MD of Provost #52 Gravel Road Rating System for Asset Management

With the use of LiDAR



THE SOCRATIC CAO'S QUESTIONS

- What IS it and what does it DO?
- Why are we doing it?
- Can Council understand it and does it help Gary?

WHY ARE WE DOING IT?



THE RURAL MUNICIPAL MANDATE

Primary Political Topic:

-Roads

Primary Point of Operational Interference and Public Angst

- Roads
- Primary Expense
 - Roads

Primary Mandate:

-Roads

Conclusion?

It's the roads, stupid.



What makes a good gravel road?

- Three things: profile, profile and profile.
- A gravel road with a poor base and a good profile is better than a gravel road with a poor profile and a good base
- Water management is the key to success, and profile is critical to water management.
- Good maintenance without proper profile is wasted money and effort.
- Profile is measurable, and easy to define as a metric.
- Difficult to measure without the application of technology.

2019

BACKGROUND

In the fall of 2019 the M.D. of Provost began collaborating with MRF Geosystems out of Calgary to develop a system using LiDAR to provide automatic, baseline condition measurements for our gravel roads.





Starting late fall of 2019, we began working on a formulaic rating system to automatically generate condition ratings using LiDAR information. This rating system was finalized in 2020.

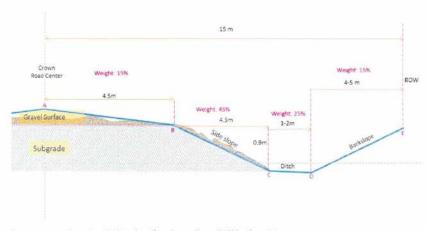
What IS it and what does it DO?

The process uses LiDAR to scan every gravel road from fenceline to fenceline and provide an automatic evaluation using predetermined metrics.

The formula breaks the road surface from property line to property line into a right side and left side with each side broken down to four sections: driving surface, shoulder/fore slope, ditch bottom and back slope, with each section having its own weighting.

Gravel Road Slope Evaluation

Class A Road (always 30 meters ROW width)



A: crown -road center, B: Road surface boundary, C: Side slope toe

D: Ditch toe, E: Backslope boundary (ROW)

Step 1: In the whole gravel road network, take 1 mile for TWP RD or 2 miles for RGE RD as one individual evaluation unit. If a piece of road is longer than 1 mile or 2 miles, then break it into pieces in terms of each mile.

For each evaluation unit, apply the following steps to evaluate the road:

Step 2: For each 25 meters interval along the road direction:

Step2.1: Extract road left side profile to calculate the rating points

a. Calculate road surface score of AB scoreAB (15 points)

// If AB is 0% - 3%: 15 points at 3%, 0 points at 0%, interpolating scores

if 3%>slopeAB>0%: scoreAB= 15*slopeAB/0.03

// If AB is 3% - 5.5%; 15 points

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else if 5.5%>=slopeAB>=3%: scoreAB=15

// Every 0.5% above 5.5%: lose 5 points.

else if 8.5%>slopeAB>5.5%: scoreAB=15-5*int((slopeAB-5.5%)/0.5+0.5)

// if slopeAB >8.5% or slopeAB<0

else: scoreAB =0;
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b. Calculate side slope score of BC scoreBC (45 points)

C is a point where the drop of BC is 0.9 meters.

Search for the point C along the side slope, on which the drop of BC is 0.9 meters,

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If point C can be found, calculate the horizontal distance of BC (hordis_BC):

//3-4 meters: 45 points.

if 3=<hordis_BC<=4 meters: scoreBC=45

//4-5 meters: 35 points

else if 4<hordis_BC<=5 meters: scoreBC=35

//5-6 meters: 25 points

else if 5<hordis_BC<=6 meters: scoreBC=25

//2 meters -3 meters: 3 meters 45, 2 meters 0 points, interpolating else if 2=<hordis_BC<3 meters:

scoreBC =45* ((horizontal distance of BC-2) /1.0)

//2 meters or less: 0 for BC only. CD and DE can still have their scores else if hordis_BC<2: scoreBC=0

//>=6 meters: 0 for BC, CD, and DE else:

scoreBC=0, scoreCD=0, scoreDE=0, skip c,d, and goto e
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Else: scoreBC=0 //if the point C with 0.9m drop cannot be found.

