

NSDI Future Directions Initiative

Quarterly Report January - March 2005

Submitted by the NSDI Future Directions Project Team
April 2005

www.fgdc.gov/FutureDirections



Table of Contents

Introduction to Future Directions	3
Partnerships With Purpose	4
1. Governance Action Team	4
2. Tribal Engagement	5
3. Fifty States Action Team.....	6
4. Non Geospatial Organizations Action Team	7
Communicating The Message.....	8
1. Business Case Team.....	8
2. Communications Action Team (No Report Received)	10
3. Training and Education Team.....	11
Making Framework Real	13
1. Framework Standards	13
2. Team to Identify New Themes for Standards Development	14
3. Publishing Metadata Team	16
4. Implementing Standards and Web Protocols Team.....	17
5. Urban Areas (No Report Received)	18

Introduction to Future Directions

In June of 2004, the Steering Committee of the Federal Geographic Data Committee was briefed on the Future Directions Initiative and agreed to move forward with the initiative. Three broad goals of the initiative are:

- Partnerships with Purpose
- Communicating the Message
- Making Framework Real

Under these headings, 13 action items were identified. To address the action items, 12 action teams were formed. The teams were formed from two calls for participation, one made in July 2004 and another in August 2004.

The Future Directions project staff established at the FGDC Secretariat by Staff Director Ivan Deloatch includes:

- Milo Robinson, FGDC Project Manager
- Alison Dishman, FGDC Project Coordinator
- Tricia Gibbons, LEAD Alliance Facilitator

The project staff worked to identify and encourage individuals to lead the Action Teams. These teams began convening on a case by case basis, as not all teams formed at the same time. However, most teams were formed in September 2004.

Each team developed a team charter and is working toward an action plan that is appropriate to meet the needs of its objective. Each team has the flexibility to approach the objective as it sees best. Further information about the teams can be found on the FGDC web site www.fgdc.gov/FutureDirections.

One of the goals of the Initiative is to develop a reporting system to keep FGDC member agencies informed of Future Directions activities. Regular updates on Future Directions are made at the monthly FGDC Coordination Group meeting. This report is the Second Quarterly Report - covering action team activities from January through the end of March 2005.

If you have comments about this report, or wish to participate on one of the teams please contact:

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Partnerships With Purpose

1. Governance Action Team

Team Leads and Membership

Dennis Goreham, NSGIC, State of Utah and Alan Voss, TVA
30 Team Members

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Investigate and recommend governance options for the operation of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI). The committee should consider governance of and among the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), Geospatial One Stop (GOS), and *The National Map* (TNM), as well as other nationally significant programs such as: NAIP, NDOP, NAPP, and 133 cities.

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Organized 30 member team representative of the geospatial community
- Held nine outreach sessions at professional meetings
- Conducted interviews with key geospatial community leaders
- Reviewed the most relevant publications regarding geospatial governance produced over the past 20 years
- Reviewed the governance models of both US and international geospatial organizations
- Reviewed the requirements of a FACA
- Developed an initial team consensus on recommendations for the final report

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- Writing the team report
- Public review of the recommendations
- Reviewing and presenting recommendations to FGDC and NGPO
- Final report planned for June

Performance Measures

- Team is on schedule with work plan in the team charter

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- None

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- One teleconference review with the NGPO leadership team
- Several discussions with individual members of NGPO leadership team
- NGPO and FGDC staff provide another level of coordination

Support Needed

- NGPO and FGDC leaders to review the team recommendations with other key leaders in the geospatial community and the federal government
- Suggestions and support for the review and marketing of the team recommendations are needed from the NGPO leadership team

2. Tribal Engagement

Team Lead and Membership

Bonnie Gallahan, FGDC
42 Team Members

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Continue to support building the NSDI through cost share with existing partnerships
- Develop new partnerships to further the NSDI and assist Tribes to be self-sufficient
- Outreach to Tribes through training and education of NSDI

