

Roadsoft® Roundup

December 2024, Vol. 24, Issue 3



For Roadsoft help, visit
the Roadsoft Manual at

<https://roadsoft.org/help>

2025 Roadsoft Work Plan Survey Summary

Each year, the Center for Technology & Training (CTT) asks Roadsoft clients to provide feedback by participating in a our *Roadsoft Work Plan Survey*. Participant responses help steer software development efforts for the following year.

2025 Work Plan Survey Results

The 2025 *Roadsoft Work Plan Survey* was opened to responses in early September and received sixty-eight submissions. Survey participants rated and ranked proposed features and enhancements to Roadsoft and were asked to submit additional comments, ideas, or suggestions for future Roadsoft development.

Development ideas for 2025 were categorized into two major groups: major tasks, which are more involved and time consuming and require the most effort from our programming team; and maintenance tasks, which are typically enhancements to existing features. These are implemented when programmers have time between more extensive tasks, or when they align with other development activities. Participants were asked to select the five tasks from the list of options in each group that are most important to their agency and then asked to rank those five selections from most to least relevant for their agency.

Proposed Major Tasks

Twenty-three major tasks were presented in the survey. These proposed tasks were compiled from staff ideas, customer suggestions, and items left over from previous years that haven't yet been added to Roadsoft. The list of tasks included:

- Module Standardization Enhancements (multi-edit, work orders, archive, dashboards, calendars for activities, better filtering targeting more than just shapes ...) – Make the names, layouts, and icons used throughout Roadsoft more consistent between modules. Make features like the Multi-Edit Tool, Custom Fields, Work Orders, etc, available for all applicable modules.

- Continued Project Planning & Selection Tool Enhancements (enhanced reports, maps, inclusion of types) – Further develop the Project Planning & Selection Tool (PPST). Some aspects that could be enhanced are the colors for Good/Fair/Poor, the reporting formats, and the map used in the printouts.
- Sewer Network Module – Create a module similar to the Drainage Network Module that relates to sewer-related assets (points, lines, and polygons) that are relevant to the road transportation network.
- Capital Plan Tool (encompassing multiple modules and assets) – Expand the Capital Plan Tool to include more asset modules in projects.
- Crash Location Editing - For crashes that have been incorrectly located, add the ability to relocate a crash using GPS coordinates or manually.
- Road Grouping - Allow user to define groups of roads similar to the Project Builder, but with the option to view all segments as a single combined entity showing average PASER rating and to allow applying projects year over year on the group.
- Intersection Module – Expand module to be a fully functional management module. Add surface type, traffic count, lane count, maintenance, ratings, etc.
- Railroad Crossing Module – Create a point module for railroad crossings and associated data.
- Bicycle Facility Tracking – Create a line module for bicycle paths and associated data.
- Sign Inventory Tracking (stock/materials/etc) – Create a way to keep track of the sign materials an agency has on hand, such as sheets and posts.
- Trail Module (including those not along roadway) – Create a line module for hiking trails and associated data, including

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Potential 2025 Work Plan Major Task Rankings

