Oregon Geographic Information Council (OGIC) Talking Points

Framework data is crucial to state and local government operations and planning.
- Example: good-quality address points help multiple functions: E-permitting, 911 response, land use planning, social service provision, and more
- Example: housing and job locations, street centerlines, and health facilities and childcare locations support workforce development, school sizing and catchment planning, and more

The legislature charged OGIC with working to ensure that Framework data is shared state-wide among all Oregon public bodies
- OGIC has wide representation from cities, counties, special districts, regions, and others.
- Law requires OGIC to make recommendations to lawmakers on how to achieve shared data

Oregon does not have one source of consistent, state-wide Framework data, nor is all data freely shared between public bodies. Why?
- Main reason: insufficient collective capacity and resources to develop and manage data for every part of Oregon
- Additional reason: in a few cases, local public bodies don’t share data or charge data fees that create hurdles for state and other public bodies to acquire data

OGIC recommends ensuring sharing through a collaborative program implemented by Oregon’s Geospatial Enterprise Office (GEO) and overseen by OGIC:
- GEO creates and manages a central data repository
- GEO & OGIC leverage the “collective”: existing public bodies’ (cities, counties, regions/CoGs, special districts, and state agencies) strengths and capacities to contribute to Framework data
- State provides additional funding which can be directed to any of the entities in the collective (and which will offset any fees bodies cease to charge to enable free data sharing)
- OGIC provides representative governance and oversight

OGIC recommends increasing selected, state-administered fees to provide revenue:
- Increase six to ten existing fees that
  - Clearly benefit from having good Framework data
  - Already bring in more than $1 million/year
  - Do not adversely affect vulnerable populations
  - Do not adversely affect economic development
- Front-load money for the initial build-out phase using debt financing
- In total: $18 million for the 2019-2021 biennium (more needed later, as much as $350mil)

If implemented this proposal will bring tangible benefits in the first biennium:
- Complete framework data in two small “test” areas: a coastal zone for tsunami preparedness and an eastern zone for wildfire preparedness
- Money will be spent where it will do the most good, meaning a mix of state, regional, county, and city bodies—many in rural areas of the state
- A detailed plan compliant with Oregon’s IT Stage Gate process to complete & sustain the program.

FAQ about the OGIC-proposed data sharing program and its funding
Q: How does this proposal get public bodies (especially those now holding out) to share data with each other?

- A:
  - The law already says “thou shalt share” with some exemptions (for example, if it is too costly the data provider need not share). By giving OGIC and GEO resources to make sharing easy and painless, it motivates providers to share.
  - OGIC by design has city, county, and special district representation. This gives all public bodies a clear voice in program and data-sharing governance so that they can trust the state and their peers.

Q: Why should the state pay for this (especially when many local governments refuse to pay for it)?

- A:
  - Non-state public bodies already collectively spend over $2 billion per year on this data. Those who aren’t paying now are not paying because they really don’t have the resources (for example, city governments too small to have their own data staff). This is what causes gaps in data or data quality problems. In a word, local bodies need help.
  - Given the total annual expenditure on data (over $5 billion including state and local actors) the quarter-billion upfront and $16 million ongoing annual costs are a small investment that unlocks a big benefit.

Q: What does the state get for $18m? What’s the ROI?

- A:
  - Hardware and software to equip the central repository.
  - Secure (as required by law) mechanisms for sharing the data.
  - State GEO staff to maintain data storage and sharing mechanisms.
  - A Stage Gate-compliant long-term plan and cost estimate.
  - Two “test” projects that produce valuable Framework data for:
    - A selected portion of the Oregon coast to help with tsunami preparedness
    - A selected portion of eastern Oregon to help with wildfire preparedness

Q: Why will this be any different than other failed IT projects the state has pursued?

- A:
  - The entire Framework data-sharing program is being run through Stagegate.
  - The workload and thus the risk will be spread around many capable public bodies (e.g. cities, counties, and regions with existing strong data programs will be supplying expertise, data, sharing mechanisms, and training to other actors).
  - OGIC will provide oversight and performance measurement.

Extra FAQ about the OGIC-proposed data sharing program and its funding

Q: What fees are we proposing to tap? Won’t we be simply increasing the cost of permits, etc.?

- A:
OGIC members are discussing potential fees to increase with the administering state agencies. Fees meeting the threshold requirements include building permits, universal service fund (broadband), public utilities annual fee, vehicle registration fees, wastewater/solid waste disposal fee, and boat registrations.

Yes, the cost to the public will increase but (a) so will the value to the public and (b) spreading increases across several fees will keep any one fee increase small.

Q: What government services can’t be provided as well in rural Oregon?

- A: Most services are more difficult and/or expensive to provide in rural Oregon, but some examples are workforce development, emergency response, permitting and e-permitting, affordable housing, drinking water protection, land use planning, economic development, infrastructure planning and management, disaster assessment, election management, facility siting, fee administration and collection.

Q: How will Framework data improve the situation?

- A:
  - Most government services require multiple organizations and jurisdictions to work together to provide services effectively. Beyond simply sharing data one-stop access to standard, state-wide, authoritative data will enable public bodies to “be on the same page” and thus more-effectively collaborate to provide services.
  - Much needed data isn’t consistently available in rural parts of the state (and even in some urban areas). Creating framework data state-wide provides a consistent reference for all other data, making it possible to more easily share information, collaborate to do the business of government and provide consistent government services.

Q: We’ve been muddling along well enough…why do we need to do this now?

- A:
  - Government information systems are becoming increasingly sophisticated and demanding of data—for example, next-generation 911 systems.
  - Sharing data and being able to obtain it from a single central source will be more efficient (we can pay once for data many get to use). As public-sector buying power decreases given the inability of revenue growth to keep up with cost growth, sharing will become even more important.

Q: How will this cause us to stop wasting $200M/year?

- A: Sharing data and being able to obtain it from a single central source will be more efficient and can save money (collectively speaking) by minimizing duplication.