

# Roads and Highways as a Foundation for DOT Enterprise Data Systems

July 11, 2017

# Introduction



- ▶ Why are Linear Referencing Systems (LRS) a foundation for DOT data systems?
- ▶ Approaches to LRS and their evolution
- ▶ Case Study #1 – Ohio DOT
- ▶ Case Study #2 – Michigan DOT
- ▶ Case Study #3 – Iowa DOT
- ▶ Summary
- ▶ Questions

# Why LRS at DOTs?

- ▶ DOTs have decades of data stored about their roads using the length of road, methods include:
  - Driven Distances – actual mileages from Distance Measuring Instruments (DMIs) in vehicles
  - Reference Post/Mile Post and Offsets – distance locations using the “green paddles” along the road
  - Project Stationing – engineering stations unique per project
  - Control Section and Offset – pavement or traffic sections with offsets for characteristic changes

MILE  
5  
6

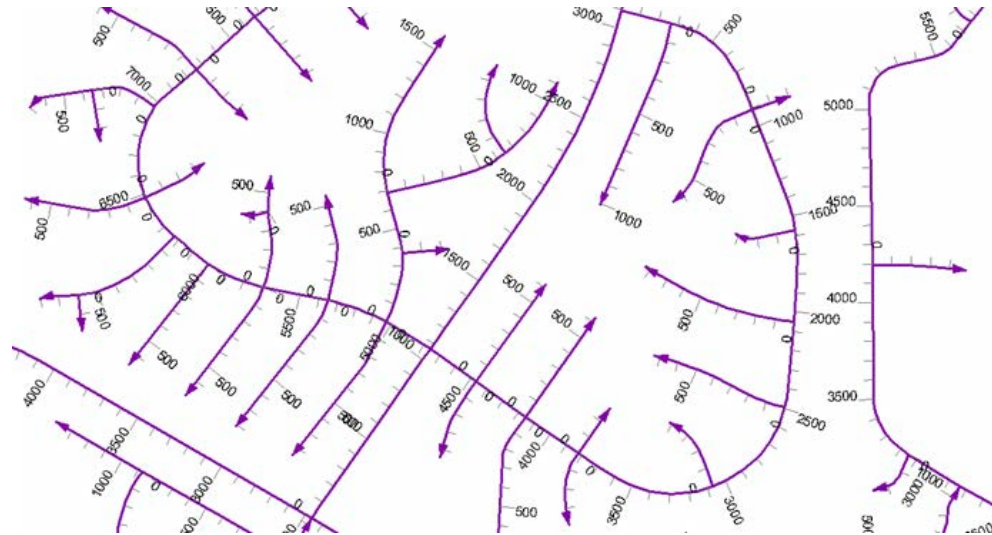
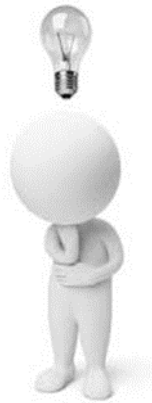


- GIS Road Lengths (more recent) – leverage the more accurate GIS sources for road lengths



# Why LRS at DOTs?

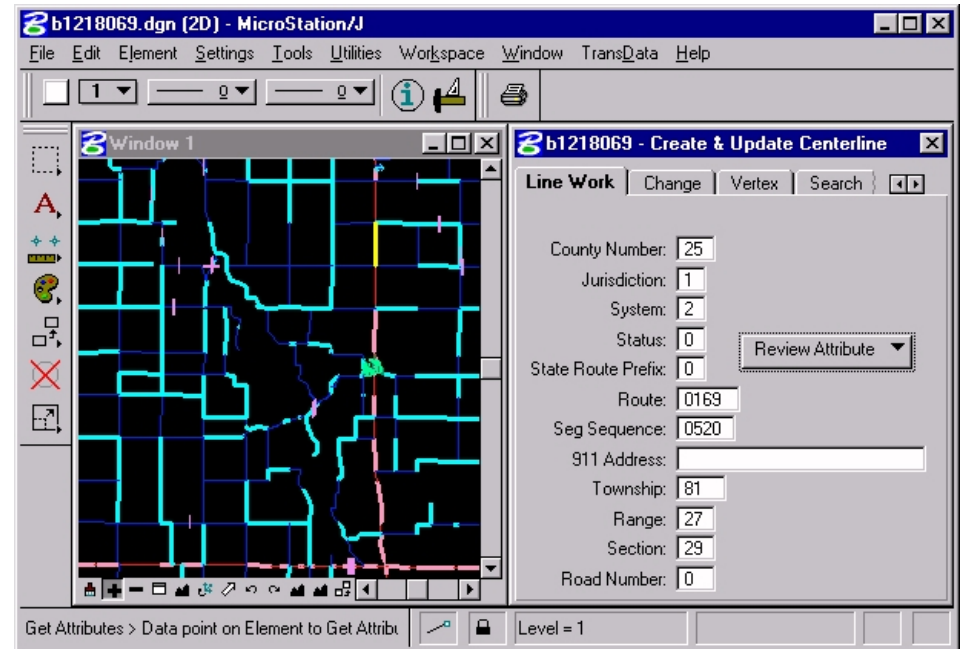
- ▶ Federal Highway Administration (US) requires LRS submission for Highway Performance Monitoring System data – road funding depends on this!!
- ▶ Easier to understand a distance along a road than a coordinate in 2D or 3D space
- ▶ Difficult to change all location systems to a new “non-linear” location method