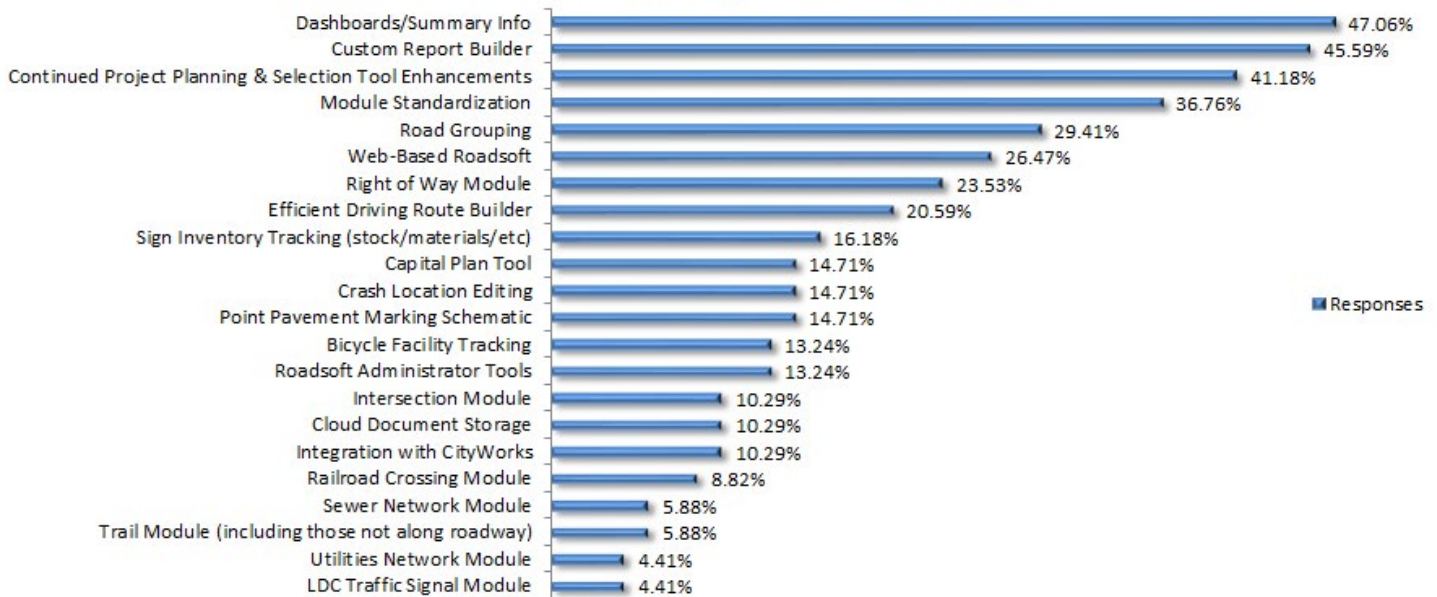


Figure 1 - Survey participants were asked to vote for Major Development Tasks. Item ranking is based on the number of responses received in the survey.

trail segments that do not follow roadways.

- Custom Report Builder (ability to define which fields, layouts and other formatting) – Design a feature that lets users choose the fields they want to include, and do things like add logos and other headers to their report layouts.
- Dashboards/Summary Info: Tools to provide high-level overview of local agency data, including charts, graphs, and summary data.
- Utilities Network Module – Create a module similar to the Drainage Network Module that relates to utilities-related assets (points, lines, and polygons related to electric, telephone, cable, and other utilities) that are relevant to the road transportation network.
- Web-Based Roadsoft – Create a web-based version of Roadsoft that runs via a browser with data stored in the cloud.
- Point Pavement Marking Schematic – Make a diagram feature for the Point Pavement Marking Module that illustrates where point pavement marks are located on the road.
- Right of Way Module – Create a module to record the areas agencies control adjacent to their roads.
- More tools and controls for Roadsoft Administrator (permissions to update only certain fields, ability to review LDC files before import, more tracking of updates by name) – Create new features for Roadsoft database administrators, such as locking certain fields for general users, reviewing LDC information before importing them into Roadsoft, and being able to track database changes by user.
- Cloud Document Storage – Add option to store attached documents/images in cloud-based storage rather than in the Roadsoft database.
- LDC Traffic Signal Module - Add a module to the Laptop Data Collector to work with traffic signals and supports.
- Efficient Driving Route Builder - for PASER collection, Pavement marking reviews, etc.
- Integration with CityWorks - Allow for the importing of data from CityWorks

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As shown in *Figure 1*, creating a dashboard with tools to provide a high-level overview of local agency data, including charts, graphs, and summary data; custom report builder; Project Planning & Selection Tool (PPST) enhancements, module standardization; and road grouping received more votes than the rest of the other proposed major tasks. After taking this feedback and past priorities into consideration, CTT staff will work on developing dashboards, investigate cloud-based storage and access to Roadsoft data, and continue pavement management/PPST improvements and enhancements. Other tasks will be addressed as time, resources, and other potential complementary or related development efforts are factored in.

