# Roadsoft® Roundup

New Release & New Modules

Announcing Roadsoft 2018.7

The Center for Technology & Training (CTT) is pleased to announce the 2018.7 release of Roadsoft and Roadsoft Laptop Data Collector (LDC). These releases include the new Drainage Structure module, updated versions of the Sidewalk and Bridge modules, and additional data collection functionality in the Roadsoft LDC. New features, data, and functions include:

- The Sidewalk module has an updated interface, inspection features, and work orders.
- Drainage-related point feature tracking such as catch basins, manholes, and inlets in the Drainage Structure module.
- The Bridge module has new fields and supporting features, including a Bridge Dashboard.
- 2017 Crash and Bridge data are integrated into all counties' databases.
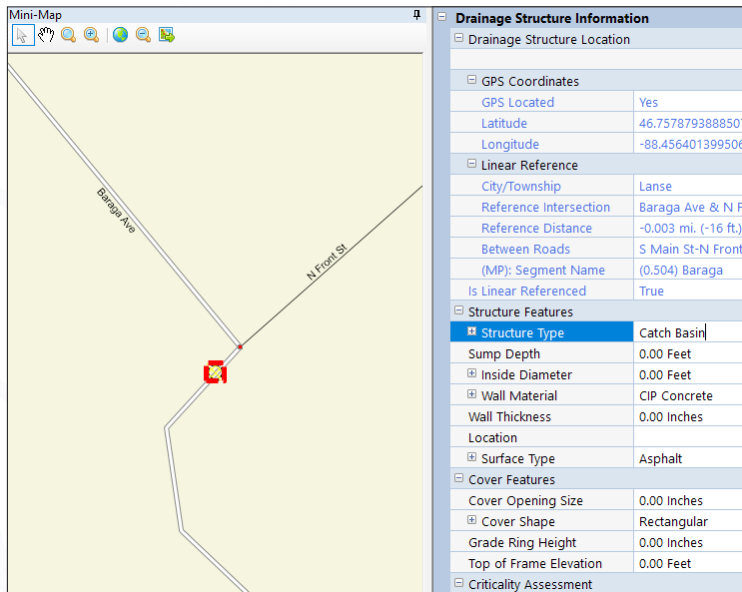
The new Drainage Structure module provides a tool for customers to collect, store, and map various types of drainage structures, such as catch basins and manholes.

New Drainage Module

Roadsoft 2018.5 introduced the Drainage Structure module, which is a tool for recording location, condition, life expectancy, criticality assessments, and cover and structure feature data for drainage structures.

The Drainage Structure module marks Roadsoft's introduction of utility infrastructure functionality to the current roadway infrastructure database. This allows users to keep track of, and plan around, utility assets on and near their roads, like manholes and catch basins. Many road agencies may recall stories of major road projects being completed, only for an electric company or sewer agency to dig up the recently finished road to replace wires or repair a pipe. Being able to record what utilities interact with road systems and where they do so allows agencies to coordinate work plans, saving everyone time and money and preventing unpopular road closures. The Drainage Structure module specifically allows users to record where water collection structures are, which can help coordinate maintenance work and plan for roadway flooding mitigation.

These features are also important because the Michigan Water Resources Division (WRD) requires urban-area municipal agencies with municipal separate storm-sewer systems (MS4) to obtain permits for discharging storm water into surface water, and these permits require implementation of best management practices (BMP) to limit pollutant discharges. BMPs include:

1. Educating the public about the impacts of stormwater pollution;
2. Encouraging public participation and involvement;
3. Detecting and eliminating pollutants entering the MS4;
4. Addressing stormwater runoff during construction;
5. Ensuring long term management of stormwater runoff after construction is completed; and
6. Preventing pollution and maintaining good housekeeping at municipal properties.

The Roadsoft Drainage Structure module can help with BMP activities 5 & 6 by identifying the type and location of municipal properties and stormwater controls owned or operated by the agency, tracking inspections and condition of structural controls, and maintaining maintenance schedules and records.

One notable feature of the Drainage Structure module is the option to place assets anywhere on the map instead of only on road segments. In addition, the custom field feature allows users to create multiple field types, including drop-down lists, integer fields, and calendar date drop-down menus.

Another exciting function in the Drainage Structure module is the ability to import standard shapefiles from other geographic information systems (GIS). When importing a shapefile into the Drainage Structure module, users can assign fields in their shapefile to match fields in Roadsoft. This feature enables automated imports and simplified data management between Roadsoft and other GIS packages, promoting data sharing between departments and agencies regardless of the GIS platform in use.

Updated Sidewalk Module

The Center for Technology & Training is committed to providing agencies with the right tools for the job. As part of that commitment, we update and enhance Roadsoft to add and improve functionality and align modules with other modules in the software. In addition, converting Roadsoft's code to a newer programming language ensures Roadsoft's long-term viability as a software program. Updating the Sidewalk Module accomplishes all of those goals: The updated Sidewalk Module now functions like the other Roadsoft modules and includes several new features including custom fields, segment splitting, and several new fields and tabs.

The new custom fields feature allows Roadsoft customers to create and manage agency-specific fields without limit, and the fields can be more than just drop-down lists. Custom fields can be text boxes, string or integer fields, calendar date drop-down menus, and other field types.

