

# GDA Open Workshop

## USA FORUM – Federal Perspectives on Opportunities

30 September 2021

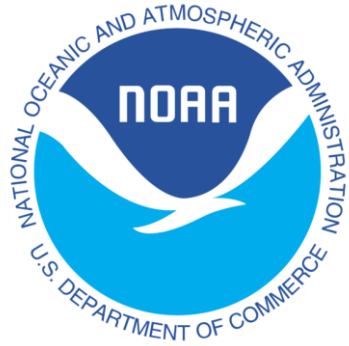
The world's leading and comprehensive  
community of experts making location information:

Presented in Partnership with:



**OGC USA Forum**  
GDA Community Workshop

# Summary Of Federally Cited Opportunities for Improvement



## Federal Representatives - June 2021 GDA Workshop

Tony Lavoie, Chief Data Officer, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Steve Lewis, Geospatial Information Officer, Department of Transportation

David Carter, Geospatial Information Officer, Department of Interior

Rob Shankman, Geospatial Information Officer, Dept. of Health & Human Services

Mike Donnelly, Geospatial Information Officer, Department of Homeland Security



- The NSDI will only happen through partnerships between federal, state, local, tribal governments, higher education, and private sector.
- The Evidence Act, enacted coincident with the GDA, creates opportunity for alignment with the CDO's at the federal level.
- GDA focuses on importance of authoritative geospatial data and standards.
- GDA creates opportunities for public private partnerships for building and sharing geospatial data.

- There is some recognition at the federal level that a national spatial data infrastructure should have a nationally-focused governance structure, not just a federally-focused governance structure.
- Standards have not been consistently implemented nationally. There are opportunities to evaluate, for national use, existing standards in use by non/federal sectors.
- We should try to keep the bar for participation in developing national datasets as low as possible by defining a minimum viable product with as few attributes as absolutely necessary.

- Opportunity and necessity to create a data inventory to assist in finding and using geospatial data.
- Opportunity to collectively and collaboratively address the policy issues that have inhibited data sharing.
- Opportunity to engage users and decision makers at all levels and in all sectors to make the NSDI valuable and useful to all.
- Data licensing may be a good approach to resolving some of the sticky policy issues, but it has to become as easy as software licensing to be workable.

- We have to balance the risks associated with broadly sharing data and the economic benefits of such sharing.
- There may be opportunities going forward for federal agencies to purchase commercially produced data sets of value as part of the NSDI and make those data available publicly through open license agreements.
- Moving toward a national governance structure could involve giving non-federal stakeholder a vote in decision-making and perhaps having a revolving chair as leadership in committees and subcommittees.
- It's possible that some aspects of the NSDI could be governed collaboratively under existing law, while some aspects can't.