

# Geospatial Data Act Update



**National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting  
September 4, 2019**

# Overview

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- **OMB Circular A-16 revision** – Ivan DeLoatch
- **Federal Data Strategy (FDS) Action Plan** – Ken Shaffer
- **NSDI Strategic Plan** – John Mahoney
- **Discussion/Next Steps** – Group

# OMB Circular A-16 revision



# Circular A-16 Revision

## GDA Language

- Section 753 – Not later than 1 year after date of enactment, Director of OMB shall update guidance with respect to membership of the Committee and the roles of members of the Committee.

## OMB Direction

- OMB has determined that the GDA guidance will be provided through a revision of Circular A-16



# NGAC Inputs

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## **2016 NGAC Paper – key points:**

- A complete revision is needed
- Engage broad set of federal and non-federal stakeholders
- Recognize producers, aggregators, consumers
- Roles of non-federal stakeholders should be expanded
- OMB should take a lead role in the revision

## **2019 NGAC A-16 Team Paper – additional points:**

- Consider the dynamism of the geospatial ecosystem
- Consider evaluating the Circular A-16 Supplemental Guidance
- Consider the positioning of the GDA among other federal data initiatives

# FGDC A-16 Team - Recommendations

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- Interagency FGDC team (Census, DHS, DOI, NOAA, Veterans Administration, FGDC staff)
- Recommendations on revised A-16 content provided to OMB in July. Focus areas include:
  - A-16 alignment with GDA – parallel structure to enable easy reference between GDA and Circular.
  - Clear direction to agencies on GDA requirements.
  - Circular focuses on “what” agencies are expected to achieve. Additional FGDC technical guidance will provide details on “how” agencies will achieve GDA/A-16 objectives. FGDC technical guidance can subsequently be updated as needed with full revision of Circular.

# A-16 Path Forward

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## Current Status

- Proposed revisions to A-16 currently under review at OMB

## Next Steps

- Draft Circular will be distributed to agencies for review/comment
- FGDC team may be asked to help review and adjudicate comments
- OMB does not currently plan to hold public comment period
- Final publication date TBD

# Federal Data Strategy (FDS) Action Plan





# Federal Data Strategy (FDS) – Context

## *The President's Management Agenda (PMA)*

(OMB, March 2018)

- Long-term vision for modernizing Federal Government
- Effective and modern government capabilities focused on:
  1. **Mission:** Accountable execution with mission-driven results with necessary tools and resources to deliver.
  2. **Service:** Customer service equal or better to public sector.
  3. **Stewardship:** Preventing fraud and maximizing impact of funds.
- Includes 3 “**Key Drivers**” and 8 “**Priority Areas**”
- **Cross-Agency Priority (CAP)** goals are included for each Driver and Priority Area (14 total)