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Developed and implemented two pilot courses with DHS/FEMA: Basic GIS/HAZUS and Intro to GIS/Multi Hazards
- Institutionalized three courses with DHS/FEMA: Tribal Framework, Tribal Operations and Tribal Mitigation
- Bonnie Gallahan (Team Lead) designated as USGS/FGDC Tribal representative for the new BIA Training Center in NM
- Second Tribal Mitigation Course with DHS/FEMA completed
- Supported Tribal participation in GIS/GPS Introduction for Field Managers with FWS

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- Coordinating with U.S. Forest Service (USDA/FS) to establish courses at their training center in UT
- Coordinating with NSGIC/TNM to establish more Tribal input
- Developing a schedule and agenda for Tribal Framework course with DHS/FEMA and with the AZ Intertribal Council to be held in April 2005
- Preparing for upcoming courses with DHS/FEMA and FWS

Performance Measures

- Tribal entries into GOS portal: not available
- Tribes requesting technical assistance: 42 phone messages, 122 e-mails (Jan.-March)
- Tribes receiving training: 26

Issues/Concerns/Barriers

- Funding

Coordination with NGPO Study Team

- Meeting and coordination with communications staff
- Incorporated Tribal Future Directions into Partnerships with Purpose NGPO document

Support Needed

- Funding and continued support from NGPO, NSGIC, and USDA/FS

3. Fifty States Action Team

Team Lead and Membership

Bill Burgess, NSGIC

9 Team Members

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Draft an action plan for approval by the NSGIC Board of Directors and the FGDC Coordination Group that can be used to implement the strategic goal: “By 2006, fifty state Coordinating Councils are in place and routinely contributing to the governance of the NSDI”
- Foster continued improvement and implementation of the work plan

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Action Plan was completed by the work group on December 10, 2004
- Action Plan was approved by the NSGIC Board of Directors on December 21, 2004
- Action Plan was reviewed and accepted by the FGDC Coordination Group in February 2005
- A newsletter describing the Initiative was produced in February 2005 and widely circulated
- Initiative was “unveiled” at the NSGIC Mid-Year meeting in March 2005 and promoted at a forum for state offices and non-profit organizations housed at the Hall of States in Washington, D.C.
- Initiative was promoted at both the Association of State Wetland Managers Conference and the NOAA Coastal GeoTools 2005 Conference in March 2005
- The Future Directions Governance Team has included the Initiative in its proposed Governance Model.

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- NSGIC is scheduling presentations for the National Association of State Chief Information Officers (NASCIO) and the National Governor’s Association during the next quarter to present the Initiative and request their support for its implementation
- NSGIC plans to start working on the public relations materials required to support the program
- NSGIC has submitted an unsolicited proposal to NGPO for funding to assist with implementation of the Initiative

Performance Measures

- Performance measures are outlined in the Fifty States Action Plan (see Section 3.1.9)

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- No significant issues, concerns, or barriers have been identified at this time
- The Initiative has been well received by all groups to date
- The Initiative will require funding assistance to implement

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- The managers leading the NGPO reorganization were briefed on the Fifty States Initiative to ensure they understand the importance of the State Liaisons in the implementation of the Action Plan
- To support implementation of the Initiative, NSGIC has requested that FGDC/NGPO identify a CAP grant category to fund states in producing the required strategic and business plans

Support Needed

- Funding to help with implementation activities
- Support from a public relations firm

4. Non Geospatial Organizations Action Team

Team Leads and Membership

John Clark, GSA and Leslie Wollack, FGDC
5 Team Members

Major Areas of Responsibility/Mission

- Define “What is a Non Geospatial National Organization”
- Identify target Non Geospatial National Organizations (NGOs)
- Propose an outreach strategy to engage NGOs

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Team Charter approved in November 2004
- Action Team met February 15th and March 31st to complete, revise and finalize the Action Plan for Engaging NGOs
- Proposed a “Regional Intensive Geo-spatial Training” pilot in Virginia’s Northern Shenandoah Valley for CAP funding
- Final Draft action plan presented at April 5th FGDC Coordination Group Meeting

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- Send final of draft action plan to FGDC Coordination Group members for their review, comment and acceptance
- Seek FGDC approval for action plan’s next steps recommendations

Performance Measures

- Number of NGOs targeted for engagement
- Number of NGO events with exhibits or presentations by Outreach Team

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- NGOs require encouragement and motivation to engage in geospatial initiatives
- Demonstrate the value of the GOS portal and geospatial systems
- Lack of funding at the local level to invest in and use geospatial information systems (can a small amount of grant funding be targeted to NGOs?)
- Who will coordinate the outreach recommendations from the various action teams to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort, and how will this be achieved?

