

# Architecture & Technology Working Group (ATWG)

---

## **Charter**



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Purpose

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) is chartering the Architecture & Technology Working Group (ATWG) which is charged with providing support to the FGDC committees on geospatial technology and architecture issues and topics.

As a priority initiative, the ATWG will provide technical development direction and guidance to support the decisions of the Managing Partner (Department of the Interior) for the development and operations of the Geospatial Platform. The ATWG will establish the framework for requirements management, including technology and tool development and implementation, to enhance and extend the capabilities of the Geospatial Platform. The ATWG will provide management advice on the application of geospatial data, technology, and tools to the execution of the mission objectives of the Geospatial Platform.

## 1.2 Background

The ATWG has led the development of key Federal Enterprise Architecture products supporting the use and application of geospatial technology in the Federal government.

The Geospatial Platform is a government-wide initiative that will provide a suite of trusted geospatial data, services, and application for use by Federal agencies and their State, local, Tribal, and regional partners. The Geospatial Platform will focus on applications that facilitate participatory information sharing, interoperability, collaboration, and effective decision-making.

The member agencies of the FGDC developed a *Modernization Roadmap*, a *Value Proposition* document, and a *Business Plan* that describe the vision, scope, objectives, and milestones for the Geospatial Platform. These documents and other information about the Geospatial Platform initiative will provide guidance to the ATWG and are available at [www.geoplatform.gov](http://www.geoplatform.gov).

The Department of the Interior has been designated as the Managing Partner for the Geospatial Platform. The Managing Partner will rely on the Geospatial Platform ATWG to provide timely resolution to Geospatial Platform management, governance, and coordination issues as they arise.

## 1.3 Objectives

The ATWG provides cross-agency representation and expertise to address geospatial architecture and technology issues and provides recommendations and solutions to the Coordination Group, Executive Committee, and Steering Committee on these issues.

With the establishment of the Geospatial Platform, the ATWG will provide the primary technical oversight for the requirements and development of the Geospatial Platform under the purview of the Geospatial Platform Managing Partner, the Department of Interior. The ATWG will help facilitate better means of integration, analysis, and display of data to support the varied national geospatial community as a whole while providing content that is easily accessible and useable for senior policy and decision makers. The ATWG will be the focal point for integrating and providing interagency, intergovernmental, and academic community input on requirements and conveying operational guidance to the Managing Partner for the five workflow areas of the Geospatial Platform:

1. Content Exploration Services
2. Customer Services
3. Information Exchange Services
4. Content Management Service
5. Infrastructure Services

## 2 Authority

FGDC working groups are chartered under the FGDC Steering Committee and coordinated by the FGDC Secretariat which are granted authority through the Office of Management & Budget (OMB) Circular A-16, (*“Coordination of Geographic Information Related Spatial Data Activities”*), Executive Order 12906, (*“Coordinating Geographic Data Acquisition and Access: The National Spatial Data Infrastructure”*) and the E-Government Act of 2002.

# 3 Roles and Responsibilities

The ATWG has the responsibilities to:

- Provide advice, guidance, and best practices on architecture and technology issues as directed by the Executive and Steering Committees.
- Provide technical decision support for Geospatial Platform operations issues to the Geospatial Platform Managing Partner.
- Serves as the Geospatial Platform requirements management body. The ATWG will undertake priorities, activities, and projects that are consistent with the Business Plan for the Geospatial Platform. In this capacity the ATWG will:
  - Provide guidance and advice to extend and enhance the functionality and capabilities of the Geospatial Platform to the Managing Partner.
  - Define and manage a process to collect, integrate, prioritize, and recommend requirements from Federal agencies and non-Federal partners or academia.
  - Provide requirements, feedback, validation of service effectiveness, and funding guidance to the Managing Partner.
  - Receive and evaluate reports from the Managing Partner and feedback from the community on the Geospatial Platform’s usage, costs, capacities, and other operational metrics and provide that information to FGDC committees and partner agencies for consideration in investment and lifecycle decisions.
  - Collaborate with other federal government management bodies as needed.
  - Promote awareness and use of the Geospatial Platform capabilities across the Federal government.
  - Help Federal agencies develop agency specific policy/procedure for publishing geospatial data on the Geospatial Platform and review of Marketplace data prior to acquisition.
  - Provide reports and information to the Managing Partner and FGDC committees in support of committee meetings, outreach activities, and the FGDC annual report.

The Managing Partner, currently the Department of Interior, will serve as the final decision making authority for prioritizing requirements and activities of the Geospatial Platform program.

## 4 Membership and Organization

The ATWG will consist of primary members who will be appointed by the Chair of the FGDC Steering Committee based on nominations provided by Steering Committee members. These primary members provide consensus-based decisions and recommendations to the Managing Partner.

Steering Committee members may nominate new ATWG members annually. Agencies with primary ATWG members are responsible for ensuring their members are provided the support and time required to fulfill their ATWG duties. While there is no term limit on ATWG membership, members have the responsibility to be active and cooperative participants in ATWG activities and the annual membership review and nomination process should address any membership issues. A primary member may identify a designee in the event of a limited period of absence with approval by the Chair. The GeoPlatform Managing Partner, in consultation with the Chair and Executive Committee of the FGDC, will designate the Chair of the ATWG. The ATWG may include members selected from among, but not limited to, the following Federal entities, as per the Geospatial Platform Business Plan:

- FGDC member agencies
- FGDC Steering Committee and Coordination Group
- Agency Geospatial Information Officers (GIOs)
- Federal Chief Information Officers (CIO) Council
- Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP)

Other organizations (e.g., State, local and Tribal governments; non-profit, private sector, and academic organizations) as well as other Federal government departments and agencies may support and participate in ATWG meetings and activities, especially to provide subject matter expertise on current issues, with the concurrence of the ATWG Chair. While non-member participants are encouraged to engage in ATWG discussions and offer information and opinions, their participation is limited to a non-decision making role.

Subgroups may be created by the Chair of the ATWG, as appropriate to address special areas of interest. Subgroups shall operate under the scope of the ATWG.

Administrative support for activities of the ATWG will be provided by the Geospatial Platform Managing Partner. The FGDC Office of the Secretariat will coordinate support for the ATWG and will serve as the primary point of contact for the ATWG activities.

# 5 Meetings and Decision Making

## 5.1 Decision Making

When decisions are required, decisions will be made through consensus among primary members to the extent possible. If a consensus cannot be reached, final decisions will be made by the ATWG Chair considering the recommendations of the Committee members. The Managing Partner in consultation with the Executive and/or Steering Committee may provide additional guidance on issue where consensus is not achieved.

Results of all ATWG decisions, including dissenting opinions, will be reported in writing to the Steering Committee and the GeoPlatform Managing Partner.

## 5.2 Meetings

Meetings will be held on a quarterly or as-needed basis. Members will be informed of meeting schedules and agendas in advance to ensure the highest level of participation. Meetings of the ATWG may be held virtually or in-person. Meeting notes and communications/documents will be maintained by the ATWG for a record of activities and posted to the ATWG website (<http://www.fgdc.gov/organization/working-groups-subcommittees/working-groups>) leveraging content management tools and capabilities developed for the FGDC or Geospatial Platform to the extent possible.

# 6 Approval

This Charter will remain in effect until amended or replaced or until terminated by the FGDC Steering Committee.

**Recommended by FGDC Coordination Group vote on: 8/26/2016**

Date

**Approved by FGDC Steering Committee vote on: 9/21/2016**

Date