

## US Federal Geographic Data Committee Initiatives: Geospatial One-Stop and Implementation Teams

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Since its inception, US Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) has been responsible for the creation of an elaborate National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) based on some very basic concepts: collecting data once and using it many times, openly sharing information and data, making data and tools to use the data more easily available, and others all promoting better governance and management and improved decision making. The FGDC has benefited from high level political attention through three US presidential administrations largely because of convincing/cogent arguments that the concepts of the NSDI lead to a more streamlined government.

Initially the NSDI's major development focus was almost completely at the national level. With time and much promotion, FGDC's vision has found its way into states and local governments. To encourage states and communities to participate, the *Implementation Team (I-Team)* concept emerged strongly encouraging states and local governments to establish the mirror image of the national FGDC within each state. To date as many as 49 of the states have developed formal I-Teams and 12 have authored formal plans and 11 states more are close to completion. These plans outline mechanisms to conduct a comprehensive geospatial inventory, identify framework data, establish clearinghouses, assign data stewards, and related activities. The mission of the I-Team is now directed to evolving these plans into actions.

The central focus of the NSDI is carried into the current administration through the President's management agenda consisting of 24 major programs with a vision to improve the federal government's value to the citizen by an order of magnitude. The challenged is to make information, data and decisions available in minutes or hours, not weeks or months. This *e-government* is focused on using digital technologies to transform government operations in order to improve effectiveness, efficiency, and service delivery. *Geospatial One-Stop* grew from this vision and raises the visibility of the strategic value of geographic information.

[Full paper not available](#)