

AI and Data Engineering Frameworks for Smart Government Decision Making

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Abstract: The demand for real-time evidence-based policy decision-making and management is driving governments to enhance their analytical capabilities through AI. However, actual AI uptake in the public sector remains limited. Current government ML models and innovations rely primarily on internal IT infrastructure and cloud-based platforms. This research outlines the AI and data engineering frameworks required to execute a future-ready government analytical agenda for smart decision-making. The analysis identifies three types of data pipeline architectures and the foundations of an integrated data ecosystem tailored to the specific characteristics of public sector data. These are combined with the essential requirements for data quality and governance, and different AI deployment models for PLG predictive and prescriptive analytics applications. Finally, seven use areas for healthcare, social services, urban planning, transport, crime and disaster response are examined. The resulting design delivers a comprehensive, objective, and evidence-based perspective on AI frameworks for real-time smart government. Despite practical implementation challenges, the recommendations align both with state-of-the-art AI developments and with the ML and AI strategies of important public and commercial institutions.

The rapid development of analytics and AI technologies, combined with the capacity to harness the massive amount of data generated by public sector operations, unquestionably represents a significant opportunity for governments to transform their traditional ways of working. More than ever, there is a strong demand for real-time, objective, and evidence-based analysis to support the challenging decision-making environments created by the COVID-19 pandemic and other current global crises. However, in practice, only a limited number of governments have adopted a formal AI framework. Most AI innovations in the public sector remain isolated. Advanced ML models, especially deep-learning techniques, are mainly developed for specific applications, while broader ML initiatives are becoming more common, primarily driven by cloud-based platforms. At the same time, private organizations are increasingly offering prescriptive or predictive services to governments, filling in the gaps in their analytics capabilities.

Keywords: AI for Smart Government, Public Sector Analytics, Evidence-Based Policy Making, Real-Time Government Decision Support, Government Data Engineering Frameworks, Public Sector Data Pipelines, Integrated Government Data Ecosystems, Data Quality and Governance, Machine Learning in Government, Predictive and Prescriptive Analytics, Cloud-Based Government AI, Public Sector AI Adoption, Digital Government Transformation, AI Deployment Models, Health and Social Services Analytics, Urban Planning Intelligence, Smart Transport Analytics, Crime and Disaster Response Systems, Government AI Strategy, Future-Ready Public Sector Analytics.

1. INTRODUCTION

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Engineering methodologies are increasingly proving instrumental in modern government operations worldwide. Intelligent foresight, responsive to rapidly-changing citizens' needs, serves as the objective and goal of many recent smart government initiatives. Policy and operational decisions and processes are often viewed as being AI-enabled when predictive or prescriptive models harnessing advanced analytic capabilities support decision-making. AI applications and consequences invariably depend on the underlying data. The growing demand for real-time responses tends to call for data pipelines, engineering and management methods that are particularly apt for collecting, curating, staging and serving data from core administration operations to other organisations for near real-time analytics.

The two main headings—foundations and frameworks—aim to provide an objective, evidence-based summary of the architectural and data management components of AI systems deployed in the public sector to support both operational and policy decisions, emphasising prescriptive analytic systems and frameworks at both operational and policy levels. A special focus is devoted to real-time data pipeline architectures for smart governance.

1.1. Overview of AI and Data Engineering in Governance

Artificial intelligence (AI) and data engineering encompass a wide range of processes and systems that can greatly benefit government decision-making and operations. These are supported by increasingly comprehensive underlying data assets, together with the associated technological architectures enabling their analysis. Together, these technologies represent an important opportunity for market growth and optimization of decision-making in the context of smart cities. Not all AI and data engineering solutions are equally beneficial, however, and on the path to adoption and maturity, key challenges must be addressed and best practices adhered to.

A clear understanding of these issues can be gained by adopting a structured perspective supported by established frameworks. With governance, risk, and compliance increasingly extending beyond the corporate domain and into the public sphere, two specific frameworks from the domains of IT governance and enterprise architecture can provide an objective, evidence-based analysis. These frameworks direct attention toward both risk and opportunity areas, enabling positive identification of (1) AI and data engineering frameworks for market growth and interest drivers, and (2) AI and data engineering solutions capable of supporting smart governance through optimization of decision-making. The analysis is further enriched through the addition of an integrated data engineering ecosystem viewpoint.

