



# Theme Strategic Plan for Real Property Theme

---

General Services Administration

**Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)**

FY2018 – 2022

December 8, 2017



## Real Property Theme Key Personnel and Datasets

Theme Personnel	
<b>Theme Lead (Co-Leads):</b>	Aluanda R. Drain
<b>Theme Lead Agency:</b>	General Services Administration (GSA) Office of Government-wide Policy
<b>Executive Theme Champion(s):</b>	Carolyn Austin-Diggs
<b>Executive Champion Agency:</b>	GSA

Real Property Theme NGDA Datasets	NGDA Agency
Military Installations, Ranges, and Training Areas	DOD-AT&L
USGS National Structures Dataset	DOI-USGS
Inventory of Owned and Leased Properties	GSA-PBS
Assisted Housing - Housing Choice Vouchers By Tract	HUD
Fair Market Rents (Fair Market Rents For The Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program)	HUD
HUD Insured Multifamily Properties	HUD
FHA Insured Single Family Properties	HUD
HUD Grantee Activities	HUD
FHA Single Family REO Properties For Sale	HUD
Public Housing Authorities	HUD
Public Housing Buildings	HUD
Public Housing Developments	HUD
Assisted Housing - Multifamily Properties - Assisted	HUD
Low Income Housing Tax Credit Properties	HUD
Non-Federal public facilities - acknowledged but not reported in this plan	States, Regional Agencies, and Local governments
Privately owned facilities - acknowledged but not reported in this plan	Local real estate tax authorities

## **Executive Summary**

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) operates under Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular A-16. It provides leadership for the National Spatial Data Infrastructure using a portfolio management approach, and oversight of 17 themes, or groupings, of spatial datasets in the Federal Government's geospatial data inventory. One of these is the Real Property Theme.

This Strategic Plan for the Real Property Theme meets Objective 2B of the National Geospatial Data Asset Management (NGDA) Plan. This requires each NGDA Theme to prepare a strategic plan for the period FY 2017 - FY 2021. Paragraph 8.d. of OMB Circular EA-16 requires the development of a strategic plan for each Theme. Each Theme is required to provide a Strategic Plan to the FGDC that outlines its goals, objectives and action items and anticipated outcomes. This is the Strategic Plan for the Real Property Theme.

## **Background**

OMB Circular A-16, *Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities*, describes the management and reporting requirements of Federal agencies in the acquisition, maintenance, distribution, use, and preservation of spatial data by the Federal Government. Included in the National Spatial Data Infrastructure are data themes, metadata, the National Spatial Data Clearinghouse, standards, and partnerships. The *Circular* defines data themes as "electronic records and coordinates for a topic or subject."

Circular A-16 defines the Real Property Theme as follows:

The spatial representation (location) of real property entities, typically consisting of one or more of the following: unimproved land, a building, a structure, site improvements and the underlying land. Complex real property entities (aka "facilities") are used for a broad spectrum of functions or missions. This theme focuses on spatial representation of real property assets only and does not seek to describe special purpose functions of real property such as those found in the Cultural Resources, Transportation, or Utilities themes.

Section 8d. of OMB Circular A-16 (Revised), dated August 19, 2002, directs Federal agencies to develop for each Theme:

"...a plan for the nationwide population of each data theme. Plans will include the development of partnership programs with States, Tribes, academia, the private sector, other federal agencies, and localities that meet the needs of users, address human and financial resource needs, identify needs for standards, metadata, and the Clearinghouse, and advance a timetable for the development of NSDI data themes."

Agencies are further directed to "prepare goals that support the NSDI strategy and, as needed, collect and analyze information from users about their needs for spatial data, including these in strategies related to their theme responsibilities." (Section 8d(3))

The goals and objectives of this Strategic Plan define areas of importance for the continued development of the Real Property Theme. Challenges and opportunities in managing the Theme are noted as well.

**Theme Strategic Plan for Real Property**

The Real Property Theme is defined in OMB Circular A-16 (mentioned above). The Theme focuses on spatial representation of real property assets only and does not seek to describe special purpose functions of real property such as those found in the Cultural Resources, Transportation, or Utilities Themes.

