

Mapped Data is a Driver of the Economy

In the information age, mapped data (called spatial data by those who work on it) is one of the keys to enabling a thriving economy. Spatial data drives government efficiency and provides for economic and business growth. Reduction in investments in spatial data will put our nation in a competitive disadvantage and have a damaging effect on our economy.

Use Cases: These activities are nearly impossible without spatial data:

- Energy exploration
- Autonomous vehicles
- Facility sighting
- Package delivery
- Insurance assessment
- Real estate development
- Broadband expansion
- Border security
- Transportation planning

Example - Site selection: There has been a paradigm shift in site selection for economic development activities. Companies leverage spatial data to make their site selections without tipping their hand in a highly competitive environment. Gone are the days of companies calling the State or County economic development office to find a suitable site. Companies now access the information they need from publicly available sites including spatial data such as:

- Property parcels including information on tax assessment and infrastructure on the property
- Zoning
- Roads
- Addresses
- ElevationWetlands
- Environmental sensitivity
- Railroads
- Hydrography (lakes, rivers, streams)
- Environmental hazards
- Natural resources
- Soils

These data also speed permitting and project development.

In 2015 Amazon downloaded the Rensselaer County Property parcel data. Six months later they filed permits to build this distribution facility creating 800 full time jobs and adding \$1.5 million in annual revenue to the town. Amazon did not call government economic development offices.



Situations like this show that if a government cuts back on maintaining spatial data or leaves it behind a firewall, they are leaving their constituents out of a segment of the economy, and giving a significant advantage to their competitors. Entire regions have been eliminated in economic development projects due to the lack of publicly available spatial data.



Example 2: Decatur County Indiana Attracts Big Business, Long-term Economic Impact!

As is often the case with economic development site selection, Honda was on a short timeline to select the site of their newest assembly plant in North America, Indiana emerged as the winner, thanks in part to the publicly available spatial data provided by the IndianaMap. The people involved with

the site selection for Honda that used the IndianaMap stated, “When you only have a short period of time to find a site, this information was invaluable.”

In June 2006, Honda announced Greensburg, IN would be the home of the new plant, scheduled to open in 2008. The plant covers 1 million square feet; and employs 2,000 people. The County’s investment in GIS paid off in massive time-savings, and the availability of spatially related information proved an invaluable economic development tool.

Transportation efficiency and safety also drives the economy. Motor vehicle crashes and infrastructure damage have negative impacts on our economy which can be greatly reduced with modest investments in spatial data programs.

Additionally, publicly available spatial data allows for much faster recovery from natural disasters, reducing the financial burden on insurance companies and getting the economy moving again.

We respectfully ask you to:

- **Support the [National Address Database \(NAD\)](#):** \$1 million annually for completion and ongoing maintenance, with permanent line-item funding to USDOT for the NAD within the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- **Support [NG 9-1-1 operations grants](#):** Provide permanent line-item support to USDOT for NG9-1-1 within the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.
- **Fund the [3D National Topography Model \(3DNTM\)](#):** continued authorization and sustained investment consistent with Congressional intent under Public Law 117–58 to maintain, refresh, and advance this foundational national capability.
- **Continue funding for the National Geospatial Program (NGP):** consistent with Congressional authorization and direction under the Geospatial Data Act (GDA, 43 U.S.C. § 2801 et seq.), which defines the National Spatial Data Infrastructure (NSDI) and mandates its development, maintenance, and governance by federal agencies.
- **Support for Continued National Ocean Service Appropriation:** consistent with Congressional authorization and statutory responsibilities under the Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972, the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA) of 1972, the Hydrographic Services Improvement Act (HSIA) of 1998, and the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009.
- **Support [Digital Coast Act Appropriation](#):** consistent with Congressional authorization under the Digital Coast Act (Public Law 116-223), with funding sufficient to sustain and advance the program’s national coastal data and decision-support capabilities