Sign Inventories
Lessons Learned

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Sign Inventories: Lessons Learned

- Planning for the inventory
- Conducting the inventory
- Replacing signs

Over a dozen completed inventories
Trivia!

- What’s wrong with this sign assembly?

Over a dozen completed inventories
Planning for the Sign Inventory
Eligibility requirements and maximum awards have changed over the years.

Planning for the Sign Inventory

Keep up with funding opportunities

- Indiana and HSIP
- Next round of funding?
Planning for the Sign Inventory

2A.08 “Public agencies…shall use an assessment or management method…”

Minimum Info

- Sign types (MUTCD)
- Locations
- Replace what/when/how

Not enough info
Planning for the Sign Inventory

Use GIS

• GIS-based inventory is more powerful
  – Input: controlled field form reduces human error
  – Output: reports in map format
  – GIS in-house is helpful

To inventory first and add GIS later is much more time-consuming
GIS produces useful exhibits
Council presentation, “we need more money for signs” vs. this exhibit
Planning for the Sign Inventory

Customize the inventory
• No one-size-fits-all
• What is the current condition of signs?
• What maintenance plan will be used?
  – Short-term, initial compliance
  – Long-term maintenance
• Who will be responsible for upkeep?
Over a dozen completed inventories

Trivia!

- What’s wrong with this sign assembly?
Conducting the Sign Inventory
**Conducting the Sign Inventory**

**Safety**
- Vehicle: crash, stuck, roadside parking
- Environment: heat, snow/ice, bees, ticks, mosquitoes, stray dogs, local residents
Conducting the Sign Inventory

Safety
Conducting the Sign Inventory

Perspective: Does this sign need to be replaced?
- Don’t collect information that isn’t useful to the data owner
- Don’t collect excessive detail if most/all signs will be replaced

1) Sign backing material – who cares?
2) Focus on identifying and pass/fail info
Conducting the Sign Inventory

Cost vs. Value

- GPS Equipment
- Software
- Retroreflectometer
- Mobile LiDAR

Inefficient field forms allow more error
Ineffective software doesn’t have the tools needed
Old hardware crashes and runs slow
Top-of-the-line equip + software $9,000
Conducting the Sign Inventory

Mobile LiDAR inventory

- ✓ Safety
- ✓ Comfort
- ✓ Fast collection
- ✓ Good for blanket replacement
- ✓ Data for other uses

- ✗ Sign recognition?
- ✗ Retroreflectivity?
- ✗ Sheeting type, condition
- ✗ Date sticker
- ✗ Processing time
Conducting the Sign Inventory

**Added value**

- Collect all signs
- Parking, speed limit signs vs. ordinances
- Reduce number of signs
- Right sign, right location
- Evaluate policies such as “Slow Children at Play”

Invisible signs: Hidden Driveways, Church, Cemetery, School Bus

Franklin saved over $30,000 removing excess speed limit signs (195 out of 462)
Conducting the Sign Inventory

Source: Juli Paini, City of Indianapolis Office of Disability Affairs
Trivia!

• What’s wrong with this sign assembly?
Replacing Signs
Replacing Signs

Process using federal funds
< $100,000 can use force labor
> $100,000 must bid out to contractor
   – Developing plans
   – INDOT submittal process
   – Construction Engineering
Replacing Signs

MUTCD Compliance

- Retroreflectivity, size, shape, color, message, symbol, font
- Breakaway supports
- Eliminate unnecessary signs
- Sheeting: life-cycle cost analysis

Sign manufacturer will sell you anything!
Trivia!

- What’s wrong with this sign?

Over a dozen completed inventories
Questions?

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