The Sidewalk module also includes a document attachment feature and the ability to add inspections and work orders. With these features, you can record sidewalk condition details

and associated maintenance information, including the current condition of the sidewalk, requested maintenance activities, maintenance order status, and future maintenance scheduling. The document attachment feature serves as a central place for storing and organizing files, documents, and images related to sidewalks so they are easy to find when needed. There are also several new inventory fields for organizing construction-related information such as contractor names, installation dates, and permit information.

While the new version of the Sidewalk module is straightforward to use and includes new features for extended data collection and asset management, the desktop verion of Roadsoft may not be the ideal way to enter data in the field. Previous versions of the Roadsoft software suite did not include sidewalk collection using the Laptop Data Collector (LDC), but with the 2018.5 Roadsoft and LDC release, agencies now have the ability to collect sidewalk data using the LDC.

As an example, prior to the Sidewalk module update, a local agency hired Brian Burlingham of Traffic Tech Services to collect about 1.4 million linear feet of sidewalk data. Burlingham stated that without the availability of the LDC for data collection, "Populating the [Sidewalk] module [in Roadsoft] was very time-consuming." Including the Sidewalk module in the LDC allows users to record sidewalk information from a laptop or tablet on location instead of having to return to the office to do so.
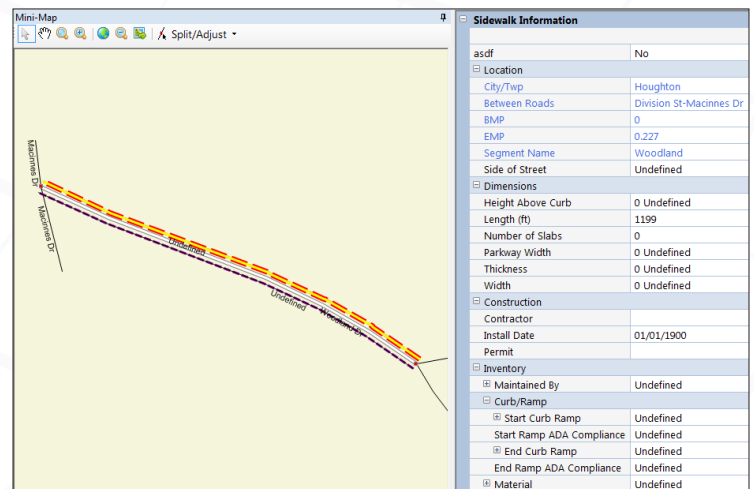
The updated Sidewalk Module includes several new features including Custom Fields, segment splitting, and several new fields and tabs.

Burlingham also said he was looking forward to other new features in the module, like the ability to split sidewalks into segments. Previously, documenting sidewalk repairs in Roadsoft that affected only a part of a sidewalk segment required deletion of the current sidewalk and creation of multiple sidewalks for the repaired and unchanged sections. In addition to adding segment splitting to the Sidewalk Module in both Roadsoft and the LDC, the ability to edit the location of sidewalks has been added to Roadsoft.

Updating the Sidewalk Module in Roadsoft makes sidewalk data collection easier while helping improving Roadsoft's viability in the future. The new features provide adaptability to the software and enhance agency data collection and management processes, in turn saving them both time and effort.

2017 Crash & Bridge Data — No Framework Change

As previously announced in Roadsoft Roundup v18n1, Roadsoft will not have an update for the Michigan framework (basemap) this year due to the ongoing technology upgrades at the state level. However, on June 5, 2018 the Center for Technology & Training announced the release of Roadsoft 2018.5 containing 2017 Michigan crash data. Roadsoft retrieves ten years of historical crash data from the Michigan State Police systems and are available to Michigan agencies for scientific research purposes and/or for governmental purposes.

The Roadsoft 2018.5 release also included 2017 Bridge data and Bridge module changes. The Bridge module changes include a rating calculation for the condition-based performance measure, which is based on the National Bridge Inventory condition ratings for deck, superstructure, substructure, and culvert.

Accessing both the 2017 crash data and the bridge data requires updating to Roadsoft version 2018.5 or later and performing a data import. See *Import Crash Data* and *Import, View & Print Bridge Data* in the Roadsoft Manual for instructions on importing these data types.

RUCUS 2018 — Register Now

The 2018 Roadsoft User Conference of the United States (RUCUS) will be held at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Grand Rapids Airport on Wednesday, September 26 from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM. RUCUS focuses on Roadsoft and its applications, with clients sharing examples of implementation and use. Topics for this year's RUCUS include:

- Extended Service Life of Roadways
- Project Planning & Selection Tool
- Managing Point Pavement Markings
- Sidewalk Module and Sidewalk Mobile
- Deep Dive into the new Drainage Structure Module
- Culvert Module and Culvert Pilot Update
- Nick's Tips and Tricks

RUCUS provides an excellent opportunity to network with peers and share ideas. Register on the RUCUS website at http://ctt.mtu.edu/rucus for more information.

Technical Support?

If you have any questions or concerns, or if you're in need of technical support, feel free to contact the CTT at 906-487-2102 and select option 1 for tech support, or roadsoft@mtu.edu.

2018 Roadsoft User Conference of the United States (RUCUS)

Grand Rapids, MI
Wednesday, September 26
8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Register online at
http://ctt.mtu.edu/rucus
Questions? Email ctt@mtu.edu