

## **Making Money Flow Sideways: Cross-Federal Geospatial Investment Coordination**

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### **Abstract**

Our objective is to understand governance arrangements that increase coordination of public investment in geospatial data and services. Although coordination of investments is central to national spatial data infrastructure (SDI) implementation, researchers and practitioners are only just beginning to address the topic. We analyze investment coordination in the context of two interrelated public management themes: departmentalism and regulation. Departmentalism is a case of tragedy of the commons and impedes efficient allocation and use of resources. Within-government regulation is seen as a means to curb departmentalism, with emphasis on improved accountability measures to ensure desired outcomes. These themes are underlying concepts of a politico-administrative framework that links policy and planning with budget allocation, service delivery, and performance measurement. We focus on public administration as a lens for SDI, because SDI implementation occurs as a series of administrative decisions that are embedded in agency-executed programs.