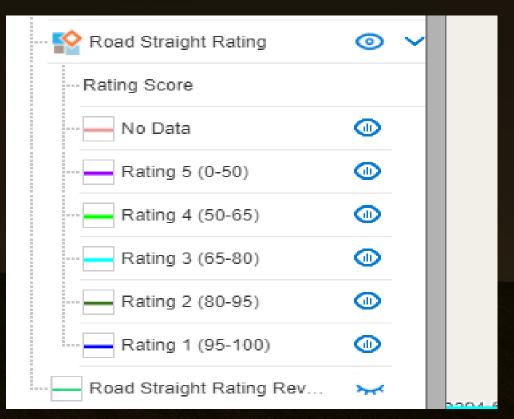
c. Calculate ditch score of CD scoreCD

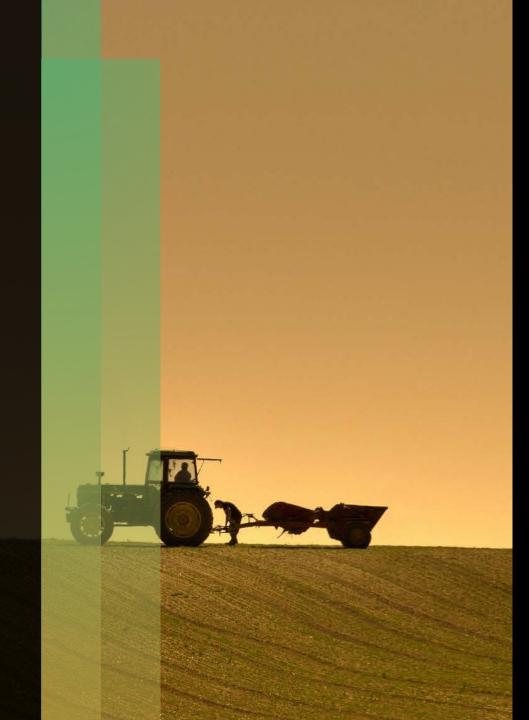
D is a point where the elevation starts to rise. Let the horizontal distance of CD be hordis_CD

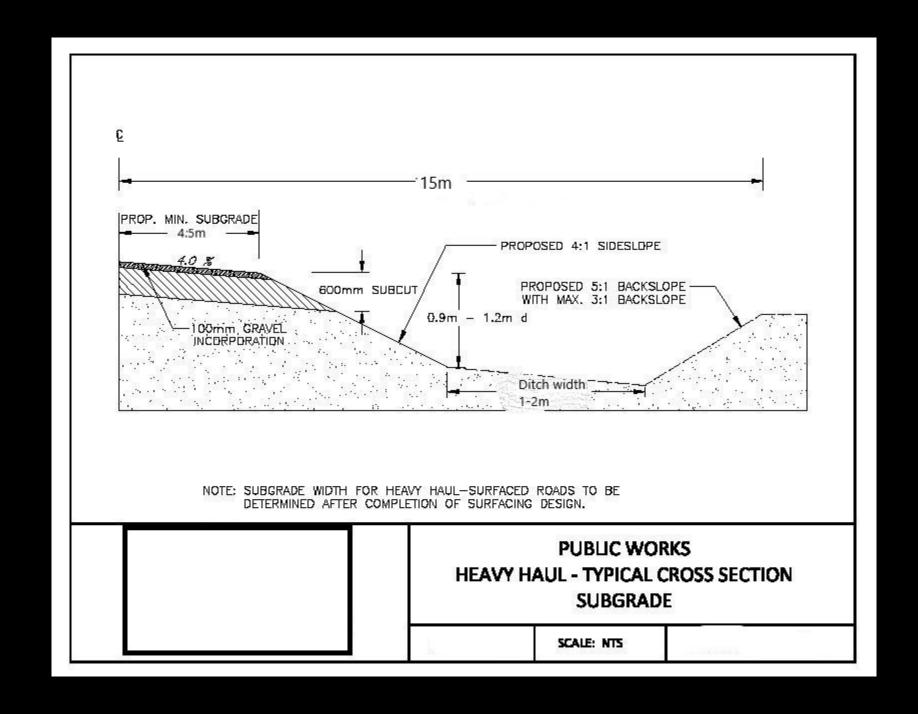
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//CD should be 1 to 2 meters: 25 points. Do not worry about the slope of CD.
if 1<=hordis_CD <=2: scoreCD=25

