

11:02:12 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Good morning, everyone! Will today's public meeting be recorded and published on YouTube with a transcript?

11:03:18 From Daniel York to Everyone:

Good Morning @Alex Howard, the session will be record for note taking purpose. We will work with OSTP and GSA Comms to try and get the recording and / notes from the meeting posted in a meaningful way for the public

11:04:37 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Thank you, Mr. York. The public meetings from 2021 & early 2022 were published on YouTube afterwards; last fall's OGP co-creation workshops were not. I'm glad to hear that you'll try to get recording & transcript up!

11:06:30 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

It would be great to hear about what OSTP is doing on open government, like opening federally funded research to the public in the 4th NAP, as opposed to service delivery. There's a long and storied history there.

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/administration/eop/ostp/initiatives#Openness>

11:07:42 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

It's great to hear that GSA has an open government secretariat now! I noticed this morning that the GSA open government plan linked at <https://open.gsa.gov/> hasn't been updated since 2016 and [gsa.gov/open](https://open.gsa.gov/) hasn't been restored or forwarded to the former URL. Given the GSA's role in coordinating US government-wide open government initiatives and commitments for the U.S. National Action Plans for the Open Government Partnership, it seems like doing so would be aligned with the agency's mission. Will the agency do both prior to the OGP Summit in September?

<https://github.com/GSA/open-gsa-redesign/issues/1069>

11:08:23 From Philip Ashlock to Everyone:

For all interested, the full schedule of upcoming engagement sessions can be seen at

<https://open.usa.gov/national-action-plan/5/schedule-of-2023-engagement-sessions/>

11:09:11 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

For those unfamiliar, all US National Action Plans are published at OGP, along with Independent Review Mechanism reports

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/united-states/>

11:10:17 From Laura szakmary to Everyone:

OpenGovernmentSecretariat@gsa.gov

11:11:39 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

"I urge every nation in the Open Government Partnership to take up a call to action to fight the scourge of corruption. And let us stand with those in civil society and courageous citizens around the world who are demanding transparency of their governments. And let us all work together to hold governments accountable for the people they serve."-President Biden, December 2021, OGP Summit.

<https://e-pluribusunum.org/2021/12/16/what-was-missing-from-president-bidens-remarks-on-the-open-government-summit/>

11:13:35 From Laura szakmary to Everyone:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/12/13/>

executive-order-on-transforming-federal-customer-experience-and-service-delivery-to-rebuild-trust-in-government/

11:13:54 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Why aren't Americans hearing about the US government's efforts on transparency & accountability – two pillars of open government, with participation and collaboration, not service delivery?

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/process/joining-ogp/open-government-declaration/>

11:15:57 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

In 2009, President Obama signed an executive order on open government, and then another on open government data in 2013. What is the status of the US government's implementation of those orders? Or of the Open Government Data Act of 2018, which mandated that the White House Office of Management and Budget issue guidance years ago?

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/open>

11:17:19 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

This work to reduce administrative burdens is excellent. Cutting the "time tax" on people by reducing, shifting, or even eliminating the administrative burdens the public endures to access government information, services, and benefits is exactly the sort of in-the-weeds policy and reform that gets overlooked by media. This OIRA report is also clear and has tons of success stories:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/OIRA-2023-Burden-Reduction-Report.pdf>

11:18:45 From Laura szakmary to Everyone:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/s280.pdf>

11:19:58 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Thank you for the reference to OMB tracking progress on Performance.gov:

<https://www.performance.gov/blog/2023-q2-agency-priority-goals-updates/>

Why didn't OMB add a CAP goal on FOIA, as civil society requested during the co-creation process for the 4th and 5th NAP? That would be aligned with transparency and accountability for the foundational open government law in the USA.

