

**\*\*DRAFT\*\***

U.S. Department of Transportation  
Geospatial Coordination Council Charter

**1. Background**

In November of 2012, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released GAO-13-94, *Geospatial Information: OMB and Agencies Need to Make Coordination a Priority to Reduce Duplication*. The report recommended that the Department enhances the collaboration and sharing of geospatial information among the OAs and other federal agencies, and promotes the use of enterprise geospatial information and tools to inform the Department's priority initiatives.

**2. Authority**

The Geospatial Coordination Council (GCC, or the "Council") is chartered under the authority of the Deputy Secretary of Transportation. It supersedes and replaces any pre-existing, formal or informal, internal geospatial coordination and advisory groups in the Department.

**3. Purpose**

The GCC's primary purpose is to:

- develop strategies and policies that meet the common geospatial-information objectives of the Operating Administrations (OAs),
- facilitate and coordinate the sharing of information about a broad array of geospatial activities across the OAs,
- ensure that the Department fulfills its responsibilities to the Office of Management (OMB) and Budget and the Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), and
- advise senior leadership on the strategic application of geospatial data, technology, and tools to the execution of the mission objectives of the Department.

**4. Membership**

The Department's Senior Agency Official for Geospatial Information will chair the GCC. The Department's Geospatial Information Officer will be deputy chair. Its members will be senior executives from:

- Federal Aviation Administration
- Federal Highway Administration
- Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration
- Federal Railroad Administration

- Federal Transit Administration
- Maritime Administration
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
- Office of the Secretary of Transportation
- Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration
- Research and Innovative Technology Administration

Task groups may be convened by the chair to carry out specific tasks.

Each OA will be responsible for appointing a senior executive level representative.

## **5. Roles and Responsibilities**

The Council will:

- Develop and publish Department-wide policies on the creation, purchase/lease, and use of geospatial information that is in accordance with OMB and FGDC policies.
- Ensure Departmental compliance with government-wide geospatial requirements and standards, including OMB Circular A-16, the A-16 Supplemental Guidance, Executive Order 12906, and the Geospatial Platform.
- Coordinate Departmental investments on geospatial data.
- Advise on, and promote the use of, strategic applications of geospatial data, technology, and tools to meet the mission objectives of the Department.
- Develop strategies and initiatives to fill gaps; and to improve quality, timeliness and compatibility of cross-modal geospatial data.
- Communicate, coordinate, and share information about geospatial activities and related management priorities across all OAs and government-wide.

The council will not be provided an annual budget.

Where decisions are required, they will be made through consensus to the extent possible. In the event that consensus cannot be reached, final decisions will be made by the Chair upon recommendations of the Council members.

Meetings will be held quarterly with additional meetings scheduled as needed and conducted in accordance with a published agenda. Meeting notes and communications/documents will be maintained by the Council and posted to a Sharepoint site or similar location for improved coordination and collaboration.

## **6. Duration**

This Charter will remain in effect until amended or replaced.

## **7. Amendment**

The Council may recommend amendments to the charter. Recommended amendments to the charter must be approved by a majority vote of the Council members prior to forwarding any changes to the Deputy Secretary. Only the Deputy Secretary has the authority to amend the charter after recommendations are forwarded by the Council.