National Collaboration

Bicycle, Pedestrian, and Accessibility Infrastructure Data

July 25, 2024

U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary of Transportation

Bureau of Transportation Statistics

FGDC.GOV
FEDERAL GEOGRAPHIC DATA COMMITTEE

Facilitators

Co-Chairs
- **Anat Caspi**, University of Washington
- **Bahar Dadashova**, Texas A&M Transportation Institute
- **Jeff Whitfield**, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- **Grace Bowen**, ORISE Fellow
- **Cyrus Chimento**, ORISE Fellow
- **Jay Davis**, Presidential Innovation Fellow
- **Justyna Goworowska**, Spatial Transportation Data Analyst
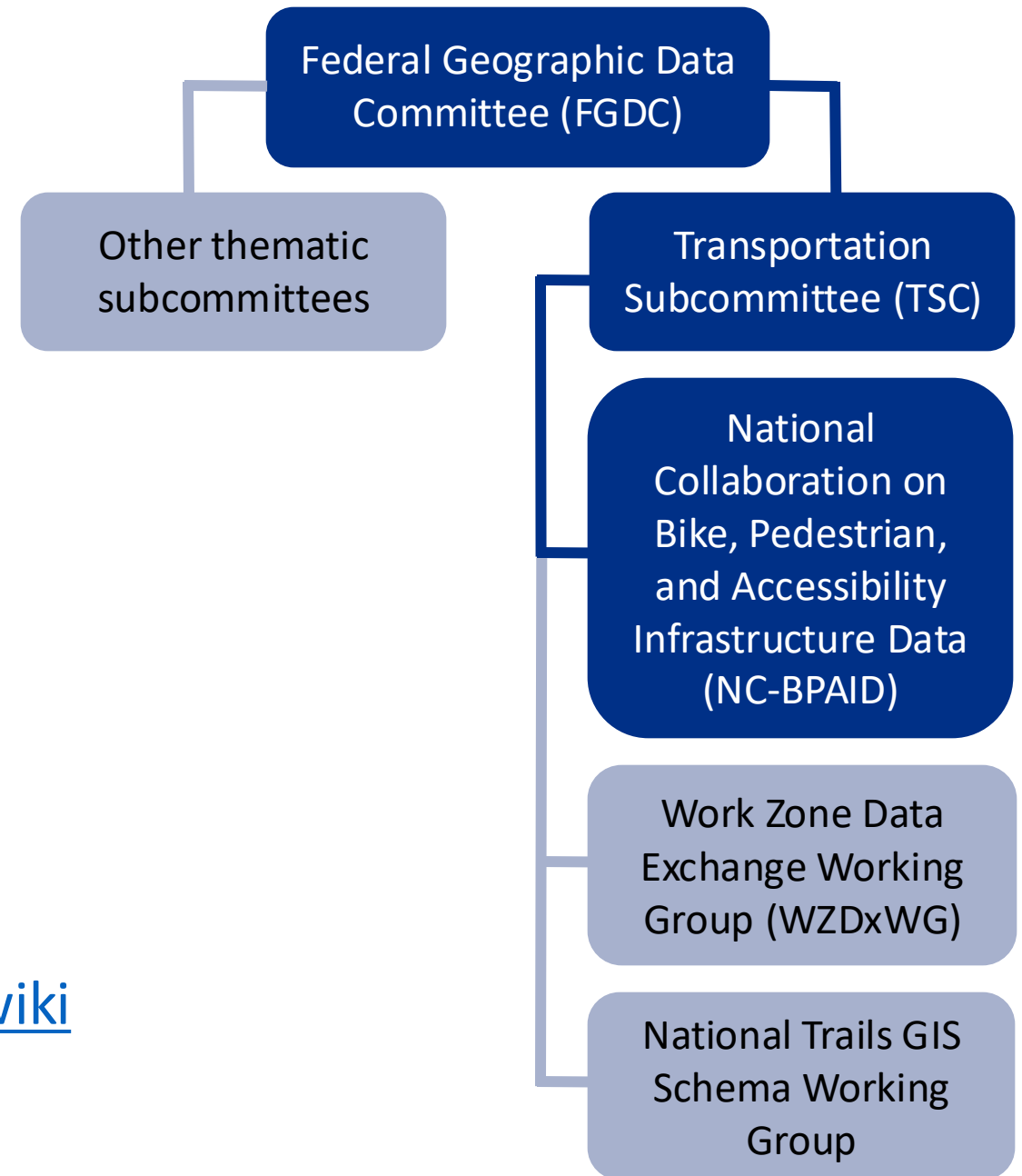- **Sara Secunda**, Volpe Center

Housekeeping

- **This meeting will be recorded.**

- Please stay muted to reduce background noise. If you would like to speak or ask a question, please raise your hand and unmute when acknowledged.

- Please type your affiliation in the chat.

- Type any questions you have into the chat. We will be monitoring the chat and will respond or raise your questions.