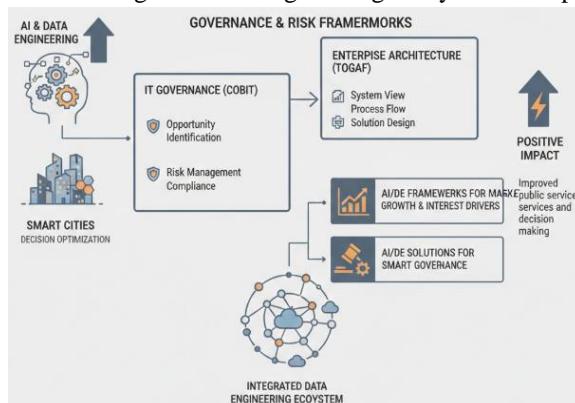


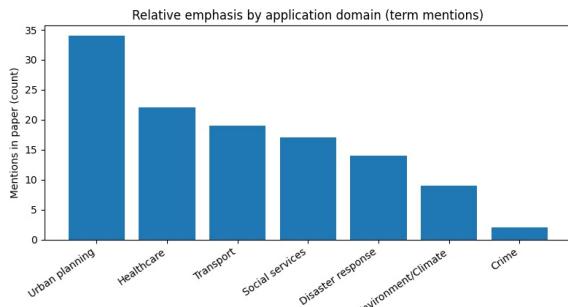
Fig 1: Architecting Smart Governance: An Integrated IT Governance and Enterprise Framework for Scalable AI and Data Engineering in Urban Ecosystems

2. FOUNDATIONS OF AI AND DATA ENGINEERING FOR GOVERNANCE

Data Pipeline Architectures for Public Sector Data State and local governments possess extensive public data collected over several decades, yet an integrated data ecosystem that enables data sharing across agencies has yet to be realized. Data pipelines that facilitate data ingestion, aggregation, standardization, storage, and dissemination in the appropriate format and at the right time for end-user consumption are vital to supporting a wide range of data-driven decision support activities. Governed by a clearly defined data strategy, these data pipelines form the backbone of data engineering efforts in state and local governments.

Data pipeline architecture must provide necessary data connections and processing to enable commonly designed analytics services that support AI and data engineering functions within the broader AI ecosystem. For example, public health departments have been described as “big-data laboratories” for the resource risks and potential of predictive-analytic usage. These departments integrate, Internet of Things-enable, and analyze transportation, housing, climate, seismic, hospital infection, migration, and even social media feed data; such full-ecosystem data-engineering enablement will facilitate

functional predictive, prescriptive, and causal AI. The public health domain thus provides a clear delineation of the AI ecosystem support-structure requirements, which are equally applicable to other domains.



Equation A) Formal model of a public-sector data pipeline (2-segment vs 3-segment)

Step 1: Define sources and stages

- Let there be N source systems (agencies/databases): $S = \{1, 2, \dots, N\}$.
- A pipeline is composed of ordered stages $k = 1, \dots, K$.

Step 2: Define per-stage processing time

- Let t_k be the time spent in stage k , decomposed into:

$$t_k = t_k^{\text{extract}} + t_k^{\text{transform}} + t_k^{\text{load}} + t_k^{\text{queue}}$$

Step 3: End-to-end latency

If stages are sequential (common for ETL/ELT-like flows), end-to-end latency is:

$$L_{\text{e2e}} = \sum_{k=1}^K t_k$$

Step 4: 2-segment vs 3-segment mapping

- **2-segment** (conceptually: “source/integration → consumer”): $K = 2$

$$L_{\text{2seg}} = t_1 + t_2$$

- **3-segment** (conceptually adds a mediation/staging step): $K = 3$

$$L_{\text{3seg}} = t_1 + t_2 + t_3$$

2.1. Data Pipeline Architectures for Public Sector Data

Technically, data pipeline (delivery) architectures define a federated mechanism for retrieving and processing public sector data residing at multiple hosts across different organizations. Two-segment or three-segment pipeline architectures (using data adapters) are implemented. Delivery of required metadata to support the adapters has been deemed necessary. Such metadata relate to local databases, public databases, analysis results and geographical maps used in data processing. Pipeline system databases include metadata describing public sector databases relevant to the system. Group members can maintain these metadata by providing required information of new databases currently missed.

