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Poor Man's Photolog (Faux-Toe Log)

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Kentucky piloted two safety assessment programs for the use of prioritization of safety projects. These programs (AAA's usRAP and FHWA's Systemic Safety Project) require roadway attribute data that are typically unavailable for local roads. Several roadway attributes were obtained from Google Street View. Where Street View coverage is not available, the Kentucky Transportation Center at the University of Kentucky (KTC) developed a process to get imagery of relevant roadways onto a computer screen in order to use usRAP software to assess and rate the roadway attributes. Using a GPS-enabled digital camera, ESRI ArcGIS, Microsoft Excel and asset management software, KTC developed a methodology to use digital photos to bring those roads not covered by Google Street View into the office for raters to explore in the usRAP environment. Photos were linked to a linear reference system allowing raters to rate sequential sections of the roadway according to roadway attributes. The process resulted in a database that contained roadway attributes for roadways off of the state-maintained system. These roadways can now be prioritized similar to their state-maintained counterparts allowing Kentucky to allocation funding accordingly.

Bio(s):

Eric Green received his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in Civil Engineering in the University of Kentucky. He has worked for KTC at UK since 1998 and is a research engineer in traffic and safety. He is a professional engineer and a GISP.

Tony Fields is a research analyst at the KY Transportation Center at UK. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Geography with a GIS focus and is in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering. His research interest is in transportation safety.