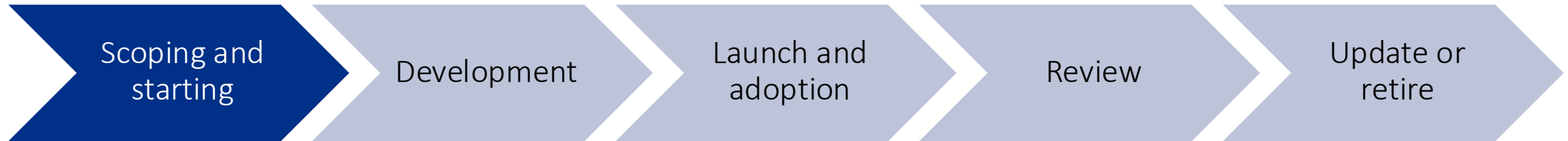- Slides, recording, and notes will be available within about a week at: https://github.com/dotbts/BPA/wiki

Context

- Why are we here?
- Why is the Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS) facilitating?
- What happened at the last meeting?

Details: https://github.com/dotbts/BPA/wiki

Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC)

Other thematic subcommittees

Transportation Subcommittee (TSC)

National Collaboration on Bike, Pedestrian, and Accessibility Infrastructure Data (NC-BPAID)

Work Zone Data Exchange Working Group (WZDxWG)

National Trails GIS Schema Working Group

Context

Scoping and starting → Development → Launch and adoption → Review → Update or retire

Tasks
- Decide on the aims and objectives
- Choose the development method
- Plan the development

(Some) Expected Outputs
- Communications channels
- Scope, features, and use cases
- Governance methods
- Development plan

5

Objectives of Today's Meeting

1. Discuss plan for launching subgroups, including details about subgroup leadership, objectives, and support.

2. Share information about an existing specification modeling bicycle, pedestrian, and accessibility infrastructure data: the General Modeling Network Specification (GMNS).

Agenda

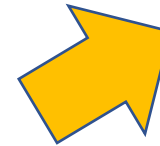|	
Welcome	5 minutes
NC-BPAID status updates and actions	5 minutes
Open floor for announcements	5 minutes
Voting member overview	15 minutes
Subgroup formation details	15 minutes
General Modeling Network Specification (GMNS) presentation – Scott Smith	20 minutes
Q&A	Remaining time
Closing	<1min

NC-BPAID Updates

- Subgroup vote results
- Staff updates

Select Notifications

Login to https://github.com. Select the repository dotbts/BPA.

Select the "Watch" button to change your notifications from the defaults.

Watching the repo means you will get notifications about discussions, comments and other actions.

If you keep the defaults, you will only get notifications about discussions you join.

Open Floor for Announcements

Voting Logistics &
Voting Members Overview

Jay Davis

Voting Logistics Updates

For lazy approval and online voting:

- We're increasing the time period to vote, from 1 week to 2 weeks.
- We will also begin sending reminders a couple days before a voting period closes.

Voting Logistics

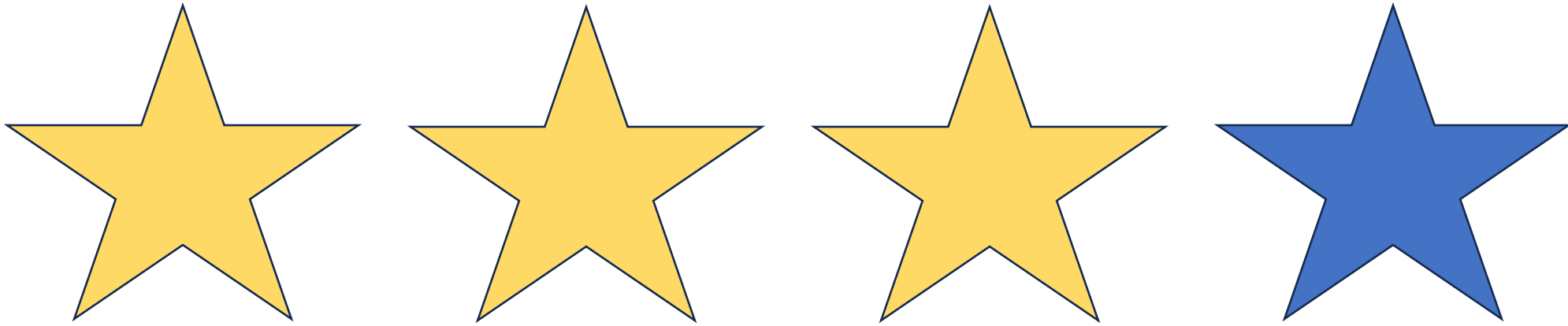Per the collaboration framework, these are our vote types.

Vote Type	Threshold	Purpose	Venue	Hypothetical Example
Supermajority	75% majority of participating voters	Decisions on final outputs or working group products.	Online / asynchronous *or* synchronous (quorum REQUIRED)	Specification approval; changes to specification.
Majority	Simple majority (50% + 1) of participating voters	Decisions on board strategy or other high level questions, including co-chair election.	Online / asynchronous *or* synchronous (quorum REQUIRED)	Approval of purpose and scope; approval of goals / objectives; co-chair election.
"Lazy" Approval	Implicit allowance unless a veto is received, at which time majority approval must be obtained.	Procedural or minor changes; oversight of chair or administrative team activities.	Online / asynchronous	Change to documentation; review of co-chair plan to designate subgroups.

