

Proposal for a New FGDC Theme on Addresses

The federal government has the responsibility to assume the leadership role in the development and management of the National Address Database (NAD). In support of many national programs, the federal government has extensive relationships with state, local, and tribal governments that can contribute to a large, national effort to build and manage the NAD on a regular basis. This includes taking the lead role in identifying stakeholders and partners, initial development of the NAD, managing the NAD, and determining the appropriate roles of other federal agencies, other levels of government organizations, the commercial sector and academia.

The role of the federal government is to recognize the importance of addresses as a critical data layer as part of the NSDI. This entails creating a new data theme that would include both mailing and location addresses as well as their location. It is also the role of the federal government to appoint a data steward which should be a federal agency that has a proven history of managing and maintaining addresses on a national level, is familiar with and has supported the FGDC address standard, and has a demonstrated record in working with all levels of government (state, local and tribal) to provide high quality geospatial data to the public.

Federal agencies will be data users and/or data providers. Federal agency data users need addresses to conduct their missions which could range from mailing information to knowing the location of an address to support public safety. Federal agency data providers offer authoritative address data either through the coordination of national partnership programs with tribal, state and local governments and the private sector where applicable, or through first order data collection.

Within the current framework layers, there is no single logical place for an address data layer to reside. As addresses are the most basic geospatial framework element, this geospatial data asset should be its own FGDC data theme. An address is unique and distinct in purpose and function that provides locations of human, physical, environmental and political activity. Because addresses are relevant to each of the existing data themes, the benefits of establishing a new theme will be to eliminate duplication of effort, facilitate production and use of address data, reduce operating costs, and improve services and enable decision-making. Addresses are used or produced by most agencies and organizations and form a critical and useful base for the NSDI.

The address theme lead will establish supporting subcommittees and working groups as part of the scope of the theme's responsibilities and activities.

Based on the importance of the address data theme and the specified characteristics required for leading the theme, it is recommended that the Census Bureau be appointed theme lead of the newly established Address Data Theme.