Support Needed

- Approval for the Regional Intensive Geospatial Training pilot in Virginia's Northern Shenandoah Valley
- Opportunity for Action Team members to participate in follow-on activities
- Establishment of an Interagency Outreach Advisory Group by FGDC

Communicating The Message

1. Business Case Team

Team Leads and Membership

Doug Nebert, FGDC and Dave DiSera, GITA
10 Team Members

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Compile and develop a series of business cases documenting the value of collaborative development and access to geographic data and services to government, business, and academia, including:
 - Review literature and select current practices regarding case studies and cost-benefit analyses with respect to the value of collaborative development and access to geographic data and services
 - Collaborate with the FGDC-sponsored multi-organizational enterprise architecture activity, which is focused on the development of common reference models that promote access to geographic data services for multiple purposes
 - Document and publish selected business cases that illustrate the value of collaborative development and access to geographic information and services for selected audiences
 - Provide selected audiences the clear and concise documentation for better investment decision-making regarding the use of geographic information and services.
- Present findings of the Business Case Action Team to the FGDC Coordination Group in order to obtain buy-in and approval

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Team met approximately twice per month, via teleconference
- Revised Business Case Team Charter & Action Plan to update changes in schedule and team deliverables
- Team continued to review and discuss nominated potential multi-organizational case study candidates
- Team continued dialogue regarding how the GITA ROI research effort could align with action team efforts
- Discussed with GITA the next phase of their ROI research project: a community case study that will involve the sharing of spatial data and services among multiple agencies

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- Team to finalize top three Business Cases illustrating different facets of NSDI by the end of April 2005
- Team to decide whether to utilize the GITA survey instrument by the end of April 2005
- Follow-up team telecons in May 2005
- Business Case Action Team final briefing package to be presented at the June 2005 Coordination Group Meeting

Performance Measures

- Completion of the business case inventory
- Selection of several multi-agency business case candidates for conducting a case study
- Documentation of case study results
- Buy-in and cooperation are obtained from the FGDC Coordination Group regarding the findings

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- Limited participation, despite the Action Team's best efforts. The challenges of our jobs continue to limit the participation of many of the Action Team members during conference calls. There are typically 3-5 members participating in the conference calls. This is problematic.

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- None

Support Needed

- No support needs have been identified at this time

2. Communications Action Team (No written report received for Second Quarter)

Team Lead and Membership
Leslie Wollack, FGDC/GOS
13 Team Members

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Convene diverse team to develop strategic communications plan that involves wider geospatial community
- Develop “messages” on value of geospatial information for use in communications activities and by FGDC member agencies
- Coordinate communications activities within newly formed NGPO
- Develop a communications plan and framework for action outlining FGDC leadership and activities that will be adopted and coordinated among FGDC member agencies and the wider geospatial community

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Strategic Communications Plan was reviewed and accepted by the FGDC Coordination Group
- Parts of the FGDC Communication Plan is incorporated into the NGPO Plan

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- Coordinate with other action teams to support their activities; highlight areas of potential overlap
- Work with Coordination Group members to encourage participation in near-term and long-term activities underway
- Development of performance measures
- Team has not met since report was accepted by the Coordination Group

Performance Measures

Development of Performance Measures will be based on the following activities:

- Review/update of publications
- Development of PowerPoint presentation on messages and NSDI goals for adoption by Coordination Group members
- Web redesign (in coordination with NGPO)
- Write three articles for publication in trade journals or FGDC partner organizations
- Develop action/work plan that incorporates communications goals and suggestions of 50 States Action Team
- Work with Governance Action Team on their communications and outreach activities
- Coordinated conference activities with NGPO/TNM
- Communications/outreach on CAP grant
- Communications support to promote current CAP grant recipients