# Evolution of LRS – High-Level

- ▶ Mileages stored in a flat-file, mainframe data structure – no map or spatial component (pre 1960-1990)
- ▶ CAD Maps carried attributes along the roadway (segmented) format – begin/end measures (1980-2000)
- ▶ GIS-enable LRS maintenance software (Unix based solutions) (1985-1998)
- ▶ National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP) 20-27 - Adaptation of Geographic Information Systems for Transportation (later 20-27(2) and 20-27(3)) (1993-2001)



# Evolution of LRS – High-Level



- ▶ GIS-enabled LRS maintenance software (Windows based solutions) (1995-current)
  - Still needed to maintain LRS and business data separately – manual synchronization processes
  - Temporal components of LRS still largely unaddressed
- ▶ Lots of custom solutions using the Windows GIS solutions – still had the same limitations
- ▶ Esri Roads and Highways (2011-current)
  - Addressed the synchronization of the LRS with the business data
  - Addressed the temporal components of the data
  - Provided editing of both LRS and business data

# Roads and Highways Extension (R&H)

- ▶ Provided the core functionality for maintaining the LRS and the business data
- ▶ Very configurable implementation strategy
  - Can define how the network is calibrated
    - *Highly calibrated to match old driven distances*
    - *Minimally calibrated using the GIS centerline lengths*
  - Multiple LRMs
    - *Centerline becomes the “datum”*
    - *Multiple “networks” or LRMs defined along the centerlines*
  - Temporality
    - *Dates are accommodated – more “LRS dates” not “real world change dates”*
    - *User date fields can be defined that are not managed by R&H*

# Case Studies



- ▶ Three DOT case studies
  - Ohio DOT
  - Michigan DOT
  - Iowa DOT
- ▶ Information is based on direct implementation experience with the three states
- ▶ Information is provided as three unique implementations for comparison, no judgement as to the best approach is inferred or intended
- ▶ Information is provided is as factual as possible, but is not vetted by the individual DOTs



# Case #1 – Ohio DOT



- ▶ R&H was implemented as part of a larger road inventory improvement project – Road Information Management System (RIMS)
- ▶ ODOT has very established legacy systems that rely on the linear measurements and could NOT change the measurements between intersections
- ▶ Single LRM – mileage based on driven distance
- ▶ Migration from older technologies
  - Intergraph GeoMedia Transportation – LRS (still functional)
  - dBASE – Road Inventory (not supported)
- ▶ Complex publication process to an Oracle publication/reporting environment called the Base Transportation Referencing System (BTRS)

# Case #1 – Ohio DOT



## ▶ R&H LRS Model

- Highly calibrated to match legacy measures (calibration point at every intersection)
- Single legacy route identifier and network (county based)
- Publish a “State Route Milepoint” LRM

## ▶ R&H Event Data Model

- Highly “normalized” – business data broken into many event tables
- Official mileage carried in an event table
  - *May not match the LRS mileage*
  - *Addresses “shared mileages” between jurisdictions*
- HPMS Sample event carries all sample attributes

# Case #1 – Ohio DOT

Insert Screenshot

# Case #2 – Michigan DOT

An aerial photograph of a road intersection. A yellow arrow points to a specific location on the road. The road is paved and has a yellow curb. There are trees and grass on the sides. The sky is blue.

- ▶ R&H was implemented as part of a larger asset management project – Transportation Asset Management System (TAMS)
- ▶ MDOT had a separate agency that held the official LRS and had long update cycles to get official LRS updates completed
- ▶ Multiple LRMs
  - Physical Road Segment/Milepoint
  - Control Section/Milepoint
  - Route/Milepoint

# Case #2 – Michigan DOT



## ▶ R&H LRS Model

- Initially highly calibrated to match the external agency LRS, both external agency and MDOT agreed to migrate to R&H and adopt centerline length as official LRS length
- Multiple networks and route identifiers to match LRMs

## ▶ R&H Event Data Model

- Highly “normalized” – business data broken into many event tables
- HPMS tables were developed independent of the TAMS project, but incorporated
  - *Very few attributes on Sample Section*
  - *Other HPMS attributes are events that will be aggregated*




# Case #2 – Michigan DOT

An aerial photograph of a road intersection. The left side of the image is overlaid with a semi-transparent red rectangle. The road is paved and has a yellow curb. There are trees and grass visible around the road.


