

RoadSoft® RoundUp

August 2006, Vol. 6, No. 3

Do you have a question?
Call Technical Support at 906-487-2102

“Considering all the new asset management requirements, RoadSoft is the obvious choice for our data collection and management needs.”

Merrit Brown – Special Project Engineer
City of Three Rivers

New Version of RoadSoft Includes Enhanced Safety Analysis Capabilities

Integrating data sets enables deeper, more meaningful analysis

You’re on your way to work on a beautiful summer morning. You just stepped out of a coffee shop on a busy downtown corner. As you sip your tall cup of hot French Roast (whoa, that’s good!), you tap the “PUSH TO WALK” button on the lamp post near the crosswalk. Then you wait for the signal to change. As traffic slows you prepare to step off the curb.

When the “WALK” signal lights up you glance one more time in the direction of traffic to make sure it’s safe to cross, and then – being careful not to splash scalding liquid through the small oval hole in the lid – you step off the curb and into the street. Moments later you’re safely on the other side and you’re ready to continue your journey to work. You probably don’t stop to appreciate that you’ve just completed a series of data collection and analysis activities, and the fact that you’re still upright and walking with a full cup of good coffee in your hand is proof that the decision you made based on those activities was an intelligent and timely one.

To make basic decisions we need data, tools to collect data, instruments for storing data, and processes for analyzing data. To make intelligent decisions in a timely manner, we have to add methods for establishing relationships between different types of data and strategies for facilitating information sharing within the decision-making system.

The newest version of *RoadSoft-GIS*, which will be available during the second week of September this year, includes enhancements that establish relationships between crash data and other types of data, and maintain lines of communication between the safety module and other modules. “We integrated safety and road data, and we established links between several different reports,” explains RoadSoft Software Development Manager Gary Schlaff, “the results are dramatic.” For

example, the new intersection ranking report is connected to the collision diagram and a collection of summary reports. “You can click directly on the report to rearrange data, drill down for more detail, open related reports and screens, and even perform trend analysis functions on parts of the report,” Schlaff explains.

Another enhancement that is worthy of special note is the ability to assign numerical “weights” to specific crash fields. This capability will help traffic engineers identify roads and intersections where human error and/or weather are not the main cause of the crash. The intent is to remove human and weather-related crashes and zero in on intersections and roads that could be improved with traffic control devices or geometric adjustments.

In addition to enhanced analysis capabilities, RoadSoft version 6.4.0 includes the following new features:

Intersection Inventory Module – provides fields for recording intersection name, number of legs, traffic control devices in use, and it’s integrated with the crash module to provide a summary of crashes in an intersection.

Segment Analysis Capability – provides access to all crash data along a selected road segment.

Culvert Inspection Information – provides a means for recording culvert inspection data.

2005 Crash Data and Bridge Data – includes the newest data available through the Michigan State Police and MDOT.

RoadSoft version 6.4.0 will be available upon request in September. If you have questions, please call 906-487-2102 or send us an email at roadsoft@mtu.edu.

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Join us for Breakfast, Stay for a Discussion

RoadSoft-GIS User Group Meeting September 6

at the NMARC Meeting at the Grand Traverse Resort

Learn more about using *RoadSoft-GIS*, influence development direction, and share your questions, comments, and ideas with the developers and other users.

Date: Wednesday, September 6

Time: Breakfast: 7:30 – 8:00
Meeting: 8:00 – 9:15

Location: Grand Traverse Resort,
Michigan Room C

Please call 906.487.2102 to RSVP by Sep. 4.

All RoadSoft-GIS users from all regions are welcome

Breakfast is sponsored by the Michigan Tech Transportation Institute.

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