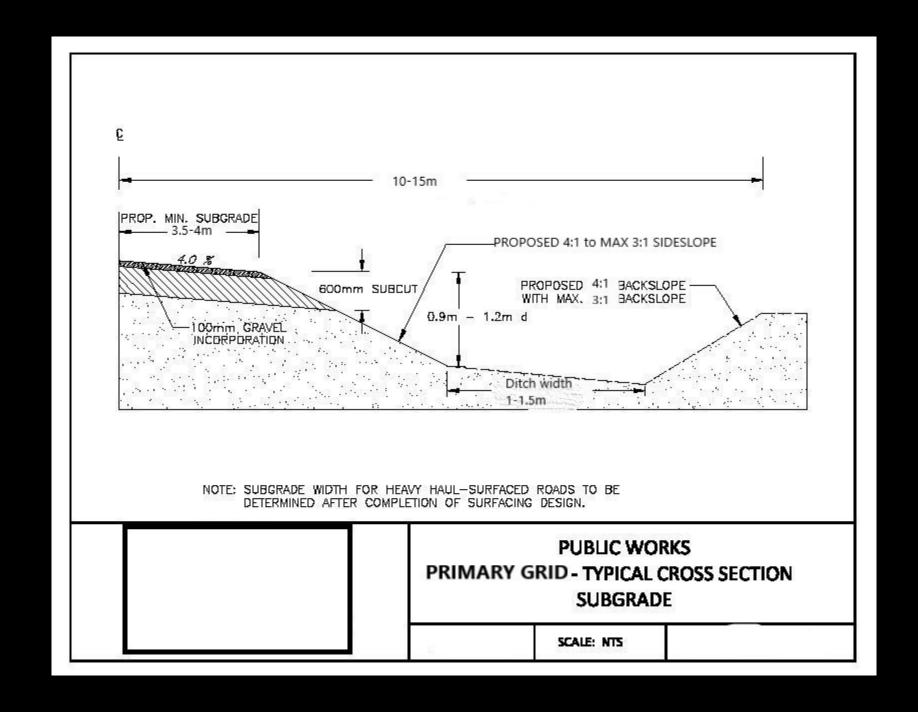
// If CD is longer than 2 meters + no back slope: 25 points. Back slope also gets 15 points.
else if hordis_CD>2 meters:
    if backslope not exists:
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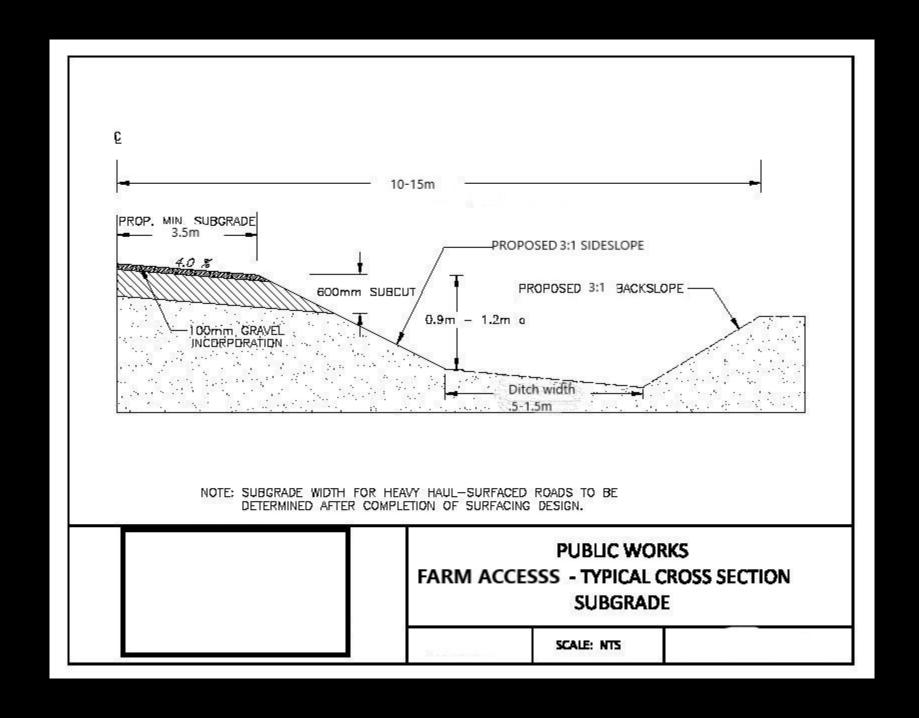
- We used this formula on four different classes of roads, separated by major use:
- Class A 9m driving surface industrial to a Class D being a 6-7m driving surface gravel access for agriculture or residential use.
- In each class the roads are rated from 1 being best condition to 5 being the worst condition, using a range of LiDAR measurement to determine the condition ranking.

