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Government

Success Story: California Department of Transportation



Tele Atlas Helps Caltrans Streamline Statewide Mapping Applications

About Tele Atlas

Tele Atlas digital maps and dynamic content help users anywhere in the world find the people, places, and products most important in their daily lives.

Our map data is updated using information from a network of over 50,000 global resources, including satellite and aerial imagery, public and government sources, input from utility, fleet, and postal drivers, and our proprietary mobile mapping vans. More than 70 categories of points of interest, dynamic traffic and event information, and speed camera and fuel price information add even richer content to our digital maps.

We collaborate with our partners in personal navigation, Internet, wireless, automotive, enterprise, and public service markets to help them deliver valuable products and services to their customers in a timely and cost-effective manner.

For more information, please visