

We look forward to discussing this guidance in greater detail at the March 2010 NGAC meeting. We look forward to a continuing productive dialogue with the NGAC membership and the FGDC partner agencies as we refine these issues and work together toward our common objectives.

cc: FGDC Executive Committee