GIS and Transportation

Fall 2011 Edward McCormack

Washington State Transportation Center Civil and Environmental Engineering

GIS for Transportation (GIS-T)

- Applications
 - Traffic Engineering
 - Transportation Planning
 - Technology / Intelligent Transportation
 Systems (ITS) Applications

• Sources of GIS data

What is Special about a GIS-T

- Reliance on network data
- Many GIS polygons (areas or zones) are defined by roads— which in transportation are features in themselves
- Require variable data along a network (pavement type, traffic volumes, crashes)
- Multiple lanes in a link (arc)
- Planar vis non-planar (intersection or overpass?)

GIS-T Software

- ArcView has a growing number of transportation functions
- Other specialized GIS-T packages such as TransCAD, Intergraph are available

A Powerful GIS for Transportation

TransCAD is a state-of-the-art GIS that you can use to create and customize maps, build and maintain geographic data sets, and perform many different types of spatial analysis. TransCAD includes sophisticated GIS features such as polygon overlay, buffering, and geocoding, and has an open system architecture that supports data sharing on local- and wide-area networks.

GIS and Traffic Engineering

Traffic Safety Studies

- Crashes are recorded on an accident report form
- Location of crash is recorded
- Simple to use GIS to locate crash on roadway and then analyze by crash type, cause, severity, etc.

Crashes Involving Domestic Animals



Crashes Involving Wild Animals





Ice Warning Sign Policy



WSDOT Maintenance Areas





Many GIS Based Safety Applications



GIS-T Data Needs

- Point data: sign location, crash site
- Length data: shoulder width, number of lanes
- Time data: new pavement in 2003
- Route data: I-90, Milepost 29.02, intersection of Brooklyn and 45th Street
- Zone Data: In the City of Seattle

Solutions to GIS-T Data Needs?

- Unique roadway database
- Change segment for each data change
- Fixed segments

Or

• Dynamic Segmentation



Variable Length Segments



Dynamic Segmentation Approach



•Data are maintained in individual tables, limiting data redundancy

•Attributes describe varying extents along a section of roadway

•Graphic representations of attribute data are generated "on the fly"



Dynamic Segmentation

- Events (crashes, pavement type, etc) are related to a route segment where the segments are not pre-defined.
- The extent of the segments change based on the criteria used to define segments.

Dynamic Segmentation

- Uses a series of cross referenced tables to that link each type of information to the appropriate street segments.
- Uses a **linear or distance referencing** system such as mileposts
- GIS converts mileposts to lat-long and turns data into a "layer"

Why You Need Linear Referencing

- Where are you on the roadway?
- A method to location attribute or events along a line (a road)

• A number of linear referencing methods

Linear Referencing Methods

Example LRM - Distance Measure



0023 0.8 1.7 0023 3.7 4.5	ROUTE_ID	BEGIN_DISTANCE	BEGIN_SECID	END_DISTANCE	END_SECID	ATTRIBUTES
0023 3.7 4.5	0023	0.8		1.7		
	0023	3.7		4.5		

WSDOT - Mileposts and Accumulated Route Miles (ARMS)



Crash Data into a GIS

Calculation **Crash Data ArcView** Process Located by Maps crash Converts milepost locations to state (in the field) Mileposts to routes using Accumulated **ARMs Route Miles** (ARMs)

GIS and Transportation Planning

GIS and Transportation Data Inventory

- GIS are used to keep databases of physical elements and characteristics of transportation systems
- Many possible data elements
 - Streets and highway
 - Signal and signs
 - Pavement
 - Vegetation
 - Traffic volumes
 - Many more



Transportation Planning and Zones



Different Scales of Zones



WRCOG. 1



Network Conflation





Graphics for Presentation



Transportation Planning Application -Mixed Use Neighborhoods



Suburban



New Urbanism


New Urbanism



compact high density sidewalk pedestrian Main Street 5 minute walk buildings close to street parallel street parking grid streets mixed use land use

Suburbs



spread out low density highway car shopping mall car trip buildings set back parking lots cul-de-sacs segregated land use



Source: Traditional Neighborhood Development, Will the Traffic Work?, Kulash, 1990.

