



AVIATION



HIGHWAY



MARINE



RAILROAD



PIPELINE

# National Transportation Safety Board Open Data Plan 2025-2026

August 21, 2025

## Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Data Collection in Open Formats.....</b>	<b>4</b>
2.1	Ongoing Activities .....	4
2.2	Future Activities.....	4
<b>3</b>	<b>Data Usage Information.....</b>	<b>5</b>
3.1	Ongoing Activities .....	5
3.2	Future Activities.....	5
<b>4</b>	<b>Collaboration with Data Users.....</b>	<b>6</b>
4.1	Ongoing Activities .....	6
4.2	Future Activities.....	6
<b>5</b>	<b>Open Data Point of Contact.....</b>	<b>7</b>
5.1	Ongoing Activities .....	7
5.2	Future Activities.....	7
<b>6</b>	<b>Improvement Processes.....</b>	<b>8</b>
6.1	Ongoing Activities .....	8
6.2	Future Activities.....	8
<b>7</b>	<b>Open Data Goal Requirements .....</b>	<b>9</b>
7.1	Ongoing Activities .....	9
7.2	Future Activities.....	9
<b>8</b>	<b>Compliance Status.....</b>	<b>10</b>
8.1	Ongoing Activities .....	10
8.2	Future Activities.....	10
<b>9</b>	<b>Updating the <i>Strategic Management of Information</i></b>	
	<b>Resources Handbook .....</b>	<b>11</b>
9.1	Out-Year Plans.....	11
<b>10</b>	<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Appendix A: Definitions .....</b>	<b>13</b>

# 1 Introduction

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is committed to increasing public access to data from our transportation investigations and safety recommendations in support of our core mission: making transportation safer. This living Open Data Plan, approved by the Data Governance Body (DGB) and led by the Chief Data Officer, reflects this commitment.

The Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary (OPEN) Government Data Act (OGDA), enacted as Title II of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018,<sup>1</sup> sets forth a framework for managing government information as a strategic asset at each stage of the information lifecycle to promote accessibility and usability.<sup>2</sup> The OGDA established new requirements for data governance, data management, and transparent processes. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Memorandum M-25-05 outlines the specific actions agencies must take to improve data governance, accessibility, and public transparency.<sup>3</sup> Accordingly, our plan addresses the following areas:

- Data Collection in Open Formats

---

<sup>1</sup> Public Law No. 115-435 (2019), *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018*, is also referred to as the *Evidence Act*.

<sup>2</sup> Title II of the *Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018* is also referred to as the *Open, Public, Electronic, and Necessary Government Data Act* or the *OPEN Government Data Act*.

<sup>3</sup> OMB M-25-05 provided guidance on the contents of agency open data plans. See OMB M-25-05, *Phase 2 Implementation of the Foundations for Evidence-Based Policymaking Act of 2018: Open Government Data Access and Management Guidance* (2025), available at [M-25-05-Phase-2-Implementation-of-the-Foundations-for-Evidence-Based-Policymaking-Act-of-2018-Open-Government-Data-Access-and-Management-Guidance.pdf](#).

- Data Usage Information
- Collaboration with Data Users
- Open Data Point of Contact
- Improvement Processes
- Open Data Goal Requirements
- Prioritizing Public Data Asset Review
- Compliance Status
- Updating the *Strategic Management of Information Resources Handbook*

## 2 Data Collection in Open Formats

Vision: The NTSB has data systems, processes, and procedures in place to ensure data is collected and shared in an open format by default.

### 2.1 Ongoing Activities:

- Transitioning from proprietary data file formats and publishing application programming interfaces (APIs) for investigative data, beginning with aviation. The APIs will allow stakeholders to directly query or download machine-readable data. This shift increases data accessibility and aligns with open format requirements.
- Launching a secure online portal allowing airmen and operators to report accidents and incidents, reducing manual data entry and supporting more efficient investigations as well as improved data quality.
- Digitizing historical investigative dockets previously stored on microfiche, which are currently available only by request. This effort, driven by the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024,<sup>4</sup> lays the groundwork for broader public access to safety information.
- Reviewing current data-collection methods to identify gaps in open-format implementation while ensuring that all new data systems are designed with open, machine-readable formats, data portability, and interoperability as core requirements to meet federal standards.