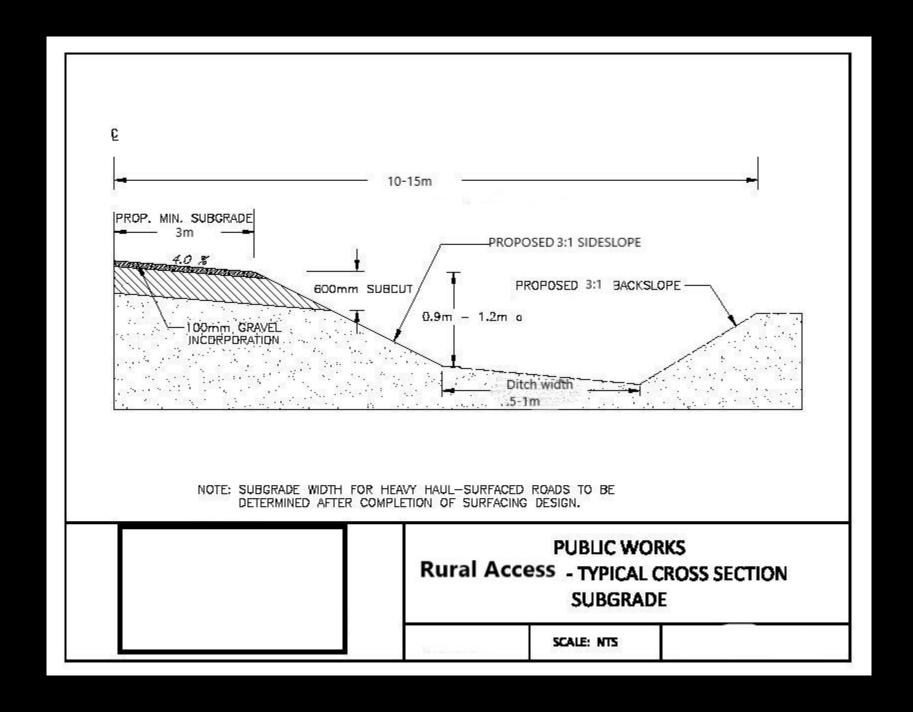














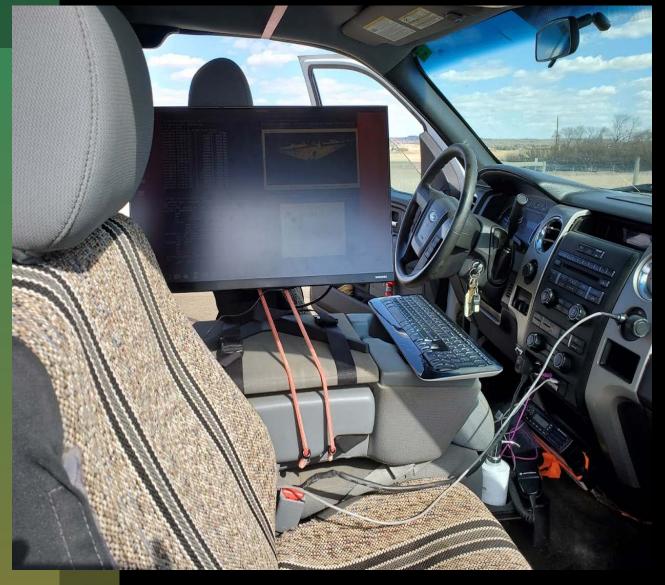


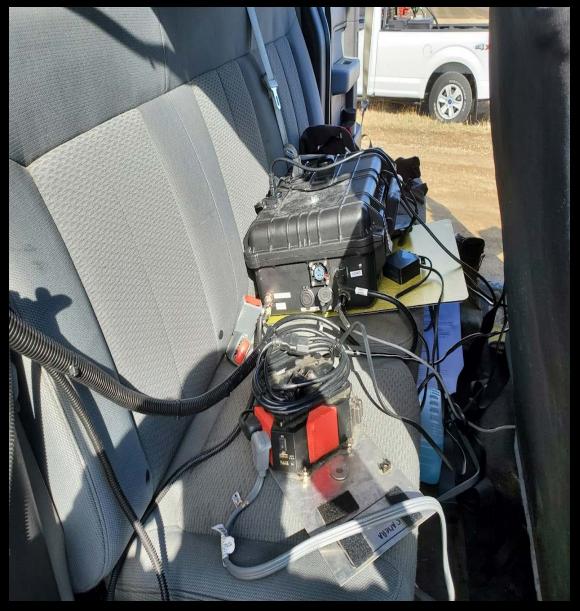
After much experimentation, we finally chose a solid-state unit with three units to provide 180 degrees of coverage.