Proposed Maintenance Tasks

Nineteen maintenance tasks were included in this year's survey. The list of potential maintenance tasks in the survey included:

- Routine Maintenance Filtering (from main reporting tab by township or legal system) – Make a way to filter Routine Maintenance reports by specific townships or legal systems.
- Ability to Copy/Paste Sign & Maintenance Data Between Posts – Make a feature to copy data like sign conditions or maintenance information and apply it to multiple supports.
- Multi-Edit of Status for Projects/Routine Maintenance – Add the ability to multi-edit the status of multiple projects and/or routine maintenance items.
- Ability to Add/Remove/Re-order Selection Information – Design ways for users to manage the layout of fields in Roadsoft.
- Agency Level Help Comments Associated with Fields – Allow agency to edit field descriptions/context-sensitive help for module fields in Roadsoft and LDC.
- Search by Memo Field (all modules) – Create a search function to look for entries in the memo field of asset modules.
- Ability to Reorder Routine Maintenance Activity Types (by job numbers & delete/archive option when activity is associated with a record) – Create ways for users to manage the layout of routine maintenance fields, and ways to delete or archive activities maintenance as well.

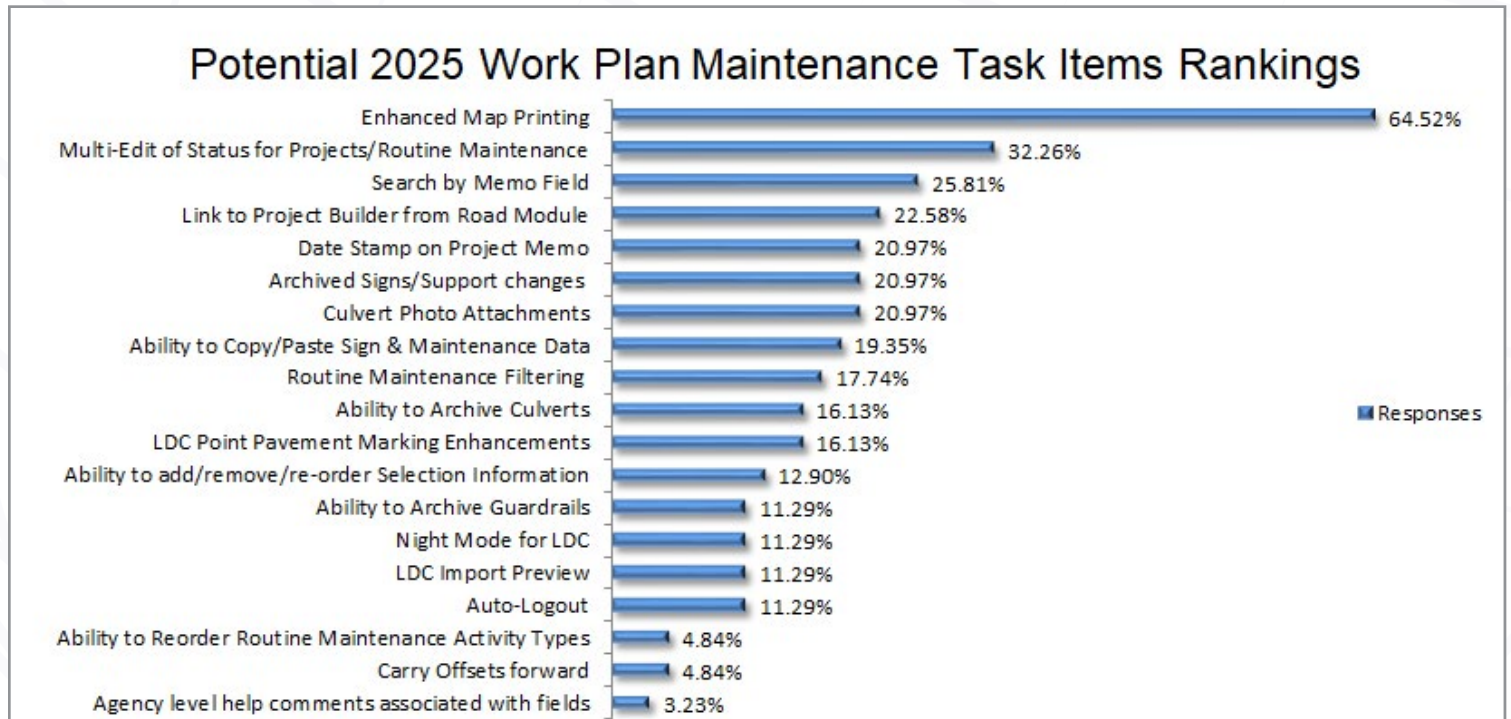


Figure 2 - Survey participants also voted for proposed maintenance tasks. Item ranking based on the number of responses received in the survey.

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- Date Stamp on Project Memo – Put date stamps on the memo fields of projects to show when they were last edited.
- Link to Project Builder from Road Module – Create a short-cut from the Road Module to the Project Builder, such as a link or a button.
- Archived Signs/Support changes (add filter ability, archive date, memo field, remove map labels) – Update archived sign settings. Add the ability to filter them out, record the dates signs were archived, add a memo field, and remove labels for archived signs.
- Carry Offsets Forward (last entered Liner Pavement Marks) – Have the LDC remember the last offset settings used for a linear pavement mark and automatically enter them in the next linear pavements mark if the fields are empty.
- Ability to Archive Culverts – Add ability to archive culverts that are no longer in use.
