

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAPPS Reaffirms Support for FGDC's National Spatial Data Infrastructure Vision

Leesburg, VA – December 2, 2024 — MAPPS, the preeminent association of private sector geospatial firms, proudly supports the Federal Geographic Data Committee's (FGDC) comprehensive vision for a National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) to foster enhanced collaboration, data sharing, and innovation in the geospatial field. The FGDC's renewed focus on a unified NSDI aims to create a more accessible and interoperable spatial data framework, empowering public, private, and academic stakeholders to address pressing national and global challenges.

The National Spatial Data Infrastructure serves as a cornerstone for effective decision-making, economic growth, and environmental stewardship by enhancing the accessibility and usability of geospatial data across all levels of government and industry. Through the FGDC's vision, the NSDI will streamline geospatial data integration, minimize redundancy, and promote consistent, high-quality data standards. This foundational framework will enable more efficient public service delivery, foster economic development, and advance technological innovation in sectors such as infrastructure, disaster response, transportation, and resource management.

“MAPPS is fully committed to advancing the FGDC's NSDI vision and recognizes the transformative impact this initiative will have on the geospatial community and beyond,” said Kelly Francis, President of MAPPS. “We believe that a robust NSDI will not only strengthen data interoperability and sharing but also drive innovation in geospatial technology, enhancing our ability to respond to critical challenges facing our nation and the world.”

MAPPS has long advocated for a strong public-private partnership to drive geospatial data development and distribution. Through this collaboration with FGDC and other key stakeholders, MAPPS envisions a future where comprehensive spatial data resources are universally accessible, high-quality, and secure.

Key components of MAPPS' support for FGDC's NSDI vision include:

- **Encouraging Standards and Best Practices:** MAPPS will promote adherence to data standards that enable interoperability, reduce duplication, and ensure the reliability and consistency of geospatial data.
- **Facilitating Public-Private Collaboration:** MAPPS will work closely with FGDC and other entities to foster a vibrant geospatial data ecosystem, bringing together expertise and resources from the private sector and federal, state, and local governments.
- **Driving Innovation and Economic Growth:** The association is committed to supporting policies and practices that enable private firms to innovate and contribute to the national geospatial landscape, fostering job creation, economic opportunities, and technological advancements.

The FGDC Steering Committee also recently approved the 2025 – 2035 National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) Strategic Plan. The new strategic plan was also endorsed by the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) on October 16, 2024. The final strategic plan, *Building the Geospatial Future Together – the NSDI Strategic Plan 2025 - 2035* is posted at: <https://www.fgdc.gov/nsdi-plan/nsdistrategicplan2035>.

The NSDI strategic plan is a key component of the GDA and a path forward for their ongoing NSDI activities. The NSDI strategic plan was developed with inputs from a variety of sources, including FGDC agencies, the National Geospatial Advisory Committee, and geospatial partner organizations. The plan expanded the previously more Federally focused strategic plan and developed a broader nationally scoped plan, designed to encourage active engagement and leadership from multiple sectors. The new plan presents a bold vision for the future of the NSDI in the U.S., emphasizing collaboration, partnerships, innovation, and technological advancement to create a seamlessly interconnected national geospatial ecosystem that delivers actionable insights to address the complex challenges of our time. The FGDC will work collaboratively with partners on the implementation of the plan.

About MAPPS

MAPPS is the only national association of private sector firms in the surveying, spatial data, and geographic information systems fields. Representing over 100 member companies, MAPPS is dedicated to promoting the responsible application of geospatial data, advocating for policies that drive economic growth and innovation, and fostering a collaborative environment among public and private geospatial entities.

Contact:

MAPPS
248-930-8705
info@mapps.org