What Is a Voting Member?

"To ensure fairness among organizations, each organization SHALL have only one vote, and therefore only one voting member. Each member organization SHALL designate their voting member and inform the NC-BPAID administrative team via email. Only voting members MAY vote, become a co-chair, or chair a subgroup."

Why This Is Important

About one in every four members of this working group (52) are from USDOT.

26 organizations have between 2 to 8 people – so without this rule, they could outvote the other 76 organizations by a factor of 2 to 8.

Designating a Voting Member

- Voting members are listed on GitHub:
  - Documents > VotingMembers.md
  - https://github.com/dotbts/BPA/blob/main/documents/VotingMembers.md)
- You can email anyone on the BTS team to designate a voting member.
- If you are the first person from your organization to vote, we will automatically add you to the voting members list.
- If you are the second + person from your organization to vote, we will email you to ask for clarity on who your voting member is.
- We ask that voting members vote the will of their organizations.
- **You can change your voting member at any time.** Just email anyone on the BTS team.

How USDOT Does its Voting

- We picked our voting member (Justyna Goworowska) through an internal conversation with consensus.
- USDOT staff can message Justyna about any vote with their thoughts, and she will take it into account for the vote.
- More engagement will happen around bigger votes, like standards.
- Example:
  - In subgroup vote, a colleague raised a concern about subgroup goals.
  - Justyna abstained from voting.
  - Concern will be passed to the relevant subgroup for consideration as they refine their goals.

Questions?

Subgroup Formation Details

Jeff Whitfield

What Are Subgroups?

"Co-chairs SHALL establish at least one subgroup, and MAY establish more, to accomplish the objectives and activities. Subgroup proposals SHALL be subject to 'lazy' approval by voting members. By default, subgroups SHALL adopt this collaboration framework for their decision-making procedure... Co-chairs SHALL oversee subgroup activities, and subgroup plans SHALL be subject to co-chair approval."

Subgroups are...
- The major way we will organize and carry out work
- Created by co-chairs, who oversee activities & approve plans
- Led by chairs/co-chairs and made up of members from this group
- Guided by the same collaboration framework to make decisions

Approved Subgroups – Launching Now

	Specification Development	Data Practices
Goals	• Create minimum content specification(s) to digitally model routable bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure networks (including inside transportation terminals) • Prioritize aspects related to physical accessibility and equity	• Facilitate adoption of standards and practices by data producers and consumers • Promote findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR) of datasets
Activities	• Field scan/gap analysis of existing specs • Prioritize spec development tasks • Develop/endorse specs based on use cases • Test and collect feedback on proposed specs from subgroups and membership • Integrate feedback to create draft version	• Develop glossary of important terms • Catalog methods, tools and practices related to data collection, exchange, portability, refutability, findability, accessibility, interoperability, reusability, equity and more • Develop recommendations, best practices or case studies
Timeline	~ 1 year	~ 1 - 1.5 years

Subgroup Leadership

Data Practices

- Krista Nordback, UNC Highway Safety Research Center

- Ellwood Hanrahan, New York State DOT

Specification Development

- TBD

Next Steps

- Data Practices Subgroup:
  - Chair(s) convene the group and begin work
- Specification Development Subgroup:
  - Seeking more candidates with data standards experience
  - Candidates will be asked to summarize their experience in a few sentences
  - Aiming to launch within next couple of weeks
- BTS team will gather and share starting resources (e.g., a list of existing specs for a field scan)
- You can still become a subgroup member if you fill out the form.

Don't Forget -- Subgroups Launching in Fall

	Affinity Groups	Outreach
Goals	• Provide subject matter and equity-centered review of draft specifications • Help to ensure that use cases are sufficiently satisfied *Potential groups: Bicycle; Pedestrian; Accessibility; ADA Compliance; Trip Planning and Navigation; Safety Analysis; Asset Management; Modeling (Transportation, Equity, Health, Climate); Planning and Performance Measurement*	• Work to ensure the specs are the industry standard and increasingly adopted/recognized by producers and consumers
Activities	• Identify topics • Clarify use cases • Help test specs and other materials • Document strengths/weaknesses of draft specs & propose improvements • Raise needs to other subgroups; assist with outreach	• Identify participation gaps by sector, region, level/type of government and expertise, and recruit • Identify gatherings and funding opportunities for working group • Recruit data producers/consumers to test specs • Work to promote adoption
Timeline	~ 1-2 years	~ 2 years (+)

General Modeling Network Specification (GMNS)

Scott Smith

Thank you!

Next full meeting: Tuesday, August 27th @ 3pm ET

Suggestions? Want to share your organization's work with NC-BPAID?   Email Jay (jay.davis@dot.gov) or open an issue on GitHub (https://github.com/dotbts/BPA/issues)!

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