

Chapter 5


Foundations of Predictive Spatial Data Management in Smart Cities

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ABSTRACT

Predictive spatial data management is a transformative approach enabling smart cities to transition from reactive governance to proactive, data-driven decision-making. By integrating GIS, IoT, cloud computing, and machine learning, cities can optimize infrastructure, enhance mobility, improve environmental sustainability, and deliver citizen-centric services. Despite technical, ethical, and organizational challenges, emerging trends such as AI-driven autonomous services, advanced spatial analytics, and adaptive infrastructure promise more precise, resilient, and responsive urban

DOI: 10.4018/979-8-3373-4202-3.ch005

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systems. This chapter outlines foundational principles, technological enablers, predictive modeling approaches, and practical strategies to operationalize spatial intelligence for sustainable urban development.

INTRODUCTION

The enormous growth of population in the world, especially in the urban areas, escalating infrastructure demands, traffic, and environmental pressures are pressuring and overwhelming urban centers around the world like never before. The conventional methods of managing cities that usually depend on reactive planning and data systems that are segregated can no longer support these challenges effectively. Predictive spatial data management is a shift in paradigm that unites geospatial information with the power of advanced analytics and machine learning to predict urban trends and use them as a basis of proactive decision-making (Andronie et al., 2023; Zhou et al., 2024).

Predictive spatial data management is fundamentally about utilizing the rich spatial datasets on many scales, including geographic coordinates and land-use maps, real-time sensor measurements, and socio-economic indicators. Multiplied by predictive algorithms, such datasets allow planners and city administrators to find patterns, predict the future state, and optimize resource distribution. In other words, traffic that is predicted can help de-congest traffic jams, the monitoring of infrastructure using the IoT can help avoid system breakdowns, and the spatially-informed environment analysis can inform a sustainable development of the urban environment (Abijith & Saravanan, 2022; Chang et al., 2022; Leta et al., 2021; Wang et al., 2022).

The integration between predictive analytics and spatial data continues to be supported by access to enabling technologies like Geographic Information Systems (GIS), cloud computing, and Internet of Things (IoT) networks. GIS offers the platform to represent and interpret the intricate urban patterns, sensors of the IoT constantly provide real-time data on mobility, energy, and environmental situations, and cloud environments can supply the required computational power to handle extreme volumes of data effectively. Collectively, the technologies have a networked and reactive urban environment that can help in dynamic decision-making (Chen et al., 2021; Selmy et al., 2023; Tahir et al., 2025; Truong et al., 2023).

The chapter discussed predictive spatial data management and the practical use of the subject with respect to smart cities. It examines data acquisition, integration, modeling, and real-time analytics capabilities and how cities can transition to proactive governance using them. This chapter also discusses how spatial intelligence could be used to increase urban resiliency, optimize infrastructure and services, and

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