# Driver 2 – Data Accountability and Transparency

## Creating a Data Strategy and Infrastructure for the Future

**Federal Data Strategy** – 4 cross-cutting drivers for change applied across strategies

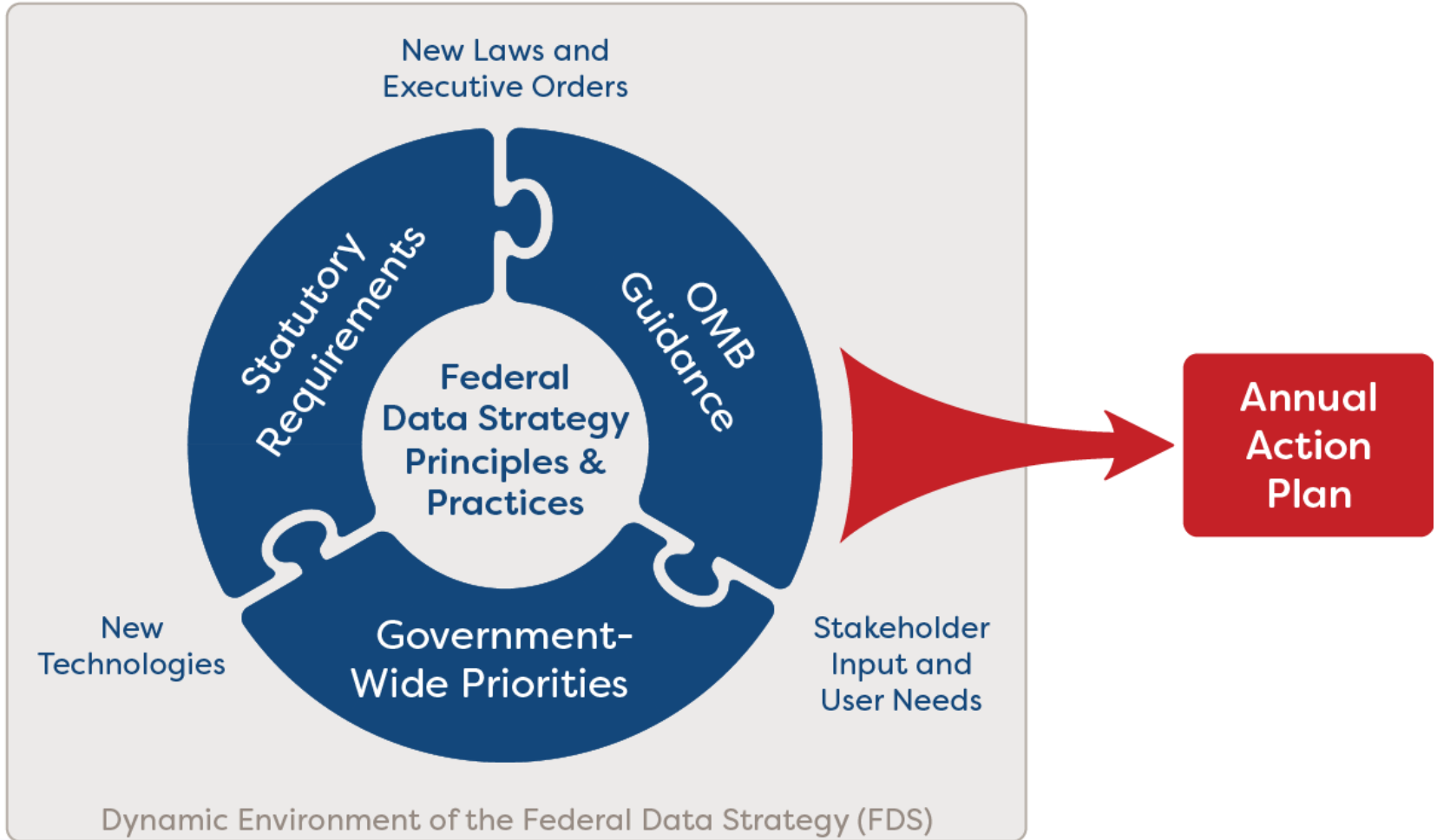
1. Policy – clarify, harmonize, update
2. People – roles and responsibilities for data management, staff investment, data management culture
3. Process – identify priorities, improve coordination, promote maturity
4. Platform – coordinated delivery

**CAP Goal 2:** Leveraging Data as a Strategic Asset



**“Platform:** Develop effective governance organizations and a suite of tools and applications available across agencies that serve the needs of diverse users and facilitate data integration, exchange, and use.”

# Elements of the Federal Data Strategy



# New Legislation

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- Geospatial Data Act of 2018
  - OMB A-16 guidance to agencies
- Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018 (“Evidence Act”), Title I
- OPEN Government Data Act (Open, Public, Electronic, and necessary – OPEN), Title II
- Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency, Title III
- A subset of their requirements include:
  - OMB coordinates an Advisory Committee on Data for Evidence Building and a Chief Data Officers Council.
  - Comprehensive data inventories, and Federal Data Catalogue and Repository.
  - Agency plans for identifying and addressing policy-relevant questions and the list of data for facilitating the use of evidence in policymaking.
  - Open data assets to be published as machine-readable data.

