Ground Penetrating Radar at ODOT



Chris Pucci, PLS ODOT Engineering Automation Section OGUG Meeting – PLSO Conference January 21, 2022

Chris Pucci, PLS

- Professional Land Surveyor
- ODOT Statewide Survey/New Technology Group
- Community College Land Surveying Instructor
- Focus on Technology & Training: GNSS Tablets, Ground Penetrating Radar, Machine Control, GNSS Research, anything new...



Why GPR?

- Modern technology!
- Catch up to Industry and Consultants
- Proven track record beyond ODOT
- Reduce design costs
- Reduce construction costs and delays



How did we get here?

- Research Projects
- Utility mapping contracts



- Federal Innovation Grant
- Statewide new technology group



Current GPR Uses at ODOT

- Better utility locates
- Buried structures/concrete/etc.
- Pavement thickness
- Concrete thickness
- Rebar location

- Historical/Archeology
- Subsurface geology
- And what ever else!

GPR = HARD (Calculus and physics!)





$$\nabla^{2} \boldsymbol{E} = \mu \sigma \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{E}}{\partial t} + \mu \varepsilon \frac{\partial^{2} \boldsymbol{E}}{\partial t^{2}}$$
$$\nabla^{2} \boldsymbol{B} = \mu \sigma \frac{\partial \boldsymbol{B}}{\partial t} + \mu \varepsilon \frac{\partial^{2} \boldsymbol{B}}{\partial t^{2}}$$

GPR = EASY (The Equipment has come a LONG ways!)

- PhD not required to operate!
- No ticker tape paper output
- Real time interpretation
- Unlimited post processing options
- CAD/GIS outputs



And yes, you can put GNSS on your GPR machine...



Training #1-Big Picture

FHWA, AASHTO, Olson Engineering, IDS GeoRadar



Training #2 – Deep Dive

Roy Bowling, Olson Engineering

Ground Penetrating Radar

Practical Knowledge and Applications

(NPOCES

Roy Bowling, Olson Engineering

GEOPHYSICS AND NDE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE ASSESSMENT MEASURING CONCERNS - MITIGATING RISKS

I think he has a PhD...



Training #3 – Hands on

Dan Bigman, LearnGPR.com



Keys to GPR

- Know how GPR works!
- Know your site conditions
- Know how your GPR equipment operates
- Make a plan & document, document, document!





Our Equipment at ODOT

GSSI UtilityScan Pro GPR Unit

- SIR4000 Controller
- 300/800 MHz Dual Frequency Antenna
- 1600 MHz Antenna
- 4 Wheel Cart
- Emlid RS2+ GNSS Unit











Buried Railroad track search





FOUND THEM!





Railroad track search - Results

- Located approximately 1100 linear feet of paved over tracks
- Approximate depths determined
- Map created and delivered
- Total time in the road ~35 minutes!



Railroad track search - HUGE Cost Savings

- •~\$1200 for GPR
- ~\$4200 for coring AND you still wouldn't have all the data and locations
- Time/Danger in the road also greatly reduced. GPR = 2 people @ 1 hour vs. Coring = 6+ people @ 8 hours



Pavement thickness determination





Scan at trench patch area - showing trench at normal thickness and surrounding area at 'shallow' thickness



View 1 - Top, Default

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Pavement Thickness - Results

- Full work area scanned
- Accurate location of pavement thickness change
- Other pavement thickness anomalies found
- Cost savings ~\$900 for GPR vs ~\$4200 for more coring AND you still wouldn't have all the data and locations



Overall GPR Program Results

- Over 30 Projects completed to date
- "Success" rate at +70%
- Data for design and construction
- Huge cost savings on multiple projects
- Vastly increased exposure to GPR across the agency



Questions?

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