The Seattle Area Travel Diary

- Respondents contacted using random dialing
- Respondent asked for address of trip start and trip end
- Covered the travel of 900 households over two day

1. I STARTED THE DAY AT:						
address:						
or cross streets city:						

	I LEFT AT:	TO GO TO	PURPOSE
2	am or pm	address: or cross streets: city:	
3	am or pm	address: or cross streets: city;	
4	am or pm	address: or cross streets: city:	
	am	address	

Geocoding

• Conversion of an address into a point specified by a latitude and longitude





Queen Anne Survey Household



Queen Anne Trip Origins and Destinations



Queen Anne Regional Origins and Destinations



Shortest Path Trips



Average Daily Travel Mileage



Bus Stops



GIS and Technology - Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)

GIS and ITS

- GIS interface between Internet user and spatial data
- GIS used with global positioning system (GPS) data

Interactive GIS Map



GIS for realtime information on traffic conditions





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GPS is an important source of transportation GIS data

- GPS data increasingly common
- GPS data increasingly accurate
- Examples:
 - Handheld GPS with barcode reader for sign inventory
 - Pavement conditions
 - Fleet management for trucks
 - Many other sources of GPS data

Global Positioning Systems Use Triangulation



WSDOT Roadside Feature Inventory

- GPS data collection in clear zone
- Locate
 objects to one
 foot accuracy



GIS used to crunch GPS data

- GPS from Probe vehicles
 - Travel time
 - Travel speeds
 - Identify roadway bottle necks
 - Check loop accuracy
- GPS from Fleet Management System





Identify Bottlenecks

Area of Recurring Delay



GPS and GIS in Trucks





GIS Process GPS data



GIS to Analyze Ramp & Interchanges





Identifying truck bottlenecks Step 1 - Code truck Global Positioning System (GPS) data to Washington State's freight corridors.

We have data from 6,000 trucks each day



Centerline Database Problem

- Many agencies improving their network data with centerline surveys
- Air Photo
- GPS in vehicles



GIS and Roadway Segmentation



Identifying truck bottlenecks Step 2 – Pre-determine segments to analyze on the state's major truck corridors

We divided the state highway system into segments according to:

- location of ramps and major (signalized) intersection,
- speed limit changes, and
- Urban/rural boundaries.

22,000 segments in Washington



Identifying truck bottlenecks Step 3 – Automatically pull GPS data from trucks traveling for each segments.





20

0

40

travel speed (mph)

60

80

7Ő

Identifying truck bottlenecks Step 4 – Determine each segment's reliability by analyzing truck speed data by time-of-day

AM Peak

Speed distribution for SB I-5 (Snohomish County between 220th SW and 236th SW)

Probability Density

PM Peak Speed distribution for SB I-5 (Snohomish

County between 220th SW and 236th SW



The diagram on the left shows a highway segment that is unreliable in the AM peak. The diagram on the right shows that trucks reliably travel at 50 to 65 miles per hour in the PM peak on the same segment.

Identifying truck bottlenecks Step 5 – Define and apply criteria to rank the highway bottlenecks

We developed four criteria to identify and rank truck bottlenecks:

1. Truck speed below severe congestion threshold, which WSDOT has defined as 60 percent of posted speed (35 miles per hour on urban freeways),

2. Average speed,

3. Speed distribution (reliability), and

4. Truck volume.

Percentage of truck speeds falling below severe congestion threshold on southbound I-5

Segment Location	6AM-9AM	9AM-3PM	3PM-7PM	7PM-6AM	Average
NE 63 rd St and NE Pacific Ave E	53.9%	51.7%	80.1%	6.9%	48.2%
NE Pacific St and Eastlake Ave E	39.9%	41.8%	78.3%	7.7%	41.9%
NE 75 th St and NE 63 rd St	43.2%	43.9%	69.4%	8.1%	41.2%
NE 80 th St and NE 75 th St	37.4%	41.1%	66.6%	7.1%	38.0%
NE 90 th St and NE 79 th St	29.1%	39.2%	56.3%	2.0%	31.7%
Eastlake Ave E and SR 520	13.7%	26.0%	82.8%	4.1%	31.6%
SR 520 and I-90	20.2%	22.4%	66.4%	5.0%	28.5%
NE 95 th St and NE 90 th St	19.1%	35.1%	57.0%	1.7%	28.2%
NE Pacific St and Eastlake Ave E	7.6%	38.4%	57.9%	3.5%	26.8%
NE I23 rd St and NE II7 th St	14.9%	19.7%	34.3%	2.8%	17.9%


SR 99 northbound



- Location: SR-99 northbound, north of SR-519, SeaTac,WA
- Length: 0.28 mile
- Daily Truck Volume: 3,100
- Average truck travel speed: 21 mph
- Percentage of travel speed below 60% of posted speed limit: 72%