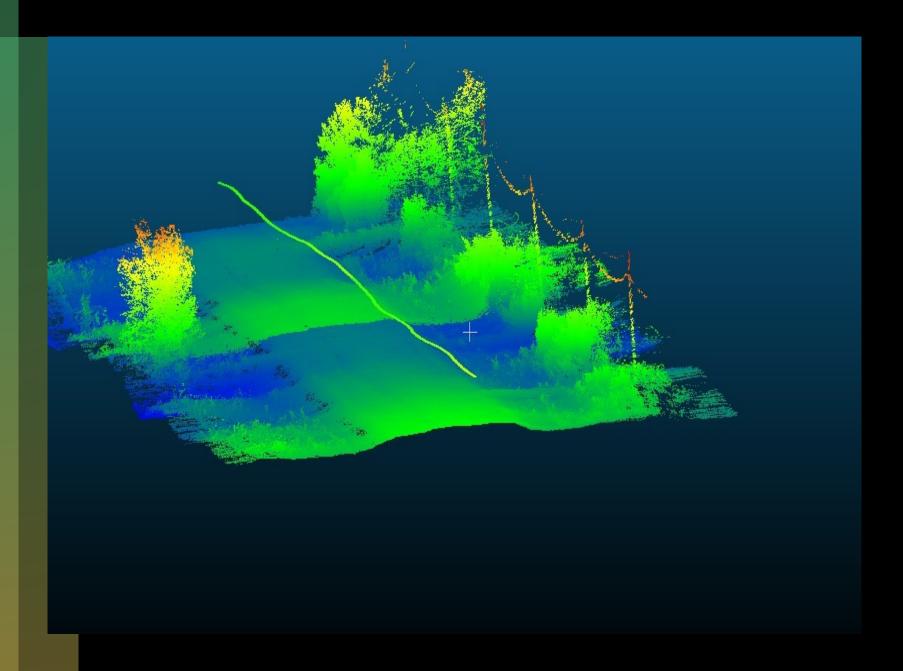




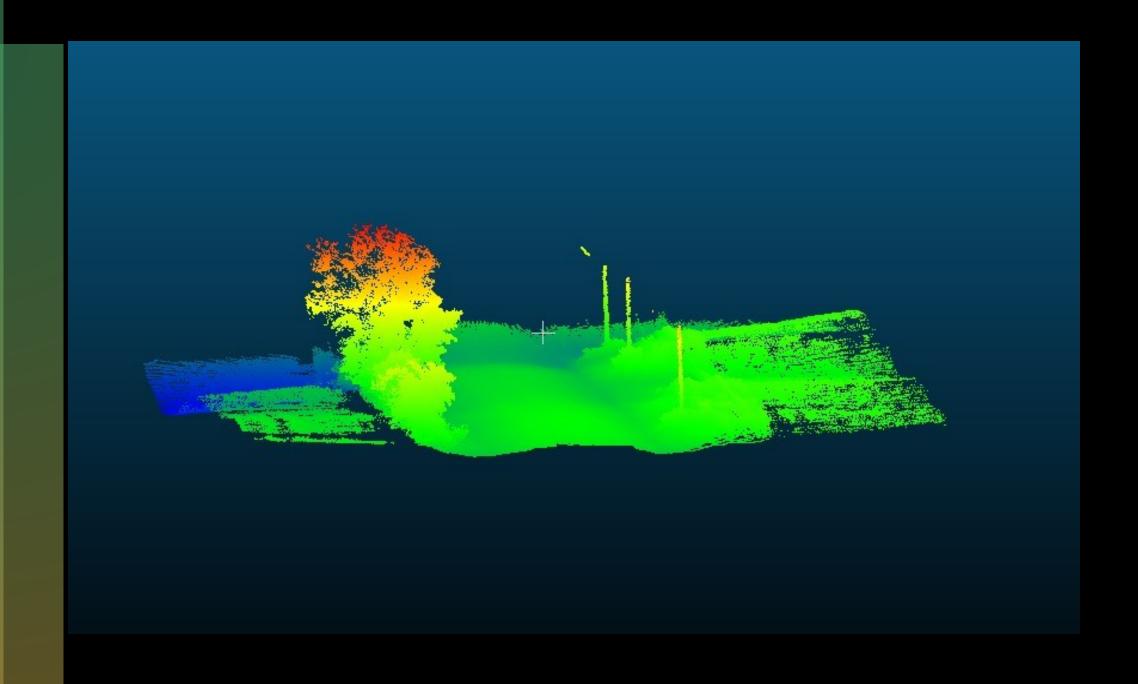


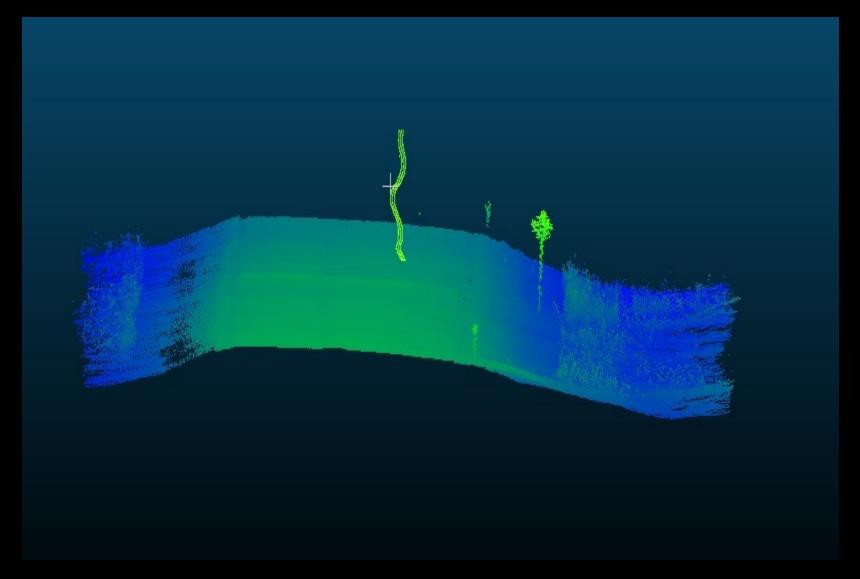
With the solid-state LiDAR and three units each data collection crew could travel at 35-40 kph to retrieve very accurate data.

The unit is affected by heavy dust and rain; this would cause an excessive amount of data points of unusable information. With the weather we had in the spring of 2021 we were able to gather data on approximately 2400 kms of gravel roads in four and half weeks.

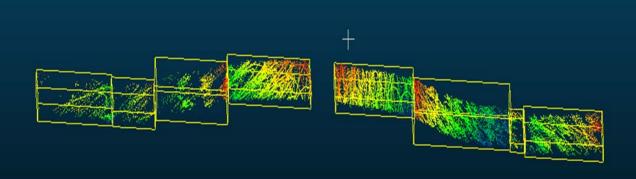


Some of the raw LiDAR data collected before removal of information not needed.

