SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Fiscal Years 2021-2023 Data Governance Priority Goals

February 2022

Purpose

Pursuant to the Federal Data Strategy 2021 Action Plan-the Surface Transportation Board (STB or Board) will continue to prioritize the data-governance planning efforts encouraged in the 2020 Action Plan. In addition, the STB has identified strategic priority goals for its Data Governance Body to accomplish over the next three years. The priority goals provide an overview of the STB's data maturity and accomplishments during Fiscal Year (FY)'s 2020 and 2021, as well as the data maturity gaps the Board plans to address in FY's 2022 and 2023.

Achievements

The Board's data maturity efforts lead to several achievements in FY's 2020-2021. Through a partnership with General Services Administration's Centers of Excellence, the Board has initiated the development of an Enterprise Data Platform with corresponding governance.

In addition, the STB has expanded its use of managed data services over a secure, highly redundant, and high-capacity fiber optic telecommunications platform to support disaster recovery and contingency planning as well as increased traffic resulting from modernization efforts and increased telework.

Furthermore, the STB has achieved the following:

- Successfully established a data governance body (including a Data Advisory Group)
- Implemented a data catalog
- Drafted data governance policies
- Initiated metadata architecture design.

Priority Goals

To address Action 2 of the Federal Data Strategy 2021 Agency Action Plan the Board's Data Governance Committee will continue its efforts in FY's 2021-2023 to improve the current state of data management (e.g., data quality or metadata management), data use (e.g., new data access mechanisms or new uses of existing data assets), and agency priority projects. Specifically, in FY's 2021-2023 the STB will prioritize its efforts to:

Establish a data centric culture- (FY's 2022-2023)

- Provide training and practice opportunities for data related tools and activities
- Establish Data Governance rules for existing and new data related services
- Provide test environments to allow for more internal training opportunities and development sites

- Make accurate data, tools, and insights easily accessible internally and externally to increase data usage in decision making processes
- Improve access to data from external sources to further enhance the Board's data analytics
- The STB will continue to strengthen its data-based decision making across the agency in support of its mission.

Establish accountability- Accountability and incentives for creating and enforcing standard data processes (FY 2022)

- Data Governance Committee sets priorities for the DAG and clear reporting requirements on progress are established
- Tie Data Governance Committee priorities to the STB strategic plan and where possible execution to performance plans

Create and make progress on application of measurable data quality standards (FY 2023)

- Reference industry frameworks such as the Data Management Body of Knowledge (DMBOK) and apply quality metrics to processes where it makes sense for the STB