

Technology in Rural Transportation



A recent study documented more than eighty proven, cost-effective, “low-tech” solutions to rural transportation needs, most developed or implemented by local transportation professionals. One of these solutions is outlined below:

Learn all about the simple solutions on the Internet at <http://inform.enterprise.prog.org>

The simple solutions report is available from Hau To at (503) 892-2533, or email: to@crc-corp.com

Roadsoft Software

Overall goal:

To inventory road conditions, determine pavement deterioration rates, and prepare cost estimates for road maintenance.

Technical approach:

The system uses legacy and crash data for all roads in a county to determine road surface quality, deterioration rates, and accident rates for different types of road. The system was developed by surveying local agencies to determine what tools were needed.

Current status:

The software is available free for local agencies in Michigan. The current referencing system is county-based; in 1998 referencing will be updated to GIS. This upgrade will include tools to evaluate the safety of different surface types.

Location / geographic scope:

The software was developed for use anywhere in Michigan. Currently, 81 of the 83 counties in Michigan, 40 cities, and 5 municipal planning organizations are using the software.

Agencies involved:

County Road Association of Michigan, Michigan Department of Transportation, Office of Highway Safety Planning, and Michigan Technological University.

Cost information:

The software is free to local transportation agencies in Michigan. MDOT is spending approximately \$400,000 per year to maintain and upgrade the system.

Key contacts:

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Have goals been achieved?

Yes.

Solution timeline:

The solution has been implemented. Software is constantly being upgraded to incorporate new features.