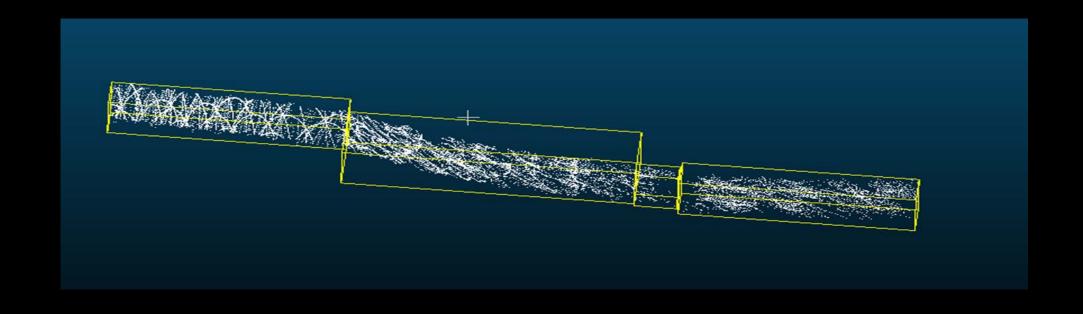


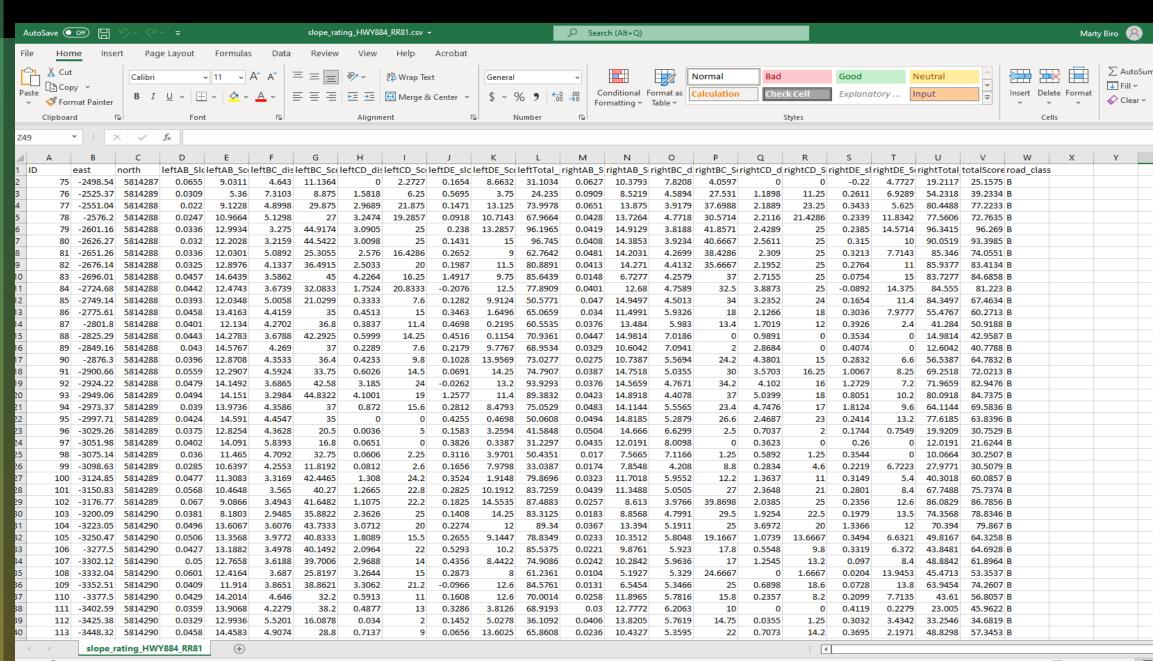


Early Spring as soon as the snow is gone and before any new growth is the best time to collect data. Later in the year mowing of the grass would be required.