The key Theme personnel are:

- Theme Lead: Michael O’Brien
- Theme Lead Agency: General Services Administration
- Executive Theme Champion: Carolyn Austin-Diggs
- Executive Champion Agency: General Services Administration

**Real Property Theme Dataset Agencies, Managers and Contact Information**

There are 14 datasets in the Real Property Theme. They are managed by the following agencies: Department of Defense, (DoD), Department of Interior (DOI), General Services Administration (GSA), and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The table below identifies the NGDA Datasets and Dataset Managers within each agency, along with their contact information.

(Master list: [https://www.fgdc.gov/ngda-reports/NGDA\\_Datasets.html](https://www.fgdc.gov/ngda-reports/NGDA_Datasets.html))

Real Property NGDA	NGDA Dataset	NGDA Dataset	Contact Information
Military Installations, Ranges, and Training Areas	DOD-AT&L	David LaBranche	<a href="mailto:david.f.labranche.civ@mail.mil">david.f.labranche.civ@mail.mil</a>
USGS National Structures Dataset	DOI-USGS	Bob Pierce	<a href="mailto:rrpierce@usgs.gov">rrpierce@usgs.gov</a>
Inventory of Owned and Leased Properties	GSA	Chris Giavis	<a href="mailto:christopher.giavis@gsa.gov">christopher.giavis@gsa.gov</a>
Assisted Housing - Housing Choice Vouchers By Tract	HUD	Jon Sperling	<a href="mailto:jon.sperling@hud.gov">jon.sperling@hud.gov</a>

Fair Market Rents (Fair Market Rents For The Section 8 Housing Assistance Payments Program)	HUD	Robert N. Renner	<a href="mailto:Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov">Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov</a>
HUD Insured Multifamily Properties	HUD	Robert N. Renner	<a href="mailto:Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov">Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov</a>
FHA Insured Single Family Properties	HUD	Robert N. Renner	<a href="mailto:Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov">Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov</a>
HUD Grantee Activities	HUD	Robert N.	<a href="mailto:Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov">Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov</a>
FHA Single Family REO Properties For Sale	HUD	Robert N. Renner	<a href="mailto:Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov">Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov</a>
Public Housing Authorities	HUD	Robert N.	<a href="mailto:Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov">Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov</a>
Public Housing Buildings	HUD	Robert N.	<a href="mailto:Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov">Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov</a>
Public Housing	HUD	Robert N.	<a href="mailto:Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov">Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov</a>
Assisted Housing - Multifamily Properties -	HUD	Jon Sperling	<a href="mailto:jon.sperling@hud.gov">jon.sperling@hud.gov</a>
Low Income Housing Tax Credit Properties	HUD	Robert N. Renner	<a href="mailto:Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov">Robert.N.Renner@hud.gov</a>

## Goals, Objectives, Action Items and Anticipated Outcomes

The goals, objectives, action items and anticipated outcomes for the Real Property Theme are described below.

**Goal 1:** Coordinate the collection and management of the Real Property Theme datasets

**Objective 1.1:** Engage with Dataset Managers for each Real Property Theme dataset.

**Anticipated Outcome:** Having a complete inventory of all theme datasets, and ensuring communication across datasets and themes.

**Action 1.1.1:** Establish a charter for the Real Property Theme.

**Action 1.1.2:** Define Federal roles and responsibilities in the national dataset management program, ensuring that OMB Circular A-16 and Supplemental Guidance, Open Data Policy, Geospatial Platform, Data.gov, and other relevant requirements have been addressed.

**Action 1.1.3:** Develop process improvement for monitoring and reporting on the progress of OMB Circular A-16, *Coordination of Geographic Information and Related Spatial Data Activities*.

**Objective 1.2:** Complete/update the annual Lifecycle Maturity Assessments (LMAs) for each Real Property dataset.

**Anticipated Outcome:** The Theme Summary Report generated from the assessments will provide an overview of the status, overall maturity, and other characteristics for the NGDA Datasets within the Real Property Theme.

**Action 1.2.1:** Collaborate with the dataset managers regarding maintenance of the baseline assessments of active or static data.

**Action 1.2.2:** Update maturity assessments annually, as needed, on existing datasets for the 2017-2019 cycle.

**Action 1.2.3:** Collaborate with dataset managers in evaluation of datasets to ensure they meet the criteria for NGDA.

**Action 1.2.4:** Collaborate with NGDA Dataset Managers to develop procedures to obtain funding for all lifecycle stages of the Real Property Theme datasets.