Insert Screenshot

# Case #3 – Iowa DOT



- ▶ R&H was implemented as a dedicated project to replace the legacy LRS that was developed by Iowa DOT in the late 1990's/early 2000's
  - Intergraph GeoMedia Transportation
  - Oracle/Oracle Spatial
  - Oracle Workspace Manager
  - Bentley LRSx
- ▶ Closely modelled after the NCHRP 20-27 model
  - LRSx provided the “Oracle Conflation Object”
    - *Datum (official length segment)*
    - *Network (intersection-to-intersection model)*
  - Temporality was included in the model

# Case #3 – Iowa DOT



## ▶ R&H LRS Model

- Calibrated to match the legacy LRS route lengths, but did not use the centerline geometry length
- Calibrated at the beginning and ending of routes, gaps and concurrencies
- Official mileage derived from the LRS

## ▶ R&H Event Data Model

- Highly “normalized” – business data broken into many event tables
- HPMS Sample Section event was created
  - *Many attributes stored on the Sample Section*
  - *Some attributes derived from the related event tables*

## ▶ Project was focused on the HPMS submittal above all else, then other components were added

# Case #3 – Iowa DOT

Insert Screenshot

# Summary

An aerial photograph of a road network with various colored lines (red, blue, green) overlaid, representing GIS data or LRS (Linear Referencing System) data. The roads are shown in a top-down perspective, with some curves and intersections visible.

- ▶ **LRS is a foundational part of DOT data systems**
  - Integration via linear locations
  - Easy to understand locations
  - Legacy data is all linearly referenced
- ▶ **Key issues for DOTs included:**
  - LRS and business data had to be manually kept in sync
  - Temporal changes to LRS/business data was not available
- ▶ **Roads and Highways Extension**
  - Addressed the LRS/business data synchronization
    - *Internal tables*
    - *External tables*
  - Date attribution integrated into all aspects of LRS
  - Full featured GIS capabilities available with the LRS



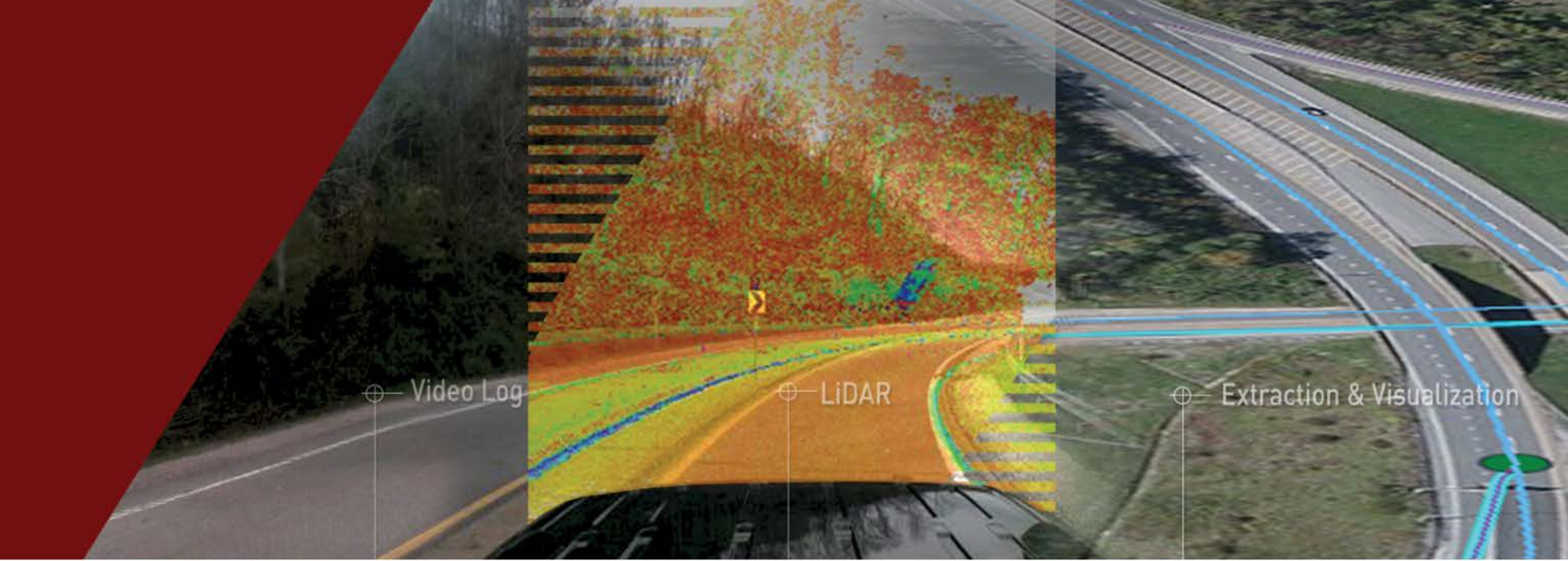
# Summary

- ▶ Other Esri extensions integrate into LRS maintenance solution
  - Workflow Manager Extension
  - Data Review Extension
  - Roadway Reporter
- ▶ Other add-ins from business partners
  - Transcend Road Analyzer
    - *Straight Line Diagramming*
    - *Video Log integration*
  - Transcend Productivity Tools
    - *Intersection Manager – MIRE intersection data extraction/maintenance*
    - *Segment Analyzer – Robust dynamic segmentation tools via web app*
    - *Validation Assistant – Event/business data validation via web app*
    - *Report Engine – Database reporting via web app*



# Questions





**THANK YOU!**