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- Current staffing issues within FGDC and division of responsibilities
- Overlap among other Future Directions and NGPO activities
- Coordination among FGDC partners to gain the support of their communications staff

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- Communications team members also serve on NGPO Study Teams, and to align activities

Support Needed

- An assigned FGDC staff member to carry out communications initiatives
- Agenda item on Coordination Group agenda to discuss messages and next steps
- Meeting with FGDC Staff Director & Deputy Director to determine specifics of work plan

3. Training and Education Team

Team Lead and Membership

Sharon Shin, FGDC
8 Team Members

Mission

- The NSDI Training-Education Team strives to aid the implementation of FGDC programs (Metadata, Framework, Clearinghouse and Portal) through training, outreach and education resource development

Major Accomplishments to Date

- FGDC Clearinghouse lead trainer on board and tentatively scheduled for *Train the Trainer* training in June 2005
- Base and Hydrographic training materials proposal submitted for review and approval to FGDC Education and Training Coordinator and FGDC leadership
- Received positive comments on Transportation (Roads) training materials from the development team
- *Train the Trainer* workshop April 19-21

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- Metadata Core Curriculum update to be posted to web in next few weeks
- Develop base learning content for remaining Framework Transportation standards
- Review existing metadata training resources and recommend modules for conversion to on-line training
- Recommend that *Train the Trainer* workshops create training modules using USGS's Web Ed capability when logistically possible

Future Directions Quarterly Report April 2005

- Electronically convene Framework MAT teams to scope and plan training material development
- With FGDC leadership approval, pursue Univ. of WY's Geographic Information Science Center as the training development team for Framework Base and Hydrographic standards (include Web Ed requirement for introductory materials)
- Propose separating Clearinghouse/Portal into two distinct training content areas to Future Directions leadership
- Recruit training materials team from CTM to address remaining framework standards.

Performance Measures

- Training materials and resources available through the FGDC website:
 - Metadata - Learning objectives and goals for all existing materials, including presentations, by 6/2005
 - Clearinghouse - Goals and objective developed by 7/2005; base training materials developed by 9/2005
 - Framework: Transportation - Goals and objectives developed by 6/2005 base training materials developed under contract by 12/2005
 - Framework: All others - Goals and objectives developed by end of 3rd quarter 2005 through teleconference-workshop; base training materials developed by end of 1st quarter 2006
- Implement Train the Trainer model
 - 75% of all training performed external to FGDC staff
 - Metadata: 2005
 - Framework: 2007
 - Clearinghouse: 2007
 - Portal: 2007

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- Train the Trainer model implementation: in academia, metadata is typically integrated into GIS courses and as a result difficult to measure. Metadata training workshops, external to the FGDC, are often not posted to the FGDC calendar. Extensive outreach and community buy-in is needed to effectively measure performance.

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- None

Support Needed

- Recruit FGDC Coordination Group members to assist in developing training content for framework standards and to fill gaps in existing program materials discovered through materials inventory
- Technical support to develop searchable database with capability to upload contributed training and education materials and record contributors' information

Making Framework Real

1. Framework Standards

Team Leads and Membership

Julie Maitra, FGDC

20 primary participants

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Obtain ANSI approval of framework data standards
- Implementation of framework data standards through Web services

Major Accomplishments to Date

- During public review, 4950 comments were received
- A statistical report was created to show number of comments by framework data standards and by segment of geospatial data community
- Federal theme leads identified public review comments that affected all themes (“cross-cutting issues”) and proposed response. These responses were discussed in an editing committee meeting held February 1-2, 2005
- Most editing committees have met to adjudicate comments on individual parts

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- By the end of April 2005, all editing committees will have met to adjudicate comments on individual parts and will have begun revising drafts consistent with editing committee actions
- A meeting of the standards theme leads is planned for Thursday, April 28, 2005 to present comment adjudication logs and revised drafts, and to identify remaining issues that cross-cut all themes.