- Ability to Archive Guardrails – Add ability to archive guardrails that are no longer in use.
- Night Mode – Add an option to make the LDC's background dark colored and roads light to help see things at night and maintain night vision.
- Enhanced Map Printing - Add features and functionality with regards to creating maps from Roadsoft. This could include allowing for adjustments of size/location, being able to select by township/jurisdiction, etc.
- LDC Import Preview - Preview stats for LDC data that will be imported before it is applied to Roadsoft.
- LDC Point Pavement Marking Enhancements - Legend color changes based on condition assessment, offsets on map so multiples aren't stacked.
- Culvert Photo Attachments - Revise the way the Culvert module handles photo attachments and how it works with attachments in conjunction with Stream Crossing Surveys.
- Auto-Logout - Automatically log out/exit from Roadsoft or LDC after 12 hours of inactivity.

Figure 2 shows how participants ranked the proposed maintenance tasks. The top five (and ties) proposed maintenance tasks that survey participants voted as most important include: enhanced map printing; ability to multi-edit the status of projects and routine maintenance; ability to search by the Memo

field; ability to date stamp the Project Memo field; provide more functionality between the Project Builder and the Road Module; ability to date stamp the Project Memo; add additional functionality for archived signs and supports; and revise the way the Culvert Module handles photo attachments and how it works with attachments in conjunction with Stream Crossing Surveys.

These maintenance tasks will be given priority, though there is flexibility in what maintenance tasks are completed, as well as the order they're completed, based on other development efforts and how they tie into one another.

Comments and Conclusions

The final question of the survey is a general question asking for comments, suggestions, and feedback regarding future Roadsoft development, potential training topics, concerns with the software, etc. There were seventeen additional comments and suggestions submitted by participants. These comments are taken into consideration when planning other development activities and will be added to the appropriate major and maintenance task lists. Any suggestions for possible training topics are also considered as we plan the 2025 training schedule.

