



# **RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE 2020 NATIONAL SPATIAL DATA INFRASTRUCTURE STRATEGIC PLAN**

A Report of the National Geospatial Advisory Committee  
June 2020

## Introduction

The National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) established a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan Subcommittee at the December 2019 NGAC meeting. The purpose of the subcommittee was to “provide input to and advice for the 2020-2021 NSDI Strategic Plan.” The initial tasks of the subcommittee were to develop revised draft vision, mission, and guiding principles for the NSDI Strategic Plan, and to provide input and feedback on goals and strategies. This paper provides the subcommittee’s initial recommendations.

The subcommittee reviewed the related documents (Table 1) and held weekly web conference calls to synthesize ideas and develop the vision, mission, and guiding principles included in this report.

**Table 1: Related documents reviewed by the subcommittee**

- Geospatial Data Act
- Past NSDI strategic plans
- 2018 NSDI strategic planning document by NGAC action team
- NSGIC 2019 Geospatial Maturity Assessment
- COGO 2018 NSDI Report Card
- Federal Data Strategy 2020 Action Plan
- Other Federal strategic plans: National Plan for Civil Earth Observations, Transportation for the Nation, FEMA, USACE Navigation Strategic Plan, 911 Data and Information Sharing Plan

The subcommittee discussed examples of visions, missions, and guiding principles from these documents to contextualize the roles and needs of the NSDI in national strategic approaches. After multiple iterations of discussion and revisions, the subcommittee recommends the following vision, mission, and guiding principles for the 2020-2022 NSDI Strategic Plan. These components will be integrated with the goals and objectives being developed by the FGDC NSDI Core Team.

### **Vision: Empowering a geo-enabled Nation and world for place-based decision making**

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) enables citizens, commerce, and all levels of government to contribute to and utilize a national network of geospatial resources. Readily accessible and easy to use geospatial resources – including data, information, applications, and expertise - empower our nation by enabling improved understanding, in-depth insight, and informed decision-making to address a range of economic, social, and environmental challenges. Nearly everything and every event is geographically located and contextually described. The NSDI geo-enables the Nation and world for the benefit of society, economy, and the environment.

## **Mission: The NSDI provides a national network of geospatial resources that seamlessly integrates location-based information to serve the needs of the Nation and wider global interests**

The purpose of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) is to design, build, maintain, and enhance the value of geospatial resources in conjunction with statistical data and other sources of information. The NSDI coordinates the ever-evolving collection of data, information, technology, standards, services, policies, and people. It enables seamless data development, information sharing, and collaborative decision making within a trusted, accuracy-assured, and properly protected environment. The NSDI informs decision making at all levels of society with the ability to understand, protect, and promote national and wider global interests.

### **Guiding Principles:**

1. Promote the utilization of geospatial resources to improve insight and decision making
2. Ensure that geospatial data are current, accurate, open, interoperable, and easy to access
3. Build trust by safeguarding privacy, confidentiality, and intellectual property and by ensuring ethical practices
4. Foster an open, inclusive, and collaborative environment across sectors
5. Encourage innovation and a culture of learning and accountability
6. Leverage resources, expertise, and investments through partnerships
7. Lead, support, and advance spatial data infrastructure globally

The guiding principles describe a set of values for NSDI action and decision making. These principles leverage concepts from relevant laws, policies, and best practices and reflect inputs from diverse geospatial communities. By contextualizing ethical governance, conscious design, and learning culture in developing geospatial resources and empowering place-based decision support, the NSDI guiding principles cultivate partnerships to strengthen our national and global geospatial enterprise.

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