Request for Information on the National Digital Twins R&D Strategic Plan

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As a former mayor and technology enthusiast, I invested a lot of energy into exploring the deployment of a digital twin for my community. There were many findings, but the most important finding was makig sure the community had a pre-existing, robust infrastructure of sensors and other data delivering solutions to feed my virtual municipal environment. It's one thing to lean on outside agancies such as transportation departments for traffic metrics or environmental agancies for weather data, but my community is left at the mercy of the frequency in which their data is available, which greatly reduces the "real-time" nature of my digital twin. So data generation, data access, and data ownership are critical topics to cover. In order to ensure a municipal digital twin is a real-time virtual replica and not a six month or older representation of my community, the community must invest in the systems, software and sensors vital to their landscape and interests to have a twin that will deliver as intended for their needs. Before investing in a digital twin, the community must develop a well thought strategy outling the goals and what they intend on accomplishing using a digital twin as a tool in their smart city arsenal.