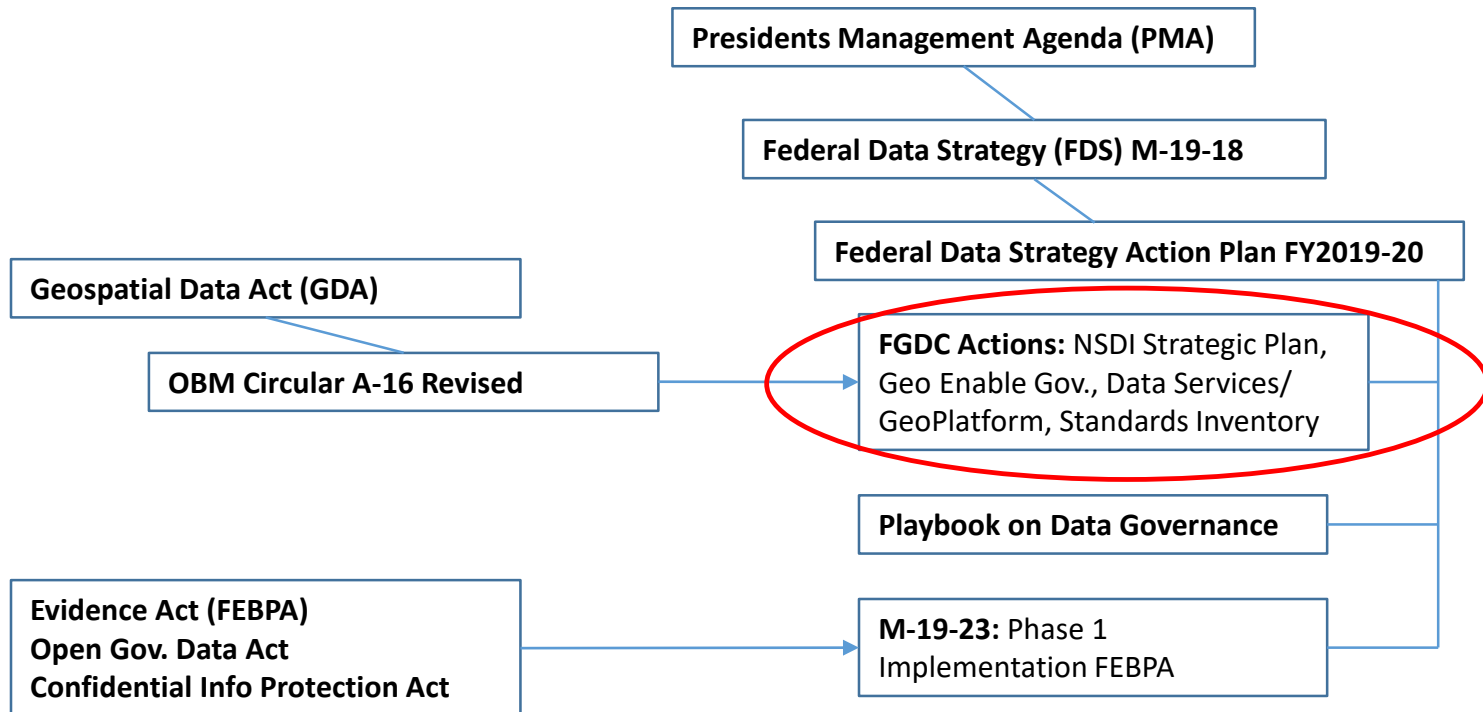
# How the Geospatial Data Act requirements overlap with **Federal Data Strategy** & Evidence Act

Federal Data Strategy

Evidence Act

		Federal Data Strategy	Evidence Act
1	Prepare and implement a strategy for advancing geospatial data activities appropriate to the agency's mission		
2	Collect, maintain, disseminate, and preserve geospatial data such that resulting data, information, or products can be shared		
3	Promote geospatial data integration		
4	Ensure that geospatial information is included on agency record schedules that have been approved by the National Archives and Records Administration.		
5	Allocate resources to fulfill geospatial data responsibilities		
6	Use geospatial data standards		
7	Coordinate with other federal agencies, state, local, and tribal governments, institutions of higher education, and the private sector		
8	Make federal geospatial information more useful to the public, enhance operations, support decision making, and enhance reporting to the public and to Congress		
9	Protect personal privacy and maintain confidentiality in accordance with federal policy and law.		
10	Participate in determining whether declassified data can become part of the NSDI		
11	Search all sources to determine if existing data meet the needs of the covered agency before expending funds to acquire geospatial data		
12	Ensure that those receiving federal funds for geospatial data collection provide high-quality data		
13	Appoint a contact to coordinate with other lead covered agencies		

# Conceptual Diagram



# FDS Action Plan FY 2019-2020 - FGDC

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## Draft Federal Data Strategy (FDS) Action Plan (action 11)

- NSDI Strategic Plan (with input from State, local , tribal, academic, private sector)
- Integrate geospatial practices into mainstream Federal Data Enterprise (FDE) - FGDC members and OMB Data Council
- Geospatially enable the FDE – establish a process to identify the spatial attributes of both spatial (with feature geometry) and non-spatial datasets with location attributes for integrated use

## Potential NGAC Actions

- NSDI Strategic Plan
- Recommendations on guidelines/practices for relating statistical (other) data using spatial characteristics, i.e. association of spatial and non-spatial data for use

# FDS Action Plan FY 2019-2020 – FGDC (cont.)

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## Draft Federal Data Strategy Action Plan (Action 11)

- Increase access to spatial data services through the GeoPlatform – covered agencies to improve metadata and web services (mainly fixing data, metadata, and data.gov/GeoPlatform processes)
- Identify and inventory geospatial standards – NGDA lead agencies to identify, inventory, publish status of standards for data and metadata (NGDA agency assessments)

## Potential NGAC Actions

- Standards – when are data standards worth investment, how and what to report, key types of standards needed to support the NSDI, etc.



