



# **GNSO Transfer Policy Review Policy Development Process Working Group**

**Roger Carney  
PDP WG Chair**

# Agenda

---

1. Chair Welcome
2. About the PDP and Status Update
3. Discussion of Charter Topics
4. AOB

# About the PDP

# About the Transfer Policy

---

**ICANN consensus policy** governing the procedure and requirements for **registrants to transfer their domain names from one registrar to another.**

- Formerly called the Inter-Registrar Transfer Policy (IRTP)
- Went into effect in November 2004
- GNSO reviewed the policy once before, shortly after implementation

**Mission and Scope:** PDP to conduct a **holistic review of the Transfer Policy** and determine if changes to the policy are needed to improve the ease, security, and efficacy of inter-registrar and inter-registrant transfers.

- Conducted in 2 Phases under a single [Charter](#) & covering 8 topics.
- PDP began Phase 1(a) in May 2021:
  - ➔ Phase 1(a) Topics: Forms of Authorization and AuthInfo Codes
- The working group has now conducted initial deliberations on each of the Phase 1(a) topics and has begun to develop “candidate recommendations” and draft responses to charter questions.
- While members and alternates are limited to representatives designated by SO/AC/SG/Cs, anyone can sign up to observe.

# TPR Phase 1 - Project Status

## Project Tracking & Rollup DASHBOARD



Project Name

**PDP: Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1**

Program

**Transfers**

Project Sponsor

**GNSO Council**

### Project Information

**25%**

% Complete

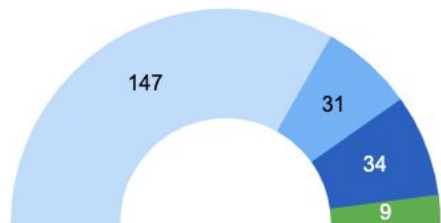
**02/18/21**

Actual Start

**12/28/23**

Planned Finish

### Tasks by Status



### Project Contacts

**Roger Carney**

Chair

n/a

Vice\_Chair

**Greg DiBiase**

Liaison

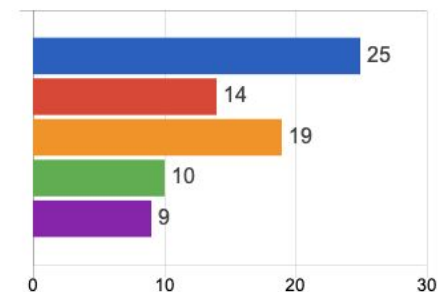
**Emily Barabas**

Staff\_Lead

**Berry Cobb**

Project\_Manager

### Participant Summary



### Project Status & Health

Project Status: **On-Schedule**

Project Health: **On-Target**

### Summary Gantt & Key Milestones

Health	Primary Task	Current Start	Current Finish	% Complete	Status	Timeline											
						2021				2022				2023			
						Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	<b>PDP: Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1</b>	<b>02/18/21</b>	<b>12/28/23</b>	<b>25%</b>	<b>In Progress</b>	PDP: Transfer Policy Review - Phase 1											
	<b>PROJECT CONTROL</b>	<b>02/18/21</b>	<b>12/28/23</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>In Progress</b>	PROJECT CONTROL											
	<b>GROUP DELIBERATIONS</b>	<b>05/13/21</b>	<b>02/22/23</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>In Progress</b>	GROUP DELIBERATIONS											
	Phase 1A Policy Topics	06/02/21	05/11/22	36%	In Progress	Phase 1A Policy Topics											
	Phase 1B Policy Topics	06/15/22	02/22/23			Phase 1B Policy Topics											
	<b>INITIAL REPORT</b>	<b>06/24/21</b>	<b>05/17/23</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>In Progress</b>	INITIAL REPORT											
	Publish Initial Report	06/15/22	06/15/22			Publish Initial Report											
	Publish Initial Report	03/29/23	03/29/23			Publish Initial Report											
	<b>FINAL REPORT</b>	<b>08/04/22</b>	<b>08/16/23</b>		<b>Not Started</b>	FINAL REPORT											
	Review of public comments - Phase 1A	08/04/22	09/14/22			Review of public comments - Phase 1A											
	Review of public comments - Phase 1B	05/18/23	06/28/23			Review of public comments - Phase 1B											
	Submission of Final Report to the GNSO Council	08/16/23	08/16/23			Submission of Final Report to the GNSO Council											

# Phase 1(a) Topics

# AuthInfo Code Management: Inter-Registrar Transfers

What is the AuthInfo Code?

A token created by the registrar of record and provided upon request to the registrant or designated representative.\*

How is it used in transfers?

Required to transfer a domain name from one registrar to another registrar and when presented authorizes the transfer.\*

How is it provided?

Losing registrar may provide AuthInfo Code via control panel, or by other means within 5 calendar days (email, SMS, etc).



# Gaining & Losing Registrar Form of Authorization (FOA)



**Gaining Registrar:** The registrar to which the registrant is transferring the domain name.



**Losing Registrar:** The registrar from which the registrant is transferring the domain name.



**Gaining Form of Authorization:** A required form sent by the Gaining Registrar to the Registered Name Holder to confirm the Registered Name Holder's intent to transfer the domain name.

- Typically an email to Registered Name Holder to confirm intent by clicking a designated link. Before GDPR, the transfer could not occur without this confirmation.



**Losing Form of Authorization:** Losing Registrar sends the Registered Name Holder a notice to confirm Registered Name Holder's intent to transfer. Absent objection to the transfer within 5 calendar days, the Losing Registrar processes request.

# FOA: Further Work Needed

---

- **EPDP** included the **workaround from the Temporary Specification in its recommendations**, which were **adopted by the ICANN Board**.
- Registrars identified challenges in ICANN org's position that a Gaining Registrar is required to send a Gaining FOA where the email address "is available", as there is no guarantee that the email goes directly to the registrant.
- ICANN Board passed a resolution to **defer contractual compliance enforcement of the Gaining FOA requirement** pending further work in this area.
- Contracted Party House Tech Ops Subcommittee has developed a proposal for a proposed transfer process.

# Status

# Potential Recommendations Under Consideration

---

- Eliminate requirement for the Gaining Registrar to send the Gaining FOA and obtain consent from the Registered Name Holder before it may proceed with the transfer.
- Eliminate requirement for the Losing Registrar to send the Losing FOA to the Registered Name Holder.
- New notifications from the Losing Registrar to the Registered Name Holder when key changes are made to the account, some mandatory for the Losing Registrar to send, others optional.
- Additional security for the AuthInfo Code, which the group is recommending be called the “Transfer Authorization Code” (TAC). Highlights:
  - Minimum requirements for TAC syntax/complexity, adherence to requirements confirmed by registry
  - Losing Registrar generates TAC upon request
  - TAC may only be used once
  - TAC is valid for a limited period of time (Time to Live)
  - Registry must securely store the TAC using a one-way hash that protects the TAC from disclosure