

Geospatial Data Drives American Infrastructure

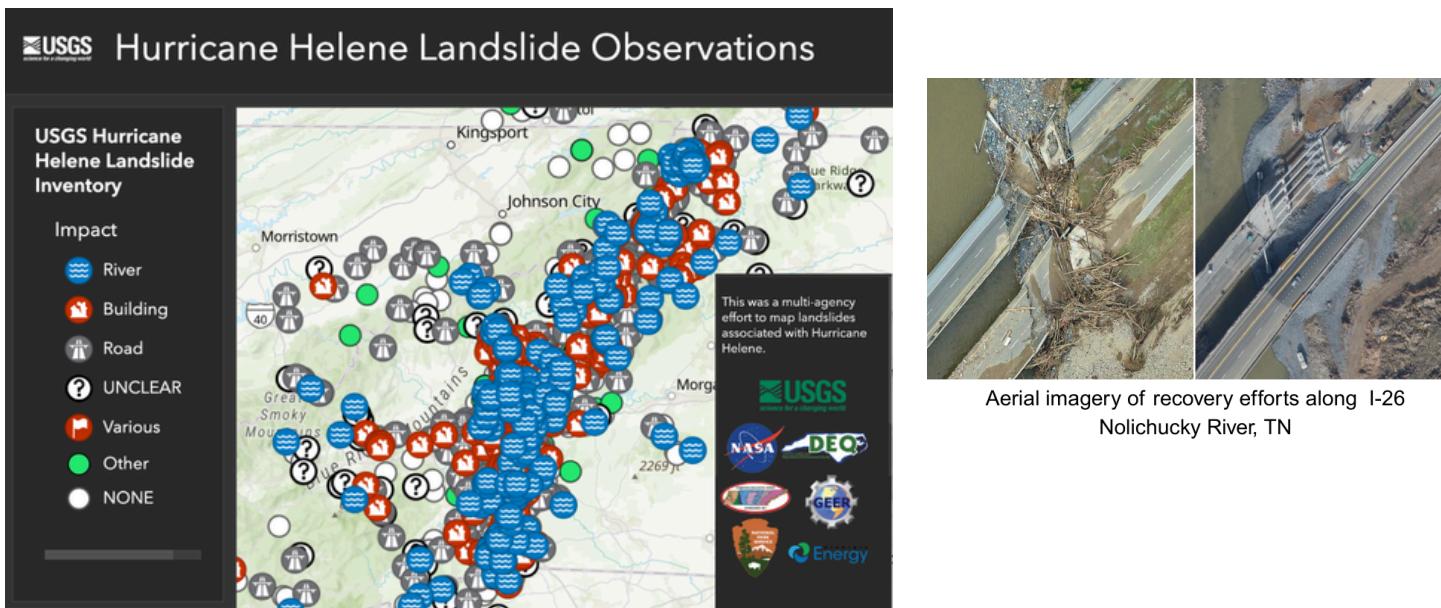
From roads and bridges to broadband and emergency response, geospatial data underpins the infrastructure that keeps America growing.

Use Cases: These infrastructure activities are not possible without spatial data:

Transportation Planning and Construction	Port Development
Utility Network Design and Maintenance	Broadband Location Siting
Modern Emergency Services	Disaster Response
Land Development and Permitting	Energy and Mineral Development

One example - Tennessee and North Carolina After Hurricane Helene: After Hurricane Helene swept through eastern Tennessee and North Carolina in 2024, state and local agencies relied on integrated geospatial systems to direct emergency response, reroute traffic, address impacted utilities, and restore essential infrastructure:

3DNTM helped reroute emergency vehicles by identifying passable roads and avoiding flood-prone areas.	NAD enabled responders to locate impacted homes and prioritize recovery.
NG9-1-1 matched incoming calls to precise geographies—even when landmarks were gone.	NSRS provides survey control locations that enable accurate reconstruction of damaged roads, bridges, dams, buildings, etc.
Transportation framework layers supported prioritization of route repairs and supply delivery.	Highly accurate aerial imagery supported emergency management teams assessing the extent of the damage.



This response effort demonstrates how publicly available spatial data enables much faster recovery from natural disasters by not only informing emergency response, but empowering officials to identify and prioritize critical infrastructure recovery efforts to safeguard lives and get the economy moving again in the face of real-world, high-stakes scenarios.

The Programs That Make It Possible

Program	What It Does	Infrastructure Impact
3DNTM	National 3D elevation + hydrography	Road/bridge design, utility development and management, site planning, flood avoidance, signal propagation, well siting
FLAIR	Modernizes federal location data sharing	Aligns infrastructure datasets across agencies
NAD	Nationwide address point database	Connects services + guides delivery
National Spatial Reference System	Defines the nation's authoritative positioning framework, latitude, longitude, height, and orientation.	Managed by the National Geodetic Survey at NOAA, the NSRS underpins a broad geospatial ecosystem with survey control, allowing infrastructure to be built, repaired, and rebuilt in the correct location, especially after disasters.
NG9-1-1	Call-to-map emergency response	Life-saving precision for responders
Transportation	Consistent roads + route data	Routing, logistics, repair, and planning
Digital Coast	Coastal elevation + land cover	Coastal planning, resilience, and port development

Why They Matter

Every infrastructure decision is a location decision. Geospatial data reduces risk, improves coordination, and lowers costs for infrastructure across all sectors. Without it, projects stall and public safety suffers.

Investing in geospatial data is necessary to build the infrastructure America needs to stay competitive, resilient, and safe.

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.