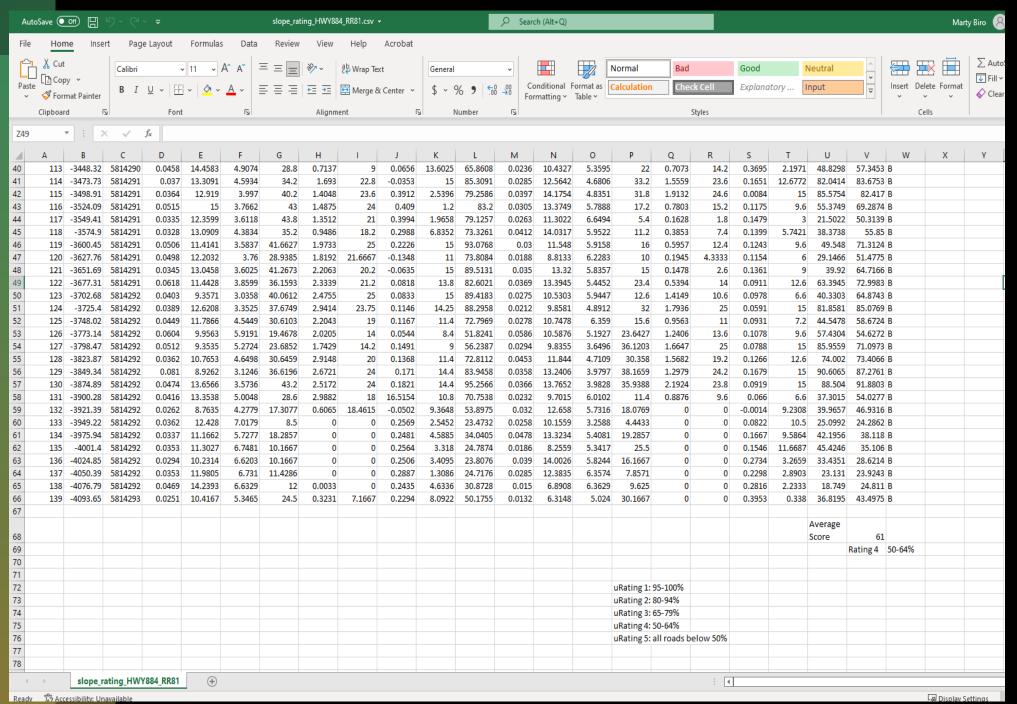
Showing the break down for calculations by section of road and one by half of road.



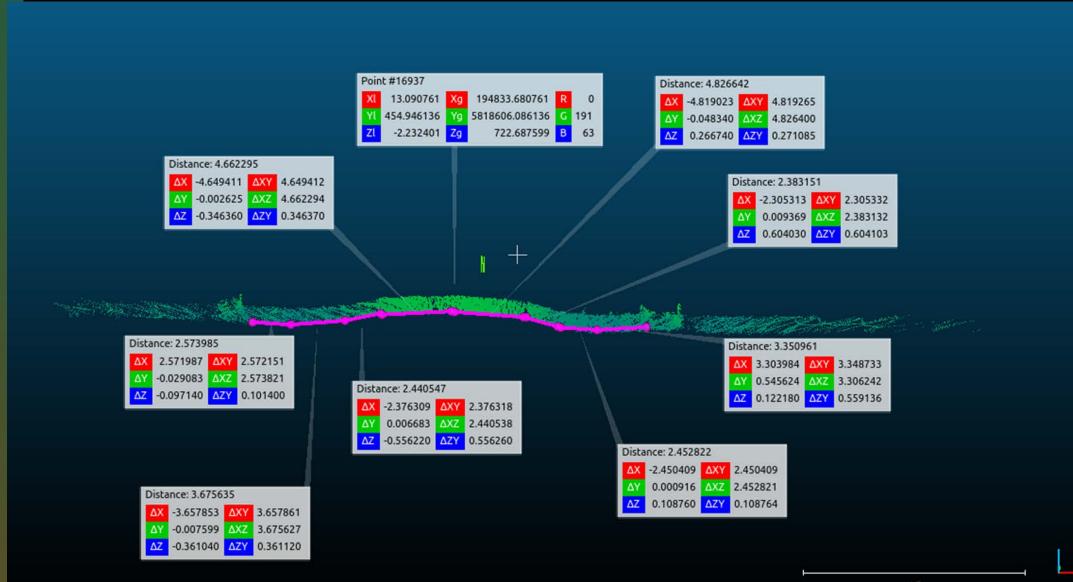


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This slide and previous slide shows the data collected from one mile with a total of 139 cross section measurements in that mile.



Challenges to Implementation

- Translating technology-driven evaluations to real-world outcomes takes dedication, work and culture change.
- Politics thrives on ignorance, while governance thrives on data: the former is fun, the latter is hard.
- Overcoming cynicism and resistance to technology is difficult.
- Crafting and utilizing asset management solutions such as this as a means to an end, and not an end in and of themselves.

In Conclusion – LiDAR Lessons Learned

- Provides an objective, consistent baseline for condition evaluation of gravel roads.
- Removes semantics by eliminating human interpretation and replacing it with standardized, objective evaluation using technology.
- Removes politics from infrastructure management and planning.
- Provides an easy to understand, easy to digest representation of quality for non-expert decision makers.
- Is quick, efficient, accurate and uses minimal human resources.
- Validates outcomes and provides a common, centralized record upon which to build institutional knowledge.