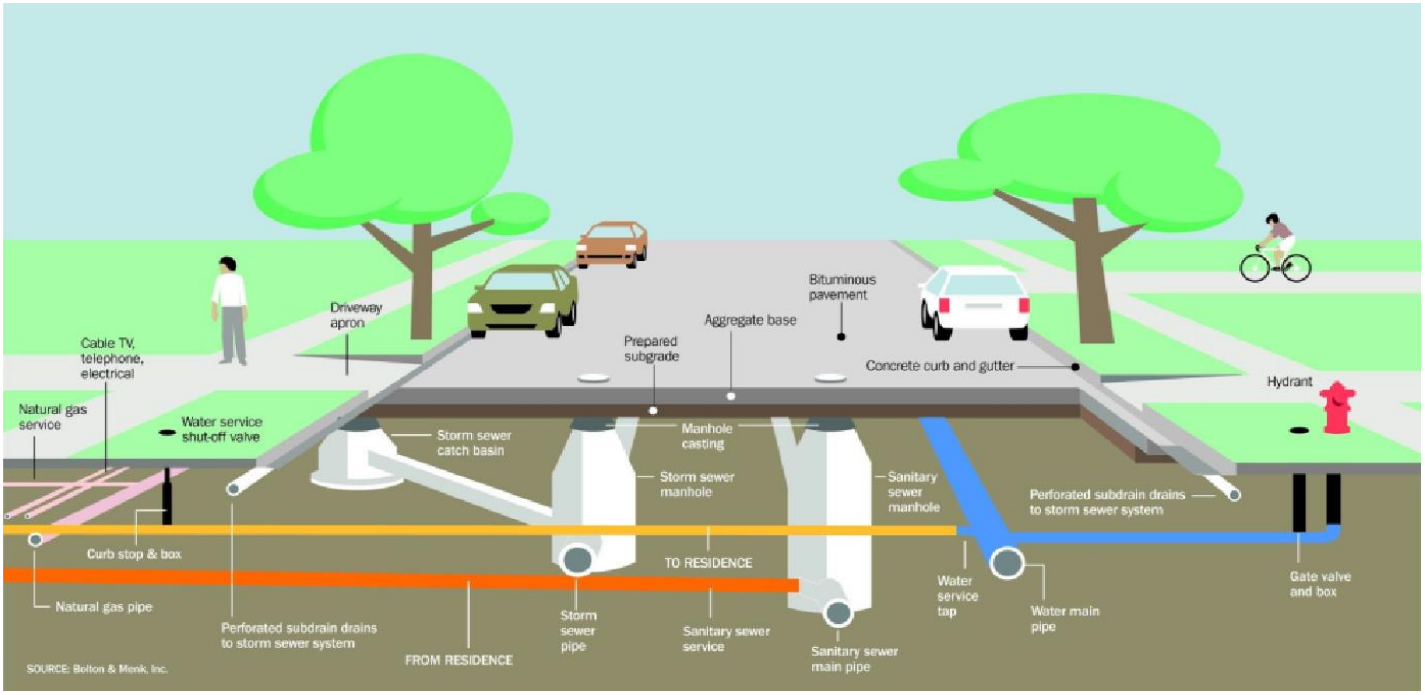
NSGIC
National States Geographic Information Council

Need for Infrastructure Support

A study by the National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC) in 2017 warned that the United States' rapidly aging infrastructure is creating safety hazards, diminishing quality of life, heightening vulnerability to natural disasters, and impairing economic growth. Infrastructure renewal is a national imperative for the United States, and it requires cooperative and coordinated action by the private sector and all levels of government.

The Key to Smart Infrastructure Investments

The Committee's study, entitled Geospatial Information: The Key to Smart Infrastructure Investments[1], highlights the crucial role that geospatial technologies play in supporting infrastructure planning and development. It also gives recommendations on how to maximize returns on infrastructure investment.



Examples of unseen infrastructure

As the United States reprioritizes the rebuilding of its infrastructure, the governments and companies involved will need accurate and reliable spatial data[2] of all types to ensure that scarce dollars are spent in the most efficient and effective ways possible. Knowing where infrastructure is located, how different pieces relate to one another, and where the critical dependencies lie, are required first steps for making good financial decisions.

To get the myriad elements of new national infrastructure programs to coalesce, investments need to be smart, timely, data driven, and efficient. They must also account for society's current and future

[1] National Geospatial Advisory Committee (NGAC). 2017. GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION: The Key to Smart Infrastructure Investments https://www.fgdc.gov/ngac/meetings/dec-2017/ngac-paper-geospatial-information-for-infrastructure.pdf.

[2] esri Spatial Analysis and Data Science. 2023. https://www.esri.com/en-us/arcgis/products/spatial-analytics-data-science/overview

needs in a sustainable way. Significantly, the planning and design processes will generate new jobs and continued innovation in the GIS and geospatial technology sectors.

Using Geospatial Data to Manage Infrastructure Assets

Geospatial data and technologies can be used to effectively manage infrastructure assets[3] over their entire life cycle—from design and construction to operation and maintenance. Geospatial technologies are essential to managing infrastructure assets such as storm water drains, gas pipelines, tunnels, bridges, the electrical grid, and broadband. The sophisticated geospatial analysis facilitates the integration of space and time management and helps infrastructure planners and operators cope with highly complex projects. Thus, creating and maintaining large-scale geospatial databases and models is important to intergovernmental coordination and should be supported by federal funds.

Support Infrastructure Development Coordination

We ask you to:

- direct IIJA, ARPA and other federal funds toward state and local government programs that have a stated purpose to coordinate infrastructure development
- clarify that Congress' intent is for federal agencies to partner with state and local governments to expand the use of geospatial data and technologies in support of infrastructure projects
- ensure those funds can be used by state and local governments for that purpose

About the National States Geographic Information Council (NSGIC)

Since 1991, NSGIC has been the state led hub of national geospatial experts promoting coordinated, impactful, and efficient application of geographic Information systems (GIS) to best serve the nation. GIS and the spatial information it serves underpin much of the activities of government and the lives of the people of the nation.

[3] esri Infrastructure Management The geographic approach. 2023. https://www.esri.com/en-us/industries/infrastructure-management