**Roadway CADD Users Group Meeting**
*January 30, 2013*

## In attendance

CADD Support: Jim McMellon and Oak Thammavong

CADD Representatives: **G-Brew:** Kevin Aldridge; **B-Moore:** Piotr Stojda; **J-Goodnight:** Dennis Lowery, Vasim Barodawala; **G-Lovering:** Tina Snell; **R-Patel:** Paul Rochester; **J-Speer:** Travis Potts; **T-Houser:** Chris Lee, Casey Harris; **J-Moore:** Sherri Calhoun,

**CADD-IT:** Dean Noland, Bryan Edwards

## Discussion

Struck from minutes as a miscommunication

~~Before starting on topics from the agenda, print distribution of plans for certain milestones was brought up. Sherri had pointed out that someone in her group had to spend a large amount of time producing the correct amount of copied plan sets. She asked if there was a way to address. Chris Lee pointed out that certain form letters should have a note "Normal Print Distribution" at the bottom. We reviewed a couple of form letters and noticed that there was some inconsistency with the letters. By copy of these minutes, I will point this out to the Form Letter committee.~~

Jim informed the group that the email address for submitting pdf and spreadsheets has been updated on the Support Form. Everyone should now use the new plot room email address ccaplotrrom@ncdot.gov. This ensures that your plot needs can be covered even on days when Stephanie is not here.

**Use of new Combo Quantities spreadsheet and need for existing combo summary sheets**.
Located on Roadway Designs website: Microstation=>CADD=>Excel Spreadsheets=>ComboSheet2012.xlsx
Since the new Combo Summary Spreadsheet involves the use of "Paste-Special" features to fully utilize, it was determined that a short tutorial be created and also adding a "Help" tab. This new feature allows a user to move and size small tables on the front sheet with a lot of ease. This video support will be available on our website along with the Help tab shortly.

Everyone agreed that all the sheets in the "Combination Sheets" and "Pipe Summary Sheets" folders can be removed from the NCDOT sheet ddb.

**Current Procedures between Hydraulics and Roadway Design with Corridor Modeling.**
We discussed the current status of the use of CM and the vision of future use between the two units. While it is possible for Hydraulics to add ditches with the current version of SS2, setting up a project and using our ird is not the route that is preferred. A better project flow will be available when SS3 comes out. At that time, Hydro will create their ditches (Oak has already create a Hydro template library) and attach them to our model (not to our individual templates). Roadway Design will continue to add the ditches until the update in software is available and units have been trained. We (Roadway CADD Support) will also prepare a guideline describing what Roadway should include when delivering the model to Hydro, and what to expect from Hydro when they have finished the hydraulic design in their model. It will be a guideline of expectations for our designers.

We also discussed the current status of the Drainage Sheet Summary (DSS) Assistant. Several folks were under the impression that this sheet was required on all projects. Four projects were identified as using for beta testing this new application. Status of those four projects and the status of use of the DSS is not known but Bryan Edwards will find out and we will update everyone once determined. It was noted that some projects other than the beta projects are coming from Hydro so it is being used by certain hydro users.

**New Layout of Website**.
We discussed different questions about the location of certain information need on projects such as quantity sheets. CADD Support will create a workshop for understanding the new layout. A poll questionnaire asking users what items they want "Featured" on each Roadway Design webpage (on Connect NCDOT) is being developed. Look for the poll and training very shortly. One important point is that everyone needs to understand as we move forward with SharePoint, file sharing and search genre, there are three distinct website locations and understanding where you might find what you are looking for. See attachment for more information also.

1). Inside DOT:  https://inside.ncdot.gov/Pages/Home.aspx

> Inside was created for storing everything that is intended for DOT employees and only DOT employees.

2). Connect NCDOT: https://connect.ncdot.gov/projects/Roadway/Pages/default.aspx

> Connect was created as a location for sharing information with DOT employees and Business Shareholders (such as consultants and contractors). This is where almost all of Roadways information resides since we provide most of our information with PEF's. But say a shortcut to our email is not allowed since no one outside DOT should have access to this (believe me, I tried). Eventually, outside use will require a NCID account to access this site.

3). NCDOT:  http://www.ncdot.gov/

> This is public information and can be viewed by the whole wide world. No account is necessary and can be viewed by anyone. Our public hearing maps are available on this site as is a lot of DMV content.

**Q&A topics discussed.**
A brief explanation of the CADD Support database and tickets generated using the support forms. While the current database system provides a very valuable tool for our support system it is not 100% perfect. It is noted that someone can start a ticket for support but if they cancel it along the way or simply exit out or cancel the email portion, a support ticket number is created but no email is generated. CADD Support from time to time will review all open tickets. We try to contact these ticket holders but generally they are "we fixed the problem and didn't need the ticket" replies and will get deleted from the db. There are numerous other ways for tickets to find their way in and might not find a reply. However CADD support puts a lot of effort and with very good success in addressing every ticket. .  If a user hasn't had contact about their request within a few days of sending, it would be appropriate to follow up with a short call or email to make sure their request was received.

It was also noted that CADD Support tickets decreased 42% over the first two months of using the CADD coordinators as a must contact first in support. Not sure if it is directly related or just a small sampling (~14/month for first ten months and ~8/month for last two months) though each CADD representative noted they have been asked questions and have been able to help their users which is the intent of using this group to help spread the knowledge.

**LiDar information from Photogrammetry.**
Attached are minutes from a meeting about general discussion on void areas, lidar information, and other methods of existing terrain collection of data that Roadway Design uses. Look in the future for a short presentation from Photogrammetry on how they gather all this information and put it together.

**Additional Training.**
We have recently trained all field R/W folks on use of our R/W pdf plans and SnagIt. We have since been asked if we could provide SnagIt training to Roadway which we will offer shortly. We will also be putting something together for our website and would like to know if there are any other topics we can produce help with that isn't currently provided. We have also recently transformed Jim's old office into a small conference room with overhead projector. The room is a good size and well equipped to bring in small groups (squad size) to go over technical content together.

We also have Camtashia (video producing software) on a laptop that we can show anyone how to use if they would like to create a short video tutorial they think would help everyone that we can post on the web. A lot of us perform tasks that others might have a hard time with (CADD, SAP, SDV, Spreadsheets) that we can capture and make available if anyone wants to help.

It was also asked- What is SDV?  Is it available for everyone? Jim explained Spatial Data Viewer and will verify if everyone can request this application if they don't already have it (it used to be limited). It is recommended that anyone who gets this software take the short class GIS offers for its use. A signup for the class will be offered once installation limits are determined. An example was talked about in which a user discovered a –Y- line was a designated Bike Route on a Super Street project using SDV and avoided potential problems this would have caused had it been discovered much later along the project timeline.

As always, CADD IT also provides instructional CADD training videos on many topics including CM at:
https://inside.ncdot.gov/Business/technology/Pages/Tech-CADD-Trn-Videos.aspx

**Corridor Modeling Best Practices**

Corridor Modeling - XSLabeler

Oak went over details in better understanding how cross section labeling works. The common cause of XSLabeler Crashing is multiple GPK files (CM Q&A). XSLabeler uses only point names and nodes, not the levels or the cross section components/elements themselves. This helps explain why some slopes are sometimes not labeled (if you have made template alterations) and some miscellaneous slopes appear (previous points names not erased from the file).If the point names in your XSC do not match with default XSlabeler XLP, then you can customized it. The customized XLP must be saved to the project folder where you are cutting the cross sections (XSC) so it will not be overwritten with a workspace update.