

Highlights

- A current and up to date view of all Right of Way data.
- Modernized data management reduces the risk of lost or misplaced data.
- Digital documents linked to the corresponding geometry give the entire picture.

Return on Investment (ROI)

- Greater use and access in a centralized location
- Staff research time reduced
- Ability to share data with other departments in a more efficient manner

Contact Us

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By converting existing paper information into digital data, the Lake County Department of Public Works, Right of Way Section has made current and historic data available to the public for easy research and decision making. Using current technology and existing platforms, they have been able to greatly increase the access to and understanding of important data.

Background:

Lake County's Right of Way Section (a part of the Engineering Division in Public Works) is responsible for acquiring land to benefit the public for building and widening roads, drainage issues, etc. They are responsible for everything from acquiring property through purchase or donation and title searches, to preparing documentation and reviewing legal descriptions. Staff and the public at large depend on the vast number of records controlled by the Right of Way Department for decision making on issues of property access, property purchasing, and setback requirements for development. This information is the basis of survey and design plans for all road, storm water and maintenance projects.

The Issue:

Historically, customers would either have to call the ROW offices for information, or visit the offices in person. Although all questions could be answered, the process was slow and cumbersome. Particularly if someone had to describe a piece of property over the phone, but did not have a legal description or did not understand how to read and interpret it.

The second issue was that all documentation was in paper format and some of those documents dated back to the 1800's. Years of filing, retrieving, and handling these paper documents increased the risk of lost or misplaced data.

The Solution:

It was decided that a digital solution was the best option since Lake County already had an Interactive Web Map that could be leveraged to display new digital ROW data. With the help of Data Transfer Solutions—a private consulting firm—digital layers describing ROW Deeds, Vacated/Conveyed Out



Deeds, and Right of Way Maintenance Maps were created in a personal geodatabase that were later migrated to the county's GIS Enterprise Database.

Using in-house expertise in the county's Information Technology Department, all of the mapped documents were also scanned into an image database and indexed to the associated geographic polygon. This allows the end user not only to see where a property lies geographically, but also view the associated documentation.

These new digital layers were then included in the existing Interactive Web Map for access by the public. The new Right of Way data can be viewed in conjunction with other county map layers in the GIS Interactive Map called [County View](#) by simply checking on the Public Works layer folder and zooming in to the area of interest.

The Benefit:

By making all of the Right of Way data readily available in one centralized location, uses for the information are limitless. In addition to internal research conducted by the Right of Way Department, other county departments such as Growth Management, Zoning, Code Enforcement, etc. will all benefit from the quick and easy access to the data saving research time and being able to make decisions quicker.

Citizens will save time and money by not having to physically visit the ROW office to do their research, as well as be able to print their own maps rather than purchase them from the Map Sales office. Right of Way information is invaluable not only to the average citizen, but also professional surveyors, real estate agents, engineers, and title professionals or attorneys. Being able to view the data spatially increases the usability of the data to lay-persons who do not have the skill to read and interpret legal descriptions, and thus makes the data more readily available to more people.