

7.3.3

Cost Benefits of a 3rd Party Hosted Field Data Collection Tool

Presenter

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Two years after implementing a state-wide Structure Information Management System (SIMS) MnDOT Bridge Office has begun the process of dissecting costs associated with delivery of a web-based field collection (mobile) suite of tools for bridge safety inspections. An attempt will be made to examine fixed costs, including maintenance, associated with the hosted solution and how those costs compare to comparable in-house delivery.

Additional review will also detail costs associated with enhancements and application changes to provide the necessary service customers need to manage their bridge programs. These project-based services will be compared to that of an IT project delivery within a state agency.

The final review will be the practicalities of delivery to over 500 customers throughout Minnesota of which only 23% are within the agency. Providing the same level of service to local and non-MnDOT customers creates additional challenges and customer service needs based on a relatively short current history.

Bio(s):

Thomas has worked for the Mn/DOT for the last 18 years primarily with the Bridge Office with rotations throughout the agency. During that time he has been involved with the development, design, implementation and management of a statewide hydraulic facility management tool, the collection and development of data used for bridge hydraulic modeling and managing bridge inventory and safety inspection data. Prior to working for Mn/DOT, he worked as a Plant Health Specialist with the DOA, taught High and Middle School Science, consulted in the biotechnology industry and was technical support and sales manager for a worldwide biotechnology company. He holds Bachelors of Science degrees in Biology, and Science Education and a Masters of Science in Geography. Thomas continues to enjoy travel in addition to being a responsible steward to a twenty acre forest wonderland on the Rum River in central Minnesota.