

Sign Inventory: Legacy vs. New Technology

Neal Hawkins
Center for Transportation Research and Education
Iowa State University
2711 S. Loop Drive, Suite 4700
Ames, IA 50010
hawkins@iastate.edu

Omar Smadi
Center for Transportation Research and Education
Iowa State University
2711 S. Loop Drive, Suite 4700
Ames, IA 50010
smadi@iastate.edu

Zach Hans
Center for Transportation Research and Education
Iowa State University
2711 S. Loop Drive, Suite 4700
Ames, IA 50010
zhans@iastate.edu

Jon Resler
Center for Transportation Research and Education
Iowa State University
2711 S. Loop Drive, Suite 4700
Ames, IA 50010
jlresler@iastate.edu

ABSTRACT

The Iowa Department of Transportation (Iowa DOT), through its Sign Management Task Force, is embarking on a comprehensive effort to develop a sign management system that would allow the Iowa DOT to improve sign quality, as well as manage all aspects of signage, from request, ordering, fabricating, installing, maintaining, and ultimately to removing, and provide the ability to budget for these key assets on a statewide basis. This paper reports on the task force's efforts to address issues related to referencing sign locations as part of the inventory building process. This effort provides a contrast between legacy referencing systems (route and milepost) and GPS-based techniques (latitude and longitude). A summary comparison of field accuracies using a variety of consumer grade devices is also provided.

Key words: GIS—GPS--inventory—quality—signs