Performance Measures

- Recommendation by INCITS L1 (by 30-day letter ballot) of the revised draft standards for further processing for ANSI approval

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- Political expectations and deadlines
- Challenges of coordinating personnel from different cabinet departments to work toward a common goal, when they have commitments within their own departments and our ability to drive schedules is limited
- The Standards Project Manager and contract support are communicating with FGDC management about the requirements of the ANSI/INCITS standards process and the time it will take to accomplish tasks

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- No contact with NGPO Study Team members

Support Needed

- FGDC Standards Project Manager and contract support has requested intervention from FGDC management with political issues, which they do not have the authority or influence to resolve.
- FGDC Standards Project Manager and contract support seek cooperation from all Federal theme leads and editing committees in completing work so that it will pass INCITS L1 ballot.
- Key Persons involved:
 - Ivan DeLoatch, FGDC Staff Director
 - Leslie Armstrong, FGDC Deputy Staff Director
 - Doug Nebert, FGDC Secretariat, for UML and GML modeling issues
 - Norm Andersen, Chair, INCITS Technical Committee L1, Geographic Information Systems

2. Team to Identify New Themes for Standards Development

Team Lead and Membership

Julie Maitra, FGDC

5 Team Members & FGDC Standards Working Group

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Identify data themes of national significance that require standards development so that standards development can begin later this year
- Obtain buy-in from stakeholders for standards development, especially those stakeholders who will be responsible for standards development and maintenance after approval
- Have proposals for new standards development projects approved through recognized standards processes (e.g., FGDC, ANSI/INCITS)

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Teleconference with planning team members was held January 14, 2005
- The FGDC Standards Working Group approved a proposal submitted by URISA to develop an Address Data Standard at its April 13, 2005 meeting
- The FGDC Standards Working Group approved a proposal submitted by NOAA to develop a Shoreline Data Content Standard in 2004. A working draft has been released for community review
- Conducted surveys at NSGIC Midyear Conference in March 2005 and April 2005 FGDC Coordination Group meeting in which participants identified five data categories for which their organizations requires national standards for cross-jurisdictional applications

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- Conduct a literature review that might include the 2004 NSDI Implementation Reports, Federal Enterprise Architecture documents, and the 2004 NSGIC State summaries (<http://www.nsgic.org/review/NSGIC04.pdf>)
- Conduct facilitated sessions to identify data themes that require additional standards development and to seek buy-in from: NGPO, comprising GOS, TNM, and FGDC staff
- Explore new ways that the FGDC Cooperative Agreements Program (CAP) can be used for standards development
- Publish results of surveys on FGDC and NSGIC web sites and in Directions Magazine
- Select a subset of data categories from the survey results for additional requirements collection

Performance Measures

- Identify performance indicators to measure success
- Proposals for standards development are approved by FGDC Standards Working Group or INCITS Technical Committee L1, as appropriate
- Buy-in and cooperation are obtained from Lead Federal agencies or other organizations that will be developing the standard or maintaining the standard after approval, as identified in OMB Circular A-16

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- Pressures to get the existing framework data standards approved by ANSI might delay accomplishment of the action plan for standards development for additional themes. Once INCITS L1 has approved the framework data standards for further processing for ANSI approval, there will be more time to devote to implementing this action plan.

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- No contact with NGPO Study Team members

Support Needed

- Leadership from Tricia Gibbons in conducting facilitated discussions
- Assistance from others in carrying out literature review:
 - Someone like Elliott Christian, who is knowledgeable about Federal Enterprise Architecture (FEA), to distill information from various FEA reference models to help identify business cases for data standards
 - Bill Burgess or NSGIC Board of Directors might be able to distill findings about standards in NSGIC 2004 State summaries
 - FGDC Coordination Group members and Alison Dishman might be able to distill findings about standards in 2004 NSDI Implementation Reports
- Need to inform and involve NGPO staff (including FGDC staff), FGDC Coordination Group, FGDC Subcommittees and Working Groups, and other stakeholders

- This action team needs to interact with the following action teams: Implementing Standards & Web Protocols, Urban Areas, Governance Model for the NSDI, Fifty States Initiative, and Engaging Non Geospatial Organizations