**Goal 2:** Facilitate the sharing and distribution of the Real Property Theme datasets.

**Objective 2.1:** Engage subcommittees and working groups in the Real Property Theme.

**Anticipated Outcome:** Foster partnerships with other agencies and throughout the geospatial community to encourage widespread use of the data.

**Action 2.1.1:** Establish contact and collaborate with the FGDC Cadastral Subcommittee.

**Action 2.1.2:** Establish contact and collaborate with the FGDC Address Content Data Standard Ad Hoc Subcommittee.

**Objective 2.2:** Convene all NGDA Dataset Managers in the Real Property Theme.

**Anticipated Outcome:** Collaborate openly to standardize geospatial datasets, and to ensure the Real Property Theme datasets meet NGDA requirements.

**Action 2.2.1:** Identify real property types to create greater awareness of the different categories of data in the NGDA Datasets.

**Action 2.2.2:** Identify areas for collaboration among datasets to prevent duplication of efforts and repetition of work already completed.

**Action 2.2.3:** Coordinate/collaborate with all FGDC stakeholders to reach consensus on types of real property to be included in the Real Property Theme.

**Action 2.2.4:** Identify methods to develop and complete quality assurance processes for the Real Property Theme datasets.

**Goal 3:** Coordinate with agencies that own, lease or control real property, and support access to and publication of datasets within the framework of OMB Circular A-16.

**Objective 3.1:** Evaluate the *Geospatial Positioning Accuracy Standards, Part 4: Architecture, Engineering, Construction and Facilities Management (2002)*, and the *Real Property Asset Data Standard (RPADS) (2014)*, to ensure they are still appropriate.

**Anticipated Outcome:** Clearly documented standards that allow both NGDA Dataset Managers and the user community to understand and implement best practices for using and maintaining data.

**Action 3.1.1:** Create a survey to gain a greater understanding of which data standards the NGDA Dataset Managers are following.

**Action 3.1.2:** Establish new data standards, or make edits to the current data standards, to be followed by all NGDA Dataset Managers.

**Action 3.1.3:** Identify methods used to develop and complete quality assurance for the Real Property dataset.

**Action 3.1.4:** Implement the FGDC-endorsed geospatial metadata standard, which follows the NGDA Metadata Guidelines for publishing on *GeoPlatform*.

**Objective 3.2:** Update the Real Property Theme community page on *GeoPlatform*.

**Anticipated Outcome:** Improve accessibility to geospatial users, and ensure Real Property Theme datasets are easily obtainable and identified as NGDA on *GeoPlatform*.

**Action 3.2.1:** Through collaboration with stakeholders, ensure that open government and transparency guidelines are followed in all lifecycle phases for the Real Property Theme datasets.

**Action 3.2.2:** Establish a working group to analyze user frequency, and survey how users interact with Real Property Theme data on *GeoPlatform* while ensuring data accessibility.

**Action 3.2.3:** Update comments on *GeoPlatform* for meaningful implementation by NGDA Dataset Managers.

**Action 3.2.4:** Develop tools, resources and informational materials to assist user data access, and guidance to obtain and evaluate the data in a digital format.

**Action 3.2.5:** Develop processes annually that will provide information on technical and educational training on the datasets.

**Action 3.2.6:** Develop a process to maintain quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) of the Real Property Theme.

### **External Factors, Challenges, and Opportunities**

National Security: Regarding the dataset *Military Installations, Ranges, and Training Areas*, there is sensitivity about what information can be shared and how. This applies to most of the datasets because



they most likely indicate places where people work and/or live, thus the concern about the Personally Identifiable Information (PII) that is shared and how it might impact Federal agencies.

Access to Data: It is difficult to view a few of the datasets if GIS viewing software is not available. Most agencies that use ARCGIS require the user to request this software each year. Stage 4 of the Lifecycle Maturity Assessment (LMA) discusses inaccessibility due to lack of software. This challenge presents an opportunity for the insertion of language in *GeoPlatform* on how to access software, or engage with users in ways that communicate the steps needed to gain access to data.

Cohesion of All Datasets in the Theme: There appears to be a lack of cohesion among the various datasets. More conversations are needed to find opportunities for collaboration. For example, there are 14 datasets of which 11 are managed by HUD. In conversations with HUD, we realized only one of their datasets represents Federally-owned real property. We question if these belong in the Real Property Theme, or if another theme should be created. There is an address theme being created, and if might be housed there. The Real Property Theme Lead and Champion need to meet with the FGDC to discuss this.