<https://obamaadministration.archives.performance.gov/content/freedom-information-act-foia.html>

11:20:05 From Laura szakmary to Everyone:

<https://www.performance.gov/>

11:20:35 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Thank you, @Laura. This is the CAP goal on Performance.gov that we'd like to see restored:

<https://obamaadministration.archives.performance.gov/content/freedom-information-act-foia.html>

11:22:22 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

In 2009, President Biden ordered agencies to create and implement open government action plans that would create high impact transparency and accountability commitments and track how they implemented them at agency.gov/open – this EO on equity and wh.gov/equity mirror that effort. Why hasn't President Biden issued an EO on open government so you can be updating us on open government, instead of equity?

<https://obamaadministration.archives.performance.gov/content/freedom-information-act-foia.html>

11:22:32 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/open

11:26:05 From Laura szakmary to Everyone:

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/22/2023-03779/further-advancing-racial-equity-and-support-for-underserved-communities-through-the-federal>

11:26:20 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

For instance, in President Biden's recent memorandum on disclosure of records related to President JFK's assassination, he said "my Administration is fulfilling the promise of transparency to the American people" – which is about open government, not equity.

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2023/06/30/memorandum-on-certifications-regarding-disclosure-of-information-in-certain-records-related-to-the-assassination-of-president-john-f-kennedy-2/>

Why is the administration featuring its work on equity instead of talking about commitments related to transparency and accountability? President Biden ordered DoJ to stand up a police misconduct database by January 2023. Where is it?

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/united-states/commitments/US0147/>

11:27:48 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Advancing open government in the USA is also not a one year project. It's a generational effort. Will we hear about this administration's (impressive!) actions to increase public access to publicly funded research?

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/members/united-states/commitments/US0107/>

11:31:12 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

I apologize: I made an error earlier, when I wrote that President Biden ordered agencies to take actions in 2009; he was VP then! President Obama issued the open government directive

<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/open/documents/open-government-directive> which is the Open Government Partnership and national actions built on. In 2023, a few agencies are still publishing new open government plans, like Commerce: <https://osec.doc.gov/opog/OG/default.htm> & maintaining /open pages and programs

<https://www.oge.gov/web/oge.nsf/Open+Government?openview>

11:31:39 From Laura szakmary to Everyone:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/12/13/executive-order-on-transforming-federal-customer-experience-and-service-delivery-to-rebuild-trust-in-government/>

11:31:40 From Lorelei Kelly to Everyone:

This new public engagement effort is so exciting!

11:31:56 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

@Lorelei What member of civil society requested it?

11:32:30 From Laura szakmary to Everyone:

Future Public Engagement Sessions:

<https://open.usa.gov/national-action-plan/5/schedule-of-2023-engagement-sessions/>

11:33:43 From Stephanie Cabell to Everyone:

@Shaibya: Can you repeat the new name of the Equitable Data Working Group? Cheers!

11:33:43 From Lorelei Kelly to Everyone:

I don't know, but I've seen a handful of gatherings/conferences and workshops use creative futures models and science fiction templates..

11:35:09 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

@Lorelei I'm glad to hear it's moving forward. I'd like also like wh.gov/open to exist.

11:35:24 From Philip Ashlock to Everyone:

To stay involved with the commitment just discussed, you can provide your information at <https://open.usa.gov/national-action-plan/5/pilot-new-forms-of-public-engagement-to-inform-policy-and-program-implementation/>

11:35:48 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Why can't the public ask questions about other open government commitments at a public engagement session?

11:36:10 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Great question, Noel – glad to see you here

11:37:03 From Daniel York to Everyone:

@Alex, we plan on having additional public engagement sessions on other pieces of the national action plan commitments. That being said, please feel free to send us an email to answer any other open government questions you may have

11:38:54 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

@Daniel I've been sending email to the White House Open Government Working Group and to the US Open Government listserv since 2009.

<https://open.usa.gov/mailling-list/> I've found differing levels of responsiveness to questions there, as opposed to the in-person workshops and roundtables that the US government used to hold – as opposed to virtual forums where you all present to us.

