

# Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO) Activity Report



*Cy Smith*

*October 2020 NGAC Meeting*

# Coalition of Geospatial Organizations (COGO)

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**The Coalition was initiated in 2008 by a half dozen professional organizations. It is now 13 professional organizations and trade associations representing over 170,000 geospatial practitioners**

## **MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS**

American Association for Geodetic Surveying  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
American Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing  
Association of American Geographers  
Cartography and Geographic Information Society  
GIS Certification Institute  
International Association of Assessing Officers  
Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors  
National Society of Professional Surveyors  
National States Geographic Information Council  
University Consortium for Geographic Information Science  
United States Geospatial Intelligence Foundation  
Urban and Regional Information Systems Association

## **Advisory Organizations**

National Alliance for Public Safety GIS Foundation  
MidAmerica GIS Consortium  
Western Governors Association  
American Planning Association  
National Association of Counties  
National Emergency Number Association

# COGO Purpose and Procedures

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The stakeholder groups that make up COGO speak with one voice whenever possible on geospatial data and policy issues.

In accordance with its operating procedures, COGO only takes public policy positions with a unanimous vote of its member organizations.

# COGO Activity Report

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## **NSDI Report Card**

COGO has published two Report Cards on the NSDI, in 2015 and 2018

The NSDI Report Card serves as a periodic assessment of the condition of the nation's geospatial data infrastructure, which, like other forms of public works, is essential for our economy, health, safety, and the activities of daily life.

# COGO Activity Report

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## **NSDI Report Card**

The grades in 2015 were based on the status of the original 7 Framework data themes and the NSDI as a whole. The overall grades were C and C-, respectively.

The grades in 2018 were incrementally better for each data theme, with the overall data grade being B-. The overall grade for the NSDI as a whole was not offered.

COGO has begun organizing and planning for the next iteration of the NSDI Report Card, with a planned release data of mid-2022.

# COGO Activity Report

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## **NSDI Report Card Recommendations**

- Identify sufficient funding to meet future needs of NSDI for all Framework Data Themes
- Develop Strategic and Implementation Plans for each Framework Data Theme
- Develop partnership agreements with States, Tribal governments, and local governments to facilitate continuous exchange of data
- Facilitate assessment of all stakeholder needs for Framework Data
- Develop processes and procedures for integrating Framework Data across all governmental levels

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## **NSDI Report Card**

The original vision and the greatest potential value of the NSDI Framework have not yet been fulfilled. While multiple datasets for each of the themes can be accessed through the National Geospatial Platform, authoritative sets of nationally consistent, fully integrated, and reliable Framework data do not exist for the entire nation.

# COGO Activity Report

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## Procurement Principles

1. Geospatial and geographic data services procurements should be open to all companies or individuals who have expertise in mapping, cartography, geographic data collection, or GIS.
2. University partnerships with governmental agencies and private firms should be encouraged and supported to enable the development and training of the next-generation workforce. Research should be an integral component of government geospatial services programs.
3. Governmental procurement policies and practices related to geographic or geospatial data and services should foster competitiveness and cost-effectiveness by ensuring that the pool of potential qualified data and service providers is as large and diverse as possible.
4. To ensure accountability and transparency, the preferred quality of data and services and the means for measuring that quality should be specified in advance and made available to the public.
5. The acquisition of geospatial data and services should encourage innovation and new processes and methods.

# COGO Activity Report

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## Procurement Issues

A work group comprised of representatives from four COGO Member Organizations has been formed

1. Will work toward annex to procurement principles that all organizations can agree to
2. May help us as a coalition move toward procurement language in national legislation that allows us to offer unanimous support
3. Will likely be based on the work done by NCEES to craft agreement on their Model Law and Rules for land surveying