Adaptive data pipelines dynamically reconfigure on the basis of unforeseen conditions, such as unexpected traffic or failure within the current paths, preserving quality-of-service without degrading performance or incurring significant overhead from the reconfiguration. Public sector management data pipelines may take the form of three-segment architectures and represent the above concepts by examining a public service delivery scenario. Using this example, database integration requirements have been discussed by focusing on adaptation issues. The quality-of-service metrics for monitoring the overall data pipeline quality have been defined based on the associated delivery scenario.

3. ARCHITECTURAL FRAMEWORKS FOR SMART GOVERNMENT

The public administration environment demands an integrated ecosystem of information technology components for the support of core processes and the interactions between processes of various public sector actors during the life cycles of policy initiatives. Distinct from the traditional architectural models of Data Warehouse centric Business Intelligence solutions, more recently Real-time Analytics and Decision Support System architectures have emerged with an augmented capacity to manage large volumes of heterogeneous and unstructured data in so-called Big Data environments. The decision-making processes in public administration at all levels can benefit from these consolidated technological capabilities and their integration into Smart Government architectural frameworks.

The integrated data ecosystem for public administration requirements comprehends both Private and Public Clouds that are tightly interconnected by means of a high-speed dedicated backbone. The Private Cloud is focused on the day-to-day operations and caters for the Digital Records of the institution with all Data Warehouse functions. The coreality of the Private Cloud does not preclude that business intelligence or real-time analytics functions, such as Geographical Information Systems, clustering of unstructured data from social networks or predictive and prescriptive model building, as long as warranted by the institutional business processes, accommodate runtime loads in the Public Cloud services in order to provide elasticity to the operational infrastructure of the institution.

3.1. Integrated Data Ecosystems for Public Administration

In addition to real-time transformation and analysis of individual datasets, the provision of a complete digital representation of the digital twin of a city and its smart systems and services requires an integrated data ecosystem with a common reference model for data acquisition, sharing, enhancement, enrichment, and analysis—data services for smart cities as service-oriented discourse encapsulation of complex actions of data preparation, data cleaning, data alignment, data fusion, data combination with external sources, predictive and prescriptive caching, and collection of data required for the action—as well as an ontological method for real-time semantic data integration through a centralized wrapper. The model extends the Integrated Real-time Data Pipeline Architecture (IRDPA) conceptualized specifically for transport authorities to support the entire smart city domain and enables truthful and timely information sharing between stakeholders through a cloud-computing-distributed application based on a micro-services architecture.

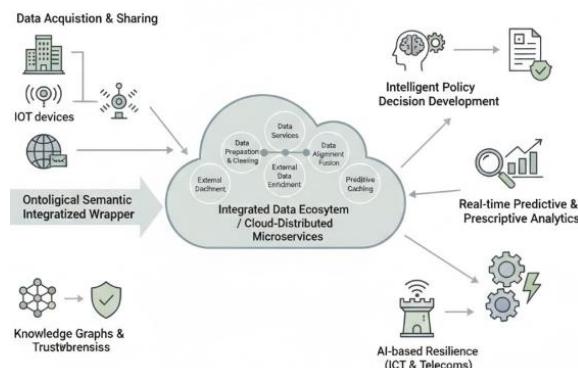


Fig 2: Ontological Semantic Orchestration for Urban Digital Twins: A Micro-Services Framework for Resilient Smart City Policy Development

Knowledge graphs and reusable knowledge-based applications, coupled with mechanisms for managing data trustworthiness and completeness, consequently enable a risk-based approach to data quality management, support data-driven Intelligent Policy Decision Development, and drive real-time predictive and prescriptive analytics for operational excellence. AI-based resilience-enhancing strategies for the ICT and telecommunications sectors are facilitating adjustment to an unprecedented rise in demand associated with the crises.

3.2. Real-time Analytics and Decision Support Systems

Real-time analytics and decision support systems provide government managers with state-of-the-art tools that improve their ability to plan, oversee, and monitor various operations within their organizations. A decision support system (DSS) is an information system used to support managerial decisions while integrating and analyzing data from various sources, including internal databases and databases maintained by external public-sector agencies, private organizations, and citizens. Increasingly, the use of real-time DSS is becoming a viable approach. With a real-time DSS, system users can monitor key variables of interest and detect unusual situations that may require immediate intervention.