Time Period	Reliability
AM	Unreliable
Midday	Unreliable
PM	Unreliable



We Can Locate Problem Areas



GIS-T in the Future

- Expansion beyond use by transportation professionals (911, yellow pages, travel planning, vehicle tracking, etc)
- New interfaces (3D, voice activation, virtual GIS)
- Better GPS (Russian and European systems)
- More linked to remote sensing (satellites) -Google Earth
- Better interoperability with other data systems
- More on the Internet and real-time

GIS-T Data Sources on the Internet

Transportation Agency GIS/spatial data

- All state DOTs have road center line database
- Many agencies maintain geo-spatial database (layers)
 - railroads
 - political boundaries
 - Etc.
- Sometimes web-based

http://www.gis.fhwa.dot.gov/

U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration

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NEW

Resource: <u>Quarterly Webcast on Nevada Department of</u> <u>Transportation's Multi-Level Linear Referencing System</u> <u>and Event GeoLocator Application</u> September 2009

Resource: <u>GIS in Transportation Newsletter</u> Fall 2009 (PDF) (<u>Text-only version</u>)

Resource: <u>GIS Applications in Eco-Logical Grant Projects:</u> <u>Peer Exchange Summary Report</u> July 2009 (PDF) (<u>Text-only version</u>)

Resource: <u>GIS in Transportation Newsletter</u> Summer 2009 (PDF) (<u>Text-only version</u>)

Resource: <u>Peer Exchange on GIS Applications for Bicycle</u> and <u>Pedestrian Decision-Making</u> May 2009 (PDF) (<u>Text-only version</u>)



State/Local GIS Practices Database

Visit the database to learn more about GIS applications and practices in transportation being currently implemented across the nation.

- Explore Practices
- Submit Your Agency's Practices



Upcoming Events

October 2009: GIS Tools for Strategic Conservation Planning

November 2009: 2009 GIS in Transit Conference

December 2009: International Workshop on GIS for Transportation

February 2010: GIS: The Geographic Approach for the Nation Conference

April 2010: AASHTO GIS for Transportation Symposium

What is GIS?

Geographic Information System (GIS) is a collection of computer software, hardware, data, and personnel used to store, manipulate, analyze, and present geographically referenced information. Spatial data and associated attribute information can be layered on top of one another for viewing and analysis.

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King County



http://hepgis.fhwa.dot.gov/



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http://www.bts.gov/publications/national_transportat ion_atlas_database/2009/

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WSDOT Geodata Catalog

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Washington Transportation GIS Framework



To be successful, WA-Trans must be supported by **well defined**, **documented**, **repeatable processes**. Initially, a business needs

Contact Us

. GIS Project Manager:

 To help maintain data over the long term, Change Detection and Change Management process are being developed and tested. Change detection is 95% complete. Some QA/QC data reports are being reviewed by providers. Questions?

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Linear Referencing Methods

Example LRM - Reference Marker Offsets







Truck Data vs. Car Data

GPS Speeds (Trucks) vs. Freeway Loop Speeds (Cars)

Road	Mile Post	Time	GPS Speed	5-Minute Loop Data	20-Second Loop Data
I-405	8.00	14:34	15.3	59	26
I-405	8.06	14:35	14.5	60	
I-405	8.47	14:36	37.8	60	
I-405	9.19	14:38	23.9	60	45

- Which is right?
- It turns out trucks have different travel patterns and speeds than cars

We Can Quantify Network Problems



We Can Evaluate Construction Impacts



Wireless GPS Data



Geocoding Results

Table 3: Geocoding Results Table 3: Tab

Addresses¤	a	¤
Total×	12,631×	lc
%··Computer·Matched·≈	72.8%≈	lc
Intersections¤	a	¤
Total×	3,882×	lc
%·Computer·Matched≈	57.3%×	c
Places¤	a	¤
Total≈	825×	l⊏
%·Computer·Matched≈	0%×	c
All Data 🛱	a	¤
Matched by Computer or Manually	97.0%×	lc

Shopping by Walk Trips



Truck Data

- Truck ID
- Latitude and Longitude
- Time/ Date Stamp
- Ping at engine start/stop and every 1/2 to 15 minutes
- Privacy protected

GPS data from trucks

GPS Vendors	Average Total Daily Records	Total Trucks	Frequency of reads (minutes)	Data type
Vendor A	94,000	Approx 2,500 per day	5-15	In-vehicle GPS with a cellular connection
Vendor B	12,000	25	0.5	In-vehicle GPS with a cellular connection
Vendor C	3,000	60	1-5	GPS cell Phone

Geocoding



Average Daily Travel by Mode



0 10 20 30 40 Average Miles of Travel per...