11:41:55 From Laura szakmary to Everyone:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/OIRA-2023-Burden-Reduction-Report.pdf>

11:42:10 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

@Daniel It would be terrific if the Secretariat, OMB, and OSTP teamed upon to create a dashboard for commitments related to open government that agencies update as there is progress, instead of a TBD session in September

<https://www.opengovpartnership.org/stories/six-ways-the-united-states-can-lead-by-example-on-open-government/> you've done that at wh.gov/equity – when will we see wh.gov/open again?

11:42:16 From Daniel York to Everyone:

Thank you Alex, with the additional funding in the FY23 budget, we are working to increase our support for these important Open Govt initiatives and commitments.

11:43:09 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Kudos to Alex and team for sharing their work as they go:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/omb/information-regulatory-affairs/broadening-public-engagement-in-the-federal-regulatory-process/>

11:43:29 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

@Daniel How much more funding is now available?

11:43:52 From Daniel York to Everyone:

@Alex, we are actually working on exactly that, with a public session scheduled for July 27th to discuss with civic society to talk through what we will have posted by then, and receive feedback on how

best to improve how commitment progress is presented to the public in the future.

11:45:08 From Daniel York to Everyone:

There was \$1M in the GSA BY23 budget to the Federal Services Citizens Fund (FSCF) to support the Open Government Secretariat function.

11:45:09 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

@Daniel Thank you. I noticed that 7/27 session was recently added <https://open.usa.gov/national-action-plan/5/schedule-of-2023-engagement-sessions/>

11:45:16 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

That's great news

11:46:09 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

@Daniel Early feedback: you could add a field like to add actions for each commitment

<https://open.usa.gov/national-action-plan/5/pilot-new-forms-of-public-engagement-to-inform-policy-and-program-implementation/>

11:47:11 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Stephen

11:53:08 From Gabriella Cantor (CREW) to Everyone:

Echoing Alex's question about the overdue Policing Accountability Database. Do you have an update on its status?

11:53:57 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

@Gabriella Thanks for the +1. The last we heard the DoJ "aims" to have it live by the end of the year. But President Biden said it was to go live January 2023.

11:54:57 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

It would terrific if agencies spoke with real people about how they could improve service delivery for FOIA. Who's doing that work?

11:54:58 From Stephen Buckley to Everyone:

I encourage participants to follow-up, in an open manner, by using the US-OpenGov email-group. -- Alternatively, I am at sbuckley@opengovmetrics.com or (508) 348-9090.

11:55:02 From Karen Suhaka to Everyone:

I would also be interested in a status check on the police database.

11:57:13 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

There's a commitment to improve the service delivery of FOIA in the 5th NAP. Why aren't we hearing about that aspect of the work – especially with FOIAOnline.gov going offline at the end of September 2023?

11:57:26 From Stephen Buckley to Everyone:

Please save the chat-file .. so that you can share later, along with the saved video on YouTube.

11:57:27 From Daniel York to Everyone:

Please continue to check this website for future Public Engagement Sessions:

<https://open.usa.gov/national-action-plan/5/schedule-of-2023-engagement-sessions/>

11:58:03 From Daniel York to Everyone:

As always, questions can also be sent to OpenGovernmentSecretariat@gsa.gov if we don't get to them in this session.

11:58:08 From Suzanne Piotrowski to Everyone:

Thanks so much for the presentation and the great projects. Not all of them are clearly linked to open government values (transparency, participation, and accountability). More linkages could be made to the open government values.

11:59:26 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Suzanne Lots of e-government, not open government.- which is true in many commitments to OGP across countries

12:00:09 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

Thank you for doing this

12:00:12 From Susan Harley, Public Citizen (she/hers) to Everyone:

thank you all for your work!

12:00:13 From Noel Hidalgo to Everyone:

Thank you

12:00:30 From Dominic Sale to Everyone:

Thank you!

12:00:32 From Alex Howard to Everyone:

It would be great if you'd keep taking questions on the list serv