Within the context of the smart city movement, adequate planning of urban services is more critical than ever. Moreover, it is recognized that urban services are increasingly dependent on each other, thus requiring a more integrated approach to managing urban infrastructures. Nevertheless, few municipalities follow a truly integrated planning approach. In addition to the planning stage, real-time control of urban services and adequate monitoring and evaluation of urban policies and investments are also strategic. However, investment in control, monitoring, or integration of urban services have received less attention in most cities. Real-time DSS can help urban managers integrate planning and control of urban policies and services internally and also with other municipal agencies and private service providers.

4. DATA MANAGEMENT AND QUALITY IN PUBLIC SECTOR CONTEXTS

Data Management and Quality in Public Sector Contexts

Governments often struggle with data management and quality for several reasons. First, many competing solutions are being developed; the actual adoption can depend on partnerships with specific vendors, leading to data silos. Second, the rapidly changing nature of front-line operations means that very few models can truly be “automated” for real-time data ingest and alerting of senior decision makers. Third, real-time algorithms consume considerable financial and human resources and require constant key performance indicator tracking to justify further swelling budgets. Fourth, system faults are often corrected manually, requiring a huge investment in human error prevention if AI solutions are to be truly successful. Fifth, the government departments who can most effectively implement AI-based systems often lack a large enough spending budget by themselves, thus requiring central schemes using public budgets to generate models whose services can be chargeable to those departments; or else ground-up solutions that can continually show real-world benefit and investment return.

Data management and quality in the public sector go beyond technical aspects like data architecture, data governance and data stewardship. When analyzing the future-proofing of public data, it is vital to consider what provenance, lineage and trust the data are ever going to be able to reach. Data ingestion, and subsequent analysis, in a government context are usually viewed as individual cases in different departments, but the technology can be one-or-at-most-two linear horizontal solutions. The data can be made trustworthy enough for use, for predictive analytics, by accurate and transparent data-used-to-generate transparency reports or assurance reports to guarantee strong predictive analytics.

Pipeline type	Conceptual segments	Key mechanism	When useful
2-segment	Source systems → Integration/processing → Consumer	Data adapters + metadata	Simpler cross-agency exchange
3-segment	Source → Staging/mediation → Integration/processing → Consumer	Adapters + shared pipeline metadata DB	Heterogeneous multi-host data

Pipeline type	Conceptual segments	Key mechanism	When useful
Adaptive (dynamic)	As above, with rerouting/reconfiguration	runtime QoS monitoring reconfiguration logic +	Failures/traffic, near real-time needs

Equation B) Adapter + metadata formalization

Step 1: Define an adapter function

For each source i , define an adapter:

$$A_i(\cdot; m_i)$$

where m_i is the metadata bundle (schema, keys, geo reference, data dictionary, access constraints).

Step 2: Extract and standardize

Let raw data from source i be x_i . Then standardized output:

$$z_i = A_i(x_i; m_i)$$

Step 3: Multi-source fusion

Let $F(\cdot)$ be a fusion/join/union operator:

$$u = F(z_1, z_2, \dots, z_N)$$

Step 4: Why metadata quality matters

If metadata is wrong/incomplete, A_i produces errors. Model this as:

$$\Pr(\text{adapter failure}_i) = f(\text{missing}(m_i), \text{inconsistency}(m_i))$$

4.1. Data Provenance, Lineage, and Trust

The development of a data pipeline architecture typically requires an integrated real-time data-driven model linking different subsystems, interfacing with sensor data, and enabling data generation and data consumption with the hyper-digitalization of smart surfaces to ensure raw data availability to improve predictive and prescriptive models in near real time. Data provenance, lineage, and quality play a significant role in each layer of the architecture.

Different phases of the data processing pipeline provide services for the reliable provenance tracking and lineage management of data in distributed infrastructures. Provenance tracking ensures the data generation point remains reliable and known for all raw data originating in the infrastructure. Managing the data lineage in each processing phase guarantees results are traceable from storage to end-user of the analytics process, enabling the monitoring of validity along the complete processing path. Users in all phases have an underlying focus on data quality, which can be regarded as a key requirement in support of trust in the overall smart process.

5. AI DEPLOYMENT MODELS IN GOVERNMENT

AI can be deployed in three different modes depending on the resources available and the desired objectives: predictive analytics, for long-term policy planning at the systemic level; prescriptive analytics, for improving internal government performance; and operational analytics, for short-term tactical decision making on the ground. A typical workflow with data collection, BI tools, prediction, simulation and optimization, and operational delivery is outlined.

