

Roadsoft Roundup

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Welcome to the newest edition of Roadsoft Roundup. This quarterly newsletter will inform you of what's happening in Roadsoft now and what's coming in the future. Be sure to click on our *Problem-solving with Roadsoft* section to learn how agencies use Roadsoft to resolve their asset management issues.

The Center for Technology & Training at Michigan Technological University publishes Roadsoft Roundup four times a year. To subscribe, or obtain permission to reprint any articles or graphics from Roadsoft Roundup, contact the CTT.

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What's New in Roadsoft?

Roadsoft Help Manual Available Online

Roadsoft recently launched a new Roadsoft Help Manual. This online manual consolidates all help documents previously found on the website for both written and video tutorials, and brings them to one central location. The Roadsoft Help Manual is organized by categories ranging from the Getting Started section, which takes Roadsoft users through a step-by-step installation process to finding help on most of the modules found in Roadsoft. Each section is categorized to the specific uses of that module. As Roadsoft developers release the latest software updates, the help manual will be kept up to date as well. Updated video tutorials can also be found on specific topics within the help manual.

The manual is available online by clicking on the [Roadsoft Help Manual](#) link found on each page of the website. Roadsoft Technical Support is also available to handle any issues relating to Roadsoft, by calling 906-487-2102 or by sending an [email](#).

Looking Ahead with Roadsoft

Linear Pavement Marking Module Updates

Roadsoft is constantly improving with each new release and update. Upcoming changes to Roadsoft include the release of a new Linear Pavement Marking Module. This update will include a rewrite of the entire module, which adds an enhanced user interface and updated management and analysis tools. With this update, engineers will be able to add inspections to linear segments and create projects that apply to multiple segments. Sean Thorpe, Software Engineer at the Center for Technology & Training (CTT) is excited about the upcoming release of this module. "The biggest thing we are doing is adding data collection for linear pavement marks to the Laptop Data Collector (LDC)," Sean stated. "Users will be able to collect linear pavement marking data using a GPS and the new collection form within the LDC designed specifically for this type of data collection."

The Linear Pavement Marking release date is expected to take place at the end of March 2015, with the next major release, Roadsoft 7.8, which will also include a framework update.

Want To Learn More About Roadsoft?

The CTT conducts Roadsoft training throughout the year. These range from Introduction to Roadsoft (which can be a great refresher even for experienced users) to advanced training workshops that cover specific topics in more detail.

To learn about upcoming webinars and workshops in Roadsoft, visit [CTT Upcoming Events](#).

Problem-solving with Roadsoft

With each issue, we will identify a problem that agencies experience and show how Roadsoft helps to resolve the issue.

Find the Problem-solving section on the next page.

Problem Solving using Roadsoft®



Problem

Frequently our Roadsoft customers ask us, “How can they visually distinguish a specific set of roads (using color code) while eliminating others from the visual distinction?” This information might be useful for creating plow routes or distinguishing roads by surface condition. For example, if we wanted to set different colors to roads based on road condition (good/fair/poor), but we only want to do this for a specific surface type (asphalt), we may still want to view all the other roads as a reference.

If we attempt to apply a legend to color code the good/fair/poor roads, the legend will apply to all the roads that meet the good/fair/poor criteria, not just those that have the surface type of asphalt. The opposite problem exists if we apply a filter based on the same criteria (assuming we didn’t need color coding). When the filter is created for the surface type asphalt and a rating of good/fair/poor, any roads that do not meet that criteria are removed from view. Neither option provides us with the view we are seeking.

So how can we distinguish segments visually (by color coding) based on criteria such as surface type and road condition while still viewing all the remaining roads that do not meet the specified criteria? It can be done by utilizing the Roadsoft Legend Builder and Filter Builder together.

Solution

To create a color distinction between segments based on criteria, such as road condition and surface type, both the Filter Builder and the Legend Builder will be used. We will use the Legend Builder to define the surface condition by color, and the Filter Builder to define the surface type. Finally, we will export the road layer as a shapefile, then apply the shapefile as an external layer. All the roads will be visible; however, the legend will only be applied to the roads we wanted.

To accomplish this, follow the steps below or click on the [video link](#) for a quick demonstration.

1. With the correct map open, make the Road layer active. Select the Legend Builder.
2. Select a Legend field; for example good/fair/poor. To add values, select Add Selected Unique Values. To edit the appearance of values, select the color bar under Item Properties. To change the width, select the width number and use the arrows to increase/decrease width. Select Apply when finished.
3. Next, build a filter to view only roads that meet a certain criteria; for example, Asphalt Surface type. Select Filter Builder. From the Field Groups, select Surface, and from the Field Section selection choose Surface Type Asphalt. Then select Add. Save and name your filter, and then Apply it.
4. To create and export a shapefile, select File from the Main Menu. Select Export, then Export layer to Shapefile. Select appropriate Export Data Fields and choose a location to save the Shapefile. Give the shapefile a meaningful name. Select Export.
5. Now that you’re back to the map, select Add Layer. Select the External layer tab and select the file folder to locate your saved Shapefile and select Open. Select OK.