3. Publishing Metadata Team

Team Lead and Membership

Lynda Wayne, FGDC/GeoMaxim

4 Team Members

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Instill metadata creation among FGDC member organizations
- Support metadata publication via geodata.gov
- Foster creation of sustainable metadata programs within FGDC member organizations

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Established Agency metadata performance measures
- Distribution of FGDC Member Agency Metadata Profile that will be used to characterize status of Agency metadata implementation and identify key Agency metadata contacts
- Interviewed 10 state GIS coordinators via NSGIC to establish state metadata point of contacts

Activities in Progress

- Collect and compile FGDC Member Agency Metadata Profiles
- Extract FGDC Member Agency metadata publication statistics from geodata.gov
- Integrate FGDC Member Agency Metadata Profile into FGDC annual reporting format
- Continue coordination with State GIS coordinators in establishing metadata point of contact for each state and integration of FGDC Member Agency Metadata Profile into NSGIC annual reporting format
- Participate in GIS Model Curriculum review with University Consortium of GIS (UCGIS) to ensure integration of metadata concepts and practice into higher education GIS courses
- Schedule a Team meeting to review activities, set priorities, and assign roles

Performance Measures

- Number of Federal Agencies publishing FGDC compliant metadata to geodata.gov
Baseline: Results of FGDC Member Agency Metadata Profile
- Number of States in which a Metadata Point of Contact can be established
Baseline: 2004 NSGIC State Summaries
- Successful integration of metadata concepts and practice into UCGIS Model Curriculum final product

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- Because of the 70% return rate of FGDC Member Agency Metadata Profiles, additional follow up work with remaining Agencies is needed to complete the profile
- The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) recently started up a “Geospatial Community of Interest” and the Metadata Profile will be among its first tasks; thus, this presents an opportunity to identify and coordinate with DHS members

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- Coordinated with Stan Ponce and Bill Burgess (Partnerships) about metadata training and education implementation via State Agencies and USGS State Mapping Liaisons during the NSGIC Midyear meeting

Support Needed

- FGDC staff support needed in compilation of FGDC Member Agency Metadata Profiles and related information
- GOS technical staff support needed in extraction of FGDC Member Agency metadata from geodata.gov publication statistics
- Continued coordination with Training and Education Team in building metadata capabilities through education

4. Implementing Standards and Web Protocols Team

Team Lead and Membership

John Evans, NASA/GST Inc.
12 Team Members

Major Areas of Responsibility

- Guidance materials for implementing open interfaces for accessing NSDI Framework data
- GIRM input to NSDI Enterprise Architecture activity
- Promote interface standards for Framework data access

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Proposed OGC/ISO Web Map Service for External Endorsement
- Presented to OMB workshop on Geospatial Enterprise Architecture
- Began articulating links between GIRM and FEA elements
- Began articulating a services-based view of NSDI and Framework
- Met by teleconference and email

Activities in Progress / Next Steps

- Shepherd WMS proposal through FGDC Endorsement process
- Articulate and seek review on links between GIRM and FEA elements
- Articulate and seek review on a services-based view of NSDI and Framework
- Articulate and seek review on a Framework Services profile of GIRM
- Seek to harness alternative tools for collaboration (forum, email, etc.)

Performance Measures

- Web-published guidance documents
- FGDC endorsement of external standards
- Community consensus on integration of GIRM and FEA

Issues / Concerns / Barriers

- Team members' "day jobs" and competing time commitments

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- None

Support Needed

- None identified

5. Urban Areas (No Written Report Received for Second Quarter)

Team Co-conveners and Membership

Kathy Covert, FGDC and Twyla McDermott, City of Charlotte, NC
7 Team Members

Major Area of Responsibility

- Define a set of processes and products aiming toward a sustainable urban data framework

Major Accomplishments to Date

- Drafted charter
- Developed work plan

Activities in Progress/Next Steps

- Plans finalized for Experts workshop to be held on May 3, 2005 in Washington, D.C.

Performance Measures

- Tasks result in high quality deliverables delivered on time and within budget.

Issues/Concerns/Barriers

- None

Coordination with NGPO Study Teams

- For definition of cross-jurisdictional business cases: Business Case team

Support Needed

- None