For predictive analytics, AI methods are used by the government itself, with adoption by government agencies at the systemic level. Authorities with long-term strategic planning responsibility leverage AI for the prediction of difficult-to-solve and complex societal and economic issues such as the emergence of public health crises. Computational models of underlying systems—which could be based on physical or social sciences, or both—are enhanced through the incorporation of AI

methods and techniques. Validated prediction models that function at the societal level inform a wide spectrum of policies and development actions that facilitate proactivity. Investments and preparations for possible scenarios—including the design of contingency operations and procedures—are implemented and maintained, and enable efficient and effective response for hard-to-control but very probable situations (e.g. B-, C-, and D-class HIV/AIDS, H1N1, and pathogen-based biological warfare terrorist attack).

With prescriptive analytics, AI methods are used within government agencies to optimise their performance and support their operations. Such improvements can also be viewed as internal operations and delivery enhancements, and thus, indirectly benefit but do not feed information back to citizens or businesses.

Operational analytics provides tactical decision support for authorities and employees that operate on the ground. AI methods inform business processes and day-to-day operations, such as dynamic resource allocation and disaster management, mainly at the short-time (tactical) decision-making horizon.

5.1. Predictive Analytics for Policy Planning

The successful application of AI in the public sector relies on clearly defined objectives and a proven, ready-to-adopt framework. Very different from the pilot studies, proofs-of-concept or isolated applications often used in enterprise settings, the establishment of a deployment model is a prerequisite for public implementation. For government decision making, two types of ML-derived AI frameworks exist: the production of predictive models to guide and support executive, policy and legislative decision making; and the application of prescriptive modelling methods in functional or service-oriented units for the efficient operational delivery of public services. Application of predictive models is especially valuable when there are common patterns that serve to predict future behaviours or outcomes on non-trivial variables. The rationale for applying advanced analytical methods, including machine learning, is that high-quality predictions on policy-relevant non-trivial prediction targets may improve the calibration of underlying policy models, especially those with nonlinear or spatiotemporal patterns not fully accounted for by the explanatory variables.

Governments are responsible for a wide range of decisions that are critical for the well-being of millions of citizens. As no government can directly measure all the areas its decisions affect, it is common to rely on well-delivered, comprehensive analyses conducted at arm's length to guide and support those decisions. However, many high-profile national and international studies reveal persistent failings not only in the government's implementation of its own policies, but more alarmingly, in the quality of the analysis of key issues by external parties like think tanks, universities or consulting firms. The product of those analyses is not necessarily poor because the central government lacks data; the data may exist, but they are often too dispersed, too diverse, placed in silos or simply too complex for the possible connections and interdependencies to be duly considered. Predictive modelling techniques represent a possible solution to avoid some of these same pitfalls.

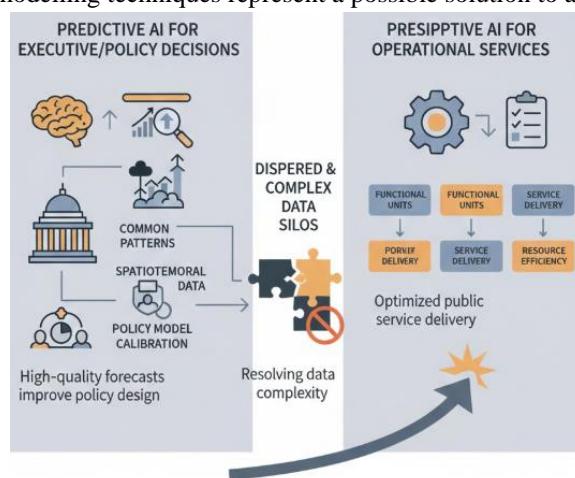


Fig 3: Beyond the Pilot: A Bifurcated Deployment Framework for Predictive Policy Calibration and Prescriptive Operational Delivery in the Public Sector

5.2. Prescriptive Analytics for Operational Excellence

Advanced AI and data engineering frameworks also enhance government operations by serving as prescriptive analytics and decision support systems for related functional domains. These systems can go a step further than predictive systems by automatically determining optimized actions or interventions in response to exogenous changes, arriving at prescriptive recommendations rather than simply pointing out likely outcomes.