# FDS – FY 2020 Pilot Proposals

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## Federal Data Strategy Action Plan – FY2020 Pilot Project (proposals)

1. A Federal government survey to identify high-value GDA investment requirements and incentives to prioritize and advance the NSDI - pilot for a larger NSDI requirements survey for both federal agencies and non-federal entities (modeled after the National Enhanced Elevation Assessment)
2. GeoPlatform State and/or Tribal Data Services Partnering Value Proposition Prototype

## Potential NGAC Actions

- Survey content recommendations on structure, content, goals, potential outcomes, questions and reporting
- Approach, recommendations on the non-Fed value proposition.

# FGDC FY 2020 Activities Queue

## Action Alignment by Driver

(x - defined action, p - potential action)

<b>Topics:</b>	<b>Driver:</b>	GDA	FDS Action Plan	FDS Pilot Action*	NSDI Strategic Plan	NGAC**
NGAC Operations		x			x	x
NSDI Strategic Plan		x	x		x	x
NGDA improvement		x	x		x	
Agency Reporting		x		p	x	p
GeoPlatform		x	x	p	x	p
NSDI/FGDC Funding		x			x	
Partnerships		x			x	x
NSDI Reporting (beyond Feds)					p	p
GeoPlatform Non-Feds Value Prop					p	
Spatial/non-spatial Data Association		x	x		x	
Improve Federal Data Services		x	x		x	
Data Standards and Use		x	x		x	
NSDI Standards Approach		x			p	
Federal GDA Investments Survey		p		p	p	p
Data Privacy		x			p	
Cultural Resources						x
Landsat						x

\*NSDI High-value Investments Survey proposal

\*\* For consideration

# **NSDI Strategic Plan 2020**



# GDA Requirement

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## Section 755. National Spatial Data Infrastructure

This section defines the NSDI as “the technology, policies, criteria, standards, and employees necessary to promote geospatial data sharing throughout the Federal, State, Tribal, and local governments, and the private sector (including nonprofit organizations and institutions of higher education).” It also establishes goals for the NSDI and mandates that FGDC *prepare and maintain a strategic plan*.

**(c) STRATEGIC PLAN. —The Committee shall prepare and maintain a strategic plan for the development and implementation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure in a manner consistent with national security, national defense, and emergency preparedness program policies regarding data accessibility.**

# NSDI Strategic Plans - Recent History

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- **NSDI Strategic Plan 2014-2016**
- **NSDI Strategic Framework 2017-2018**  
(transitional plan)
- **NSDI Strategic Planning Initiative 2018**  
(in development until GDA passed)



# NSDI Vision

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“The NSDI leverages investments in people, technology, data, and procedures to create and provide the geospatial knowledge required to understand, protect, and promote our national and global interests.”

(NSDI Strategic Plan 2014-2016)

# Conceptual Approach

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- Establish a National Core Team to guide the initiative and approach.
- Engage the Federal and national geospatial communities through focused workshops and meetings, dialogue at NGAC meetings, discussions at professional conferences, and one-on-one meetings with geospatial community leaders.
- Assess the effectiveness of the previous NSDI strategic plans and the National Geospatial Data Asset (NGDA) Management Plan.
- Identify strategic opportunities, informed by the geospatial community, to promote NSDI sustainability and continuity.
- Align activities with other Federal data initiatives.

# Conceptual Timeline

Timeframe	Action
Sept 2019	Introduce NSDI Strategic Plan Initiative Set up NGAC Action Team
Dec 2019	Conduct NSDI Joint Visioning Session Establish NGAC NSDI Subcommittee Establish National NSDI Core Team
Jan 2020	Officially begin NSDI Strategic Planning Initiative
Jan – June 2020	Stakeholder Outreach & Plan Development
July 2020	Draft NSDI Strategic Plan
Aug 2020	Stakeholder Community Comment & Feedback
Sept 2020	Revise draft of NSDI Strategic Plan
Oct 1, 2020	Review draft for public comment
Dec 2020	Approval by FGDC Steering Committee/NGAC
Jan 2021	Implementation



# Discussion Questions

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1. From the NGAC's perspective, what should the NSDI strategic plan achieve?
2. What recommendations would the NGAC make on the approach for the development of the new NSDI strategic plan?
3. What role should NGAC play in the development of the new NSDI strategic plan?



# Actions / Next Steps

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## **September Meeting:**

- Establish NGAC Action Team to explore/propose NGAC role, approach, and stakeholder engagement ideas; and help to plan December Strategic Visioning session

## **December Meeting:**

- Conduct joint FGDC-NGAC Strategic Visioning session at December NGAC meeting
- Establish NGAC NSDI Subcommittee
- Establish National NSDI Core Team to plan and guide the process