### 2.2 Future Activities:

- Expand API access to multimodal datasets such as marine, rail, pipeline, hazmat, and highway.
- Ensure applicable agency data assets are exposed and discoverable through the Data.gov catalog.
- Educate agency staff on the importance of open data formats and promote best practices for how to implement federal guidelines.
- Implement a secure data repository for collecting all agency investigative artifacts from internal and external sources.

---

<sup>4</sup> Public Law 118-63 (2024), *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024, Section 1217- Electronic Availability of Public Docket Records*.

### **3 Data Usage Information**

Vision: The NTSB collects data utilization information and analyzes it to identify demand and guide improvements.

#### **3.1 Ongoing Activities:**

- Implementing NTSB data usage metrics by tracking dataset downloads and page visits on NTSB.gov and Data.gov to measure user engagement, identify high-demand datasets, and guide future improvements to data systems.
- Reviewing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests and submissions to data@ntsb.gov to identify recurring topics that could be addressed through the creation of public datasets or dashboards.

#### **3.2 Future Activities:**

- Analyze how people use the data, including type and level of engagement with specific data sources, and use those insights to improve the experience and add useful features.
- Use insights from the usage analysis to inform the Data Governance Body's annual review and guide decisions on which data to release, improve, or retire.
- Publish an annual dashboard showing trends in public dataset usage, highlighting the most accessed data and shaping future strategies for data improvement.

## **4 Collaboration with Data Users**

Vision: The NTSB fosters public engagement and improves data through user feedback.

### **4.1 Ongoing Activities:**

- Monitoring data@ntsb.gov daily to collect inquiries and feedback, routing messages to agency subject matter experts for timely responses.
- Engaging the transportation community, including researchers, industry, and public users, to share updates, gather feedback, and build trust around agency data.

### **4.2 Future Activities:**

- Engage users by launching a customer experience survey on data and analysis needs as well as review data usage metrics to understand utilization patterns to improve data access and services.
- Collaborate with other government agencies, academic institutions, and transportation safety organizations to align open data formats with evolving needs.

## **5 Open Data Point of Contact**

Vision: The NTSB provides a clear, responsive point of contact for all public data inquiries.

### **5.1 Ongoing Activities:**

- Establishing data@ntsb.gov as the agency's official open data contact to provide a single access point for questions, feedback, and suggestions.
- Tracking, triaging, and coordinating public data requests received via data@ntsb.gov through the Office of the Chief Data Officer and the Office of Research and Engineering.
- Developing responses to data requests with input from agency experts to ensure accuracy and support timely public engagement.
- Sharing public feedback with the Data Governance Body to inform decisions on data quality and release, reinforcing a commitment to transparency and responsiveness.

### **5.2 Future Activities:**

- Promote the data@ntsb.gov contact point and the ntsb.gov/data website through social media and newsletters to increase visibility



## **6 Improvement Processes**

Vision: The NTSB continually improves data quality and utility.

### **6.1 Ongoing Activities:**

- Conducting internal quality checks on all public datasets before release, including reviews for completeness, format accuracy, and privacy safeguards.
- Publishing metadata and documentation that meet federal standards to make investigation and recommendation data easier to find and use.

### **6.2 Future Activities:**

- Implement tools to track data lineage, including creation and usage, to provide actionable feedback to NTSB offices and support continuous data quality improvements.
- Implement version tracking and change logs for high-use datasets.
- Integrate open data plan compliance metrics into our agency's performance planning.

## **7 Open Data Goal Requirements**

Vision: The NTSB builds an infrastructure, workforce, and policies needed to support open data.

### **7.1 Ongoing Activities:**

- Implementing a centralized data environment (Lakehouse) that integrates key information from across the agency. This environment will not only improve the consistency and quality of publicly available data but also enable the NTSB to track and report data usage metrics.
- Integrating open data requirements into all new information technology (IT) system planning and procurements to ensure future platforms support public access by design, in coordination with the Chief Information Officer (CIO) and acquisition teams to incorporate open standards.
- Providing ongoing training opportunities to help our data stewards, engineers, and scientists learn how to organize, manage, and share information so the public can easily find, access, and use it.
- Developing a comprehensive data inventory for all agency data assets to support transparency, discoverability, and data management.

### **7.2 Future Activities:**

- Designate Open Data Liaisons across agency offices to support plan compliance and adoption.
- Publish updated NTSB data inventory at Data.gov and our website at NTSB.gov/data.