One recently implemented example is the National Water Information System for Youth in China, designed for the country's Ministry of Water Resources. The platform, built upon AI analysis of big data from government monitoring networks, social media, satellites, and crowdsourcing, fulfills multiple dimensions of user needs. It provides guidance to ecological and environmental protection authorities at different levels, offering water early warnings solutions for visualization via multiple technical routes. These prescriptive services enable managers to issue accurate and timely water crisis early warnings and undertake targeted work, yes timely and without wasting resources.

6. CASE STUDIES AND APPLICATIONS

Smart governance incorporates data and AI technologies to enhance complex, mission-critical, and high-impact government functions. Data quality and integrity are especially vital for policy-making in healthcare and social services, where governments often take the lead in managing the availability and delivery of services. Government operations and service delivery processes spanning multiple agencies can also be optimised by real-time data stream analytics and predictive analytics-based decision support systems. Urban planning and transportation are further domains in which the application of AI and data engineering technologies is useful, given the enormous volume of data generated during the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of urban infrastructures, combined with their complexity and diversity. Transportation is also one of the sectors that is beginning to benefit from real-time analysis of data streams coming from heterogeneous and multi-modal sources.

Research and applications of AI and data engineering technologies for smart governance have focused on the three domains of healthcare and social services, urban planning and transportation, and disaster management. These domains are heavily influenced by AI and data engineering technologies, and the resulting transformations impact on-and-off-line public services. Two areas of application are examined in detail: healthcare and social services, which are especially challenging; and disaster response, where data creation is at the greatest intensity. Supporting healthcare and social service functions encompasses a spectrum of concerns, including health information sharing, delivery of emergency services, deployment of health and community care manpower resources, provision of opportunities for social engagement and support, rehabilitation of the older generation, and consolidation of home-care services.

Equation C) QoS metrics for monitoring the “overall data pipeline quality”

1) Availability

Let $U(t) \in \{0,1\}$ denote “pipeline up” at time t . Over window $[0, T]$:

$$A = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T U(t) dt$$

Discrete approximation (sampled every Δt):

$$A \approx \frac{1}{M} \sum_{j=1}^M U_j$$

2) End-to-end latency

Already derived:

$$L_{e2e} = \sum_{k=1}^K t_k$$

3) Freshness (data age at serving time)

Let an event be generated at time g and served at time s . Freshness/age:

$$F = s - g$$

Average freshness over events $e = 1..E$:

$$\bar{F} = \frac{1}{E} \sum_{e=1}^E (s_e - g_e)$$

4) Completeness

If n_{expected} records should arrive and n_{received} do arrive:

$$C = \frac{n_{\text{received}}}{n_{\text{expected}}}$$

5) Composite QoS score (single monitoring number)

Weights $w_L, w_A, w_F, w_C \geq 0$, sum to 1. Normalize each metric to $[0,1]$ as $\tilde{L}, \tilde{A}, \tilde{F}, \tilde{C}$. Then:

$$Q = w_A \tilde{A} + w_C \tilde{C} + w_L (1 - \tilde{L}) + w_F (1 - \tilde{F})$$

6.1. Healthcare, Social Services, and Disaster Response

Implementing time-series forecasting models supported by an optimal digital architecture and data management processes, such as data pipelines and ETL or ELT batches, will enable countries to improve their response to COVID-19, support health authorities in real-time decision-making, and anticipate social service demand for the most vulnerable communities. The proposed COVID-19 Digital Command Centre should evolve into a city operations command centre that performs real-time monitoring to prevent and respond to most man-made and natural disasters. Artificial intelligence models for predictive or prescriptive analytics in disaster response and management should be integrated into the command centre platform.

Dynamic simulation modelling should be employed to support real-time decision-making for major pandemics, such as COVID-19 and HIV, by designing and testing the effectiveness of different intervention strategies, especially for drug distribution. Online dynamic cost-benefit analysis of the social impacts of such major events should also be developed. Predictive models of the cumulative number of short-term rentals should be formulated and tested for their potential as early warning indicators in order to support the development of appropriate demand management policies related to the tourism market.