CTT staff would like to thank everyone who participated in the survey and encourage everyone to feel free to contact us if you have further suggestions or feedback by sending an email to roadsoft@mtu.edu.

CTT Ending Support for SQL Server 2014

This is a reminder that Microsoft announced that SQL Server 2014 has reached the end of its extended support lifecycle and they are no longer supporting it, as of July 9, 2024.

In response to Microsoft's announcement, the CTT will be ending our support of SQL Server 2014 for Roadsoft after December, 2024. Roadsoft has been providing a notification about the upcoming end of support when connecting to SQL Server 2014 instances since the 2024.3 release.

Starting with the January release of Roadsoft, agencies will no longer be able to connect to an SQL Server 2014 instance.

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Supported Versions

The CTT will continue to support SQL Server versions 2016, 2017, 2019, and 2022. We recommend that agencies in need of an update use SQL Server 2022 to maximize the available life span of the product. We also recommend that, if possible, agencies install our version of SQL Express, even if they have their own stand-alone SQL server license. Installing our SQL Express instance is straightforward and makes it easier to create and restore Roadsoft backups, create new databases, and will most likely allow us to provide technical support without having to involve IT staff.

SQL Express installers are available at <https://roadsoft.org/downloads/sql-downloads>. There is online help documentation available on upgrading your SQL Server in the Roadsoft Manual at [Update SQL Server Express](#). Help documentation for locating the current SQL Server version is available at [Locate SQL Server Version](#).

For questions or assistance with determining the SQL Server version, or with updating SQL Server, email roadsoft@mtu.edu.

Microsoft Ending Support for Windows 10

Microsoft also announced that they will be ending support for Windows 10 by October, 2025. However, they will continue to provide security updates until October, 2028. The CTT will continue to support Windows 10 as long as Microsoft is providing security updates.

Although this end of support for Windows 10 by the CTT is over four years down the road, agencies should keep this in mind when shopping or upgrading existing computers to ensure Windows 11 is either installed, or the computer being upgraded is compatible with Windows 11. Depending on the age and specifications of computers running Windows 10, hardware upgrades or computer replacement may be required to upgrade to Windows 11.

Microsoft Windows 11 system requirements, along with an explanation of upgrade options, can be found at <https://support.microsoft.com/en-us/windows/windows-11-system-requirements-86c11283-ea52-4782-9efd-7674389a7ba3>.

Roadsoft system requirements can be found at <https://roadsoft.org/about/system-requirements>. Contact Roadsoft technical support at roadsoft@mtu.edu for more information.

Roadsoft On the Road/Tech Assist Tuesdays

The Center for Technology & Training (CTT) offers Roadsoft technical assistance sessions both in person and virtually.

Roadsoft On The Road is a customized in-person technical assistance session. You provide a list of topics, questions, or concerns, and CTT staff will schedule a time to visit to work through your list, using your data, on your system.

If you're not able to meet in person, the CTT also offers online technical assistance with our virtual Tech Assist Tuesday sessions. Sessions are available on Tuesdays with one-hour slots at 9, 10, and 11 a.m. Depending on the topic or issue you're having, the entire three hours may be assigned to your agency. If another day or time would work better, we'll find a time that fits your schedule.

Visit <https://roadsoft.org/form/roadsoft-tech-assist-request> to request a Roadsoft On The Road or Tech Assist Tuesday session.

Upcoming Roadsoft Training

2025 Roadsoft Special Topics: Getting Started with the Roadsoft Mobile App

Tuesday, January 6, 2025

<https://ctt.secure.nonprofitsoapbox.com/rsmobileapp-feb2025>

2025 Roadsoft Special Topics: Getting Started with the Roadsoft Laptop Data Collector

Tuesday, January 25, 2025

<https://ctt.secure.nonprofitsoapbox.com/rsldc-feb2025>

Visit <https://roadsoft.org/training> to see all upcoming Roadsoft training events.