## 8 Compliance Status

Vision: The NTSB maintains full compliance with the OPEN Government Data Act and OMB policy.

### 8.1 Ongoing Activities:

- Conducting regular internal compliance reviews as part of data governance processes, in alignment with OMB guidance and 44 *United States Code* (U.S.C.) Section 3511.<sup>5</sup>
- Integrating legal, privacy, and security reviews into the data release workflow to ensure public datasets exclude sensitive or personally identifiable information, with final approval from legal and privacy officers before publication.

### 8.2 Future Activities:

- Collaborate with other small agencies to share compliance best practices and lessons learned.
- Publish our data inventory on NTSB.gov and Data.gov.
- Ensure all published data assets include complete metadata, including descriptions, tags, formats, and contact information with a goal of achieving 100% metadata completeness.

---

<sup>5</sup> 44 U.S.C. Section 3511, *Data Inventory and Federal Data Catalogue*.

## **9     Updating the *Strategic Management of Information Resources Handbook***

### **9.1 Out-Year Plans:**

- The CDO will coordinate with the CIO to determine how best to integrate this plan into the agency's *Strategic Management of Information Resources* (SMIR) Handbook at the next SMIR review and update cycle.

## 10 Conclusion

As a small, independent agency, the NTSB remains committed to the full execution of this Open Data Plan in alignment with federal mandates and our transportation safety mission. Successful implementation depends on sustained investment in modern technology infrastructure, subject matter expertise, and human capital. Although the plan outlines an ambitious and forward-looking roadmap, resource constraints may present risks to full implementation. To address these challenges and sustain momentum, the NTSB will pursue strategic partnerships, seek targeted funding, and invest in workforce development to support its open data goals.

Questions or suggestions? Contact us at [data@ntsb.gov](mailto:data@ntsb.gov).

## 11 Appendix A: Definitions

- Data – Recorded information, regardless of form or the media on which the data is recorded. (44 U.S.C. Section 3502)<sup>6</sup>
- Data asset – A collection of data elements or datasets that may be grouped together. (44 U.S.C. Section 3502)
- Federal Data Catalogue – A centralized public online interface dedicated to sharing U.S. government data assets with the public; maintained by GSA and available through Data.gov. (OMB M-25-05)
- Machine-readable – Data in a format that can be easily processed by a computer without human intervention while ensuring no semantic meaning is lost. (44 U.S.C. Section 3502)
- Metadata – Structural or descriptive information about data such as content, format, source, rights, accuracy, provenance, frequency, periodicity, granularity, publisher or responsible party, contact information, method of collection, and other descriptions. (44 U.S.C. Section 3502)
- Open data – Publicly available data structured in a way that enables the data to be fully discoverable and usable by end users. (OMB M-13-13)<sup>7</sup>
- Open format – A file format for storing digital data where the format is platform independent and machine-readable and is maintained (A) at no cost to the public; and (B) with no restrictions on copying, publishing, distributing, transmitting, citing, or adapting such a format. (OMB M-25-05)
- Open government data asset – A public data asset that is-
  - machine-readable;
  - available (or could be made available) in an open format;
  - not encumbered by restrictions, other than intellectual property rights, including under Titles 17 and 35 of the *U.S. Code*, that would impede the use or reuse of such asset; and
  - based on an underlying open standard that is maintained by a standards organization. (44 U.S.C. Section 3502)
- Open license – A legal guarantee that a data asset is made available-
  - at no cost to the public; and
  - with no restrictions on copying, publishing, distributing, transmitting, citing, or adapting such asset. (44 U.S.C. Section 3502)

---

<sup>6</sup> 44 U.S.C. Section 3502: Definitions, available at [44 U.S.C. Section 3502: Definitions](#).

<sup>7</sup> “Open data” was last defined in OMB Memorandum M-13-13, which was replaced by M-25-05. See Office of Management Budget, Executive Office of the President, OMB M-13-13, *Open Data Policy – Managing Information as an Asset* (2013), available at <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/sites/default/files/omb/memoranda/2013/m-13-13.pdf>.

- Public data asset – A data asset, or part thereof, maintained by the federal government that has been, or may be, released to the public, including any data asset, or part thereof, subject to disclosure under Section 552 of Title 5 of the *United States Code* (44 U.S.C. Section 3502)