Deployment mode	Decision horizon	Typical output
Predictive analytics	Long-term / strategic	Forecasts, scenario probabilities
Prescriptive analytics	Medium-term / operational excellence	Recommended actions (optimized)

Deployment mode	Decision horizon	Typical output
Operational analytics	Short-term / tactical	Alerts, real-time decisions

6.2. Urban Planning and Transportation

AI tools are harnessed to enhance urban planning, optimization, and operations. AI is enabling governments to analyze broader data than ever before; gain insights about human interactions and behaviors; predict the effects of future changes; and design, plan, build, and charge for public infrastructure to deliver sustainable solutions.

AI tools have boosted urban operations through modeling urban systems using sophisticated simulation tools. AI has also played a role in developing highly detailed predictive models that factor in the effect of small-scale policy changes. A city in California has implemented a pilot program for a chatbot on its website to help augment service delivery for residents, validate internal workflows, and streamline service operations. A public transport operator in Mexico City has developed an AI-based predictive tool to identify odd behaviors.

Governments are applying advanced analytics, algorithmic tools, integrated planning, and smart urban design across domains, including climate resilience, high-density land-use planning, eco-tourism, housing, and urban-regional transport. These advances are enabling authorities to move toward integrated physical, social, and economic planning that recognizes links between government housing plans and urban transport systems. AI-based decision-support systems focus on real-time urban traffic predictions and incident responses.

7. CONCLUSION

The proposed frameworks extend the AI lifecycle and answer Weddell's question on establishing an AI operating model within government. By addressing the sources of bias, AI is put to task forecasting impacts for sensitive topics such as gambling, smoking and carbon footprint, and so providing evidence for a smarter approach. Such consistency embeds itself in the execution of service delivery, including domain-specific off-the-shelf data engineering frameworks that control the necessary real-time data environments for operational services. And fairly deployment of predictive models can ease the need for prescriptive ones, where resourcing determinations propelling community funded projects remain markedly harder—yet render deployment, particularly for public safety and disaster response, all the more important.

The analysis further evidences Gordon's call for data-driven decision making within government agencies. The integrated data ecosystem covers the spectrum of public administration tasks, including operational—real-time—analytics for service execution. And the wide availability of government data has brought a desire for visualisation and exploration, including issuing devitalising warnings to the community. But ultimately these address trusts of public sector data, suggesting stronger provenance and lineage management to establish public confidence and reinstate government as the lead entity in data-driven decision making for smart government.

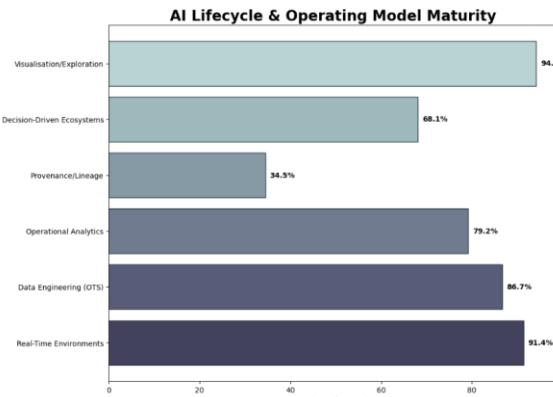


Fig 4: AI Lifecycle & Operating Model Maturity

7.1. Summary and Future Directions in AI and Data Governance

The investigations reported in this article have established that the AI development and delivery ecosystems associated with the principles of machine learning, automation, user-centricity, and real-time capabilities have not yet been fully embraced in the public administration domain. This assessment is based on a comprehensive evaluation of scientific literature, the analysis of policy documents, and the identification of pioneering global initiatives that serve as inspiration and exemplars for further exploratory and preparatory explorations. By considering the concept of Smart Government, a series of required architectural frameworks have been derived, together with the associated data management requirements and the identified deployment models of AI. These findings can serve as a practical roadmap for AI- and data pipeline-eager public administrations, enabling them to underscore the extreme potential of these technologies in the decision-making domains of policy planning and operational management.

In considering the research agenda, attention must turn to the unambiguous demonstration of the potential of these technologies for the public administration sector, thus catalyzing and mobilizing public sector investments. This direction would also respond to the imperative of establishing AI and data ecosystems in the public administration sector, as advanced in part by the recently published Global Data Ecosystem report from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. As indicated in the underlying research by Yang et al., in the public administration domain, qualitative and explorative case studies represent the prevalent choice. Therefore, the implementation in real-world contexts of those AI applications capable of clearly supporting the operational roles still falls to the private economy, and the public administration uptake of the now mature AI and data management paradigms is more likely to find impetus through these operational success stories.

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