

NSGIC



September 24, 2008

NATIONAL STATES GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION COUNCIL

2008 - 2009 Advocacy Agenda

The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

is a nonpartisan organization committed to efficient and effective government through the prudent adoption of geospatial technology. Established in 1991, NSGIC voting members include senior state geographic information officers, coordinators, managers, and Councils.

As presented in NSGIC's Strategic Plan 2005-2008, our mission is to be an effective advocate for states in national geospatial policy initiatives, to guide the states in fulfilling their role in building the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI), and to promote statewide geospatial coordination activities in all states.

Paramount to all of its advocacy efforts, NSGIC will work to strengthen Statewide Geospatial Coordination Efforts and Spatial Data Infrastructures in every State.

NSGIC supports and will promote policy actions by Congress, Governors, State Legislatures, Chief Information Officers, and other actions by decision-makers that lead to effective and prudent uses of statewide geospatial technology and infrastructure.

The Advocacy Agenda addresses several key and specific initiatives for 2008-2009. These were approved by our State membership at the Annual Conference in September 2008.

Imagery for the Nation

The Imagery for the Nation initiative remains central to NSGIC's legislative advocacy efforts.

- NSGIC will advocate for new funds from Congress to implement a sustained national program for the collection, maintenance, distribution and archive of aerial imagery that meets on-going local, state, and federal program requirements.
- NSGIC will support the Federal Geographic Data Committee in its efforts to design a national imagery program by providing access to state government experts to help ensure that the business needs of state and local governments are met. The Council will seek authorization and recurring appropriations for the program designed by the FGDC if it meets the business needs of state and local governments.
- NSGIC will inform and support the States to ensure their compliance with the business planning processes of the proposed Imagery for the Nation program.



Parcel Mapping

NSGIC will advocate for federal initiatives and legislation that seek to implement key recommendations of the National Academy's report entitled "National Land Parcel Data: A Vision for the Future." The report's

recommendations are important in that they encourage development, cost sharing, coordination, and integration across federal, state and local cadastral activities as part of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI).



NSGIC will advocate for progress in the following four areas:

- The US Department of Interior (DOI) and Office of Management and Budget (OMB) should decide whether the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has the capacity to lead a national parcel coordination effort, or identify options to move forward.
- The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) should review the requirements of OMB Circular A-16 and their recommendations about how local government parcel data should be included as part of the Cadastral Framework layer.
- Congress should pass the FLAIR Act (S. 3043, H.R. 5532) to create a unified database of federal land holdings and provide cost sharing for local data development.
- Congress should revise Title 13 to allow the Census Bureau to share its property address and coordinate data with state and local government.

Partnership Funding

The Federal Geographic Data Committee manages the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) Grants within the U.S. Department of Interior. In FY 2008 a total of \$1.1 million was made available to fund an estimated 24 innovative projects that spread across six categories. Each project focuses on ways to build and improve the existing geospatial data infrastructure that are necessary to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geographic data.

- NSGIC will advocate for increased funding (new funds) from Congress for future CAP Grants and partnership opportunities to support better Federal/State integration activities. These funds shall be identified for accelerating the implementation of the existing Fifty States Initiative and renewed efforts to create a seamless layer of parcels, tax maps and reference systems for the nation.

Transportation for the Nation

Transportation is an essential Framework Data Layer of the NSDI. The roadway transportation network is the single most used, attributed GIS data set across the nation today. NSGIC wishes to highlight the importance of a coordinated approach for developing street network data and supports the development of a nationwide dataset that includes addressing and linear referencing. There are countless efforts currently underway and plans to maintain geospatial transportation data. NSGIC believes that sufficient resources to fund development of a

comprehensive and collaborative nationwide Transportation GIS program are already being expended on uncoordinated data development efforts at all levels of government and within the private sector.

- NSGIC will advocate that the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) should review OMB Circular A-16 and make recommendations to optimize federal involvement, including that the U.S. Department of Transportation take a leadership role.
- NSGIC will advocate for a coordinated, standards-driven approach to the development of a nationwide roadway transportation network that meets the majority of the needs of local, regional, state, federal and tribal governments, including Departments of Transportation (local, state, federal) and the private sector.
- NSGIC will advocate for new and existing efforts that leverage funding and other resources to integrate multiple stakeholder needs for the creation, maintenance, management, and use of transportation GIS data.
- NSGIC will seek and support partnerships with other national organizations that advocate for roadway transportation geospatial needs and solutions.



Technology for the 21st Century

NSGIC is committed to efficient and effective government through the adoption of geospatial information technologies (GIT). Successful GIT depends on a robust, professional infrastructure and strong IT management to improve accessibility. For this reason, it makes sense for NSGIC to advocate for state and federal support of complementary and enabling technology resources. This year, two primary technology issues facing the nation are national broadband infrastructure and federal e-Government implementation.

- NSGIC will advocate with the Federal Communications Commission to support detailed reporting by carriers and broad public access to data related to public access to high-speed Internet services. Through ex parte meetings with the FCC, NSGIC will engage in the standards-setting process for the geospatial components of reporting requirements. NSGIC will also support legislation filed in Congress which funds mapping of broadband infrastructure.
- NSGIC will advocate for the E-Government Reauthorization Act of 2007 and especially for the alignment of any common protocols for GIS with FGDC goals and other NSGIC advocacy agenda items (e.g. Imagery for the Nation and Transportation for the Nation). NSGIC will seek and support partnerships with other national organizations that advocate for complementary and enabling technologies.

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ABOUT NSGIC — The National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC) is an organization of States committed to efficient and effective government through the prudent adoption of geospatial information technologies. Members of NSGIC include delegations of state GIS coordinators and senior state GIS managers from across the United States. Other members include representatives from Federal agencies, local government, the private sector, academia and other professional organizations. A rich and diverse group, the NSGIC membership includes nationally and internationally recognized