

### 6.2.3

#### LIDAR laser mapping for Highway & Transportation Planning

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Because of the speed of collection, vertical accuracy, and comparatively inexpensive nature, LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) has become the preferred mapping tool for a number of end-user applications. In the past, transportation planning has been performed by selecting alternate routes based on existing mapping and imagery, then mapping the proposed route. This was done because of the high cost for high accuracy mapping over large areas. In recent years LIDAR has proved to be a useful tool in this process, allowing planners to choose new routes based on new mapping. This provides information to make educated decisions for highway routes that be more efficient and can avoid potential natural hazards such as flooding and landslide areas. Existing infrastructure can benefit from this technology as well by identifying potential wash out areas.