

Roadsoft® Roundup

March 2018, Vol. 18, Issue 1



For Roadsoft help, visit
the Roadsoft Manual at

<http://roadsoft.org/help>

Introducing Roadsoft 2018.3

The Center for Technology & Training (CTT) is pleased to announce the release of Roadsoft 2018.3, which streamlines the Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC) data collection process and provides a number of feature and interface enhancements. Michigan 2017 crash and bridge data are not included with this release but will be released as an update as soon as they are available.

Framework Migration

Roadsoft spring releases have historically included an update to the Michigan geographic framework (MGF) basemap. These MGF updates required Roadsoft client data migration. Roadsoft 2018.3 will not include a framework migration due to the Michigan Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB) and the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) ongoing technology upgrades to the MGF and the Linear Referencing System (LRS), respectively. Once the statewide technology upgrades are complete, the CTT will work with agencies to provide a migration path to ensure that Roadsoft data is accurately integrated into the new software system.

The MGF, established in the 1990s, provides a statewide basemap that stores geographically-referenced information relating to roads, rivers, lakes, streams, railroads, political jurisdiction boundaries, school district boundaries, and census area tabulation boundaries, along with other miscellaneous features. The MGF has served as a national model for integrated statewide data since its inception, but it requires a significant amount of in-house programming and maintenance, and its architecture is at the end of its useful life.

The DTMB is upgrading the MGF to a current, more efficient, and sustainable model that will be accessed through an online portal. This centralized access of related programs and data will streamline efforts and make it easier for DTMB to integrate, maintain, and update the various types and sources of data that will be included in the MGF. It will allow DTMB to provide quick and accurate updates on a more frequent basis than the annual cycle of the current MGF.

MDOT is upgrading the LRS to use ESRI Roads and Highways. This upgrade will allow seamless data integration with the updated MGF and provide a platform for additional development in the future. The MDOT upgrade is expected to be completed this fall. The CTT will develop a migration process and incorporate it in a later Roadsoft release once the DTMB and MDOT upgrades are both completed. For the time being, Roadsoft will use the current framework version 17. Although this may be an inconvenience for some clients that have recently submitted an MGF change request, the good news is that in the near future, the DTMB and MDOT will be able to address those requested changes in more timely and accurate manner.

“The statewide MGF and LRS software upgrade being undertaken by DTMB and MDOT will provide an extensible platform that will streamline workflows for both state and local agencies, while providing more accurate and timely data.”

- Mark Holmes, Geospacial Services Manager
DTMB - Center for Shared Solutions

Statewide data customers should expect to see a number of improvements once the conversion is complete including, but not limited to, the following:

- Distributed editing of data will allow the use of familiar tools (Roadsoft) to manage their data while still being able to take advantage of additional features and functionality of the base data and system.
- The service-oriented-architecture of the new system will allow agencies to connect to a central service to receive

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updates and access continually updated information, instead of the current model of manually updating on an annual basis. This will mean more frequent updates to the MGF and LRS, which will streamline the workflow for all agencies and ensure more timely and accurate data.

There is never really a “good” time for a complete system overhaul like this. Michigan’s software technology upgrade to a more modern architecture and delivery model will provide a platform that will benefit all statewide customers for years to come.

TAMC Export Changes

Road agencies are required to annually report the mileage and rate the condition of the roads under their jurisdiction to the Michigan Transportation Asset Management Council (TAMC). Roadsoft is the TAMC’s tool of choice for collecting and storing road condition data and advancing its statewide pavement rating collection strategy. Roadsoft 2018.3 has a revised data export process to meet the TAMC reporting requirements, take advantage of the updated TAMC Investment Reporting Tool (IRT), and streamline reporting for planning organizations (POs).

Prior Roadsoft TAMC exports for POs would produce a compressed zip file containing shape files and global positioning system (GPS) logs. Depending on the timing of the exported data submittal to the IRT, potential errors in the files may not be noticed right away as they were often processed in batches at a later date. If data was missing or there were errors, POs would have to address the errors, rerun the export, and then resubmit them to the IRT. Once submitted, they would once again have to wait to see if their data was accepted, potentially having to go through the process again.

To streamline the process and provide instant feedback, the TAMC has modified the IRT to automatically run error checks as files are submitted, providing instant feedback and notifying the client if the files are accepted, or if there is missing or flawed data. The updated export process in Roadsoft, as far as clients are concerned, remains the same. However, Roadsoft now produces an XML file, along with a compressed zip file containing any associated GPS logs that are produced as part of the data collection process. These files are submitted to the IRT and, if data is missing or incorrectly classified, the client will

know instantly and can address them.

For more information regarding the TAMC data collection and reporting requirements, refer to the *2018 TAMC Data Collection Training Manual* at <https://www.ctt.mtu.edu/sites/default/files/resources/paser/tamc-data-collection-manual.pdf>

RUCUS 2018 - Save the Date

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 AM - 4:30 PM. RUCUS focuses on Roadsoft and its applications, with clients sharing examples of implementation and use. RUCUS provides an excellent opportunity to network with peers and share ideas. Registration is not yet open, but keep an eye on the RUCUS website at <http://ctt.mtu.edu/rucus> for more information.

RUCUS 2018 Call for Presentations

The CTT is seeking presenters and topic ideas for RUCUS 2018. If you are interested in sharing your experiences and use of Roadsoft or if you have any suggestions for interesting topics, please email Mary Crane at mcrane@mtu.edu.

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.

What’s New in Roadsoft 2018.3?

Roadsoft User Group Meeting

April 4, 2018

1:00 PM - 2:30 PM

No cost to register. [Register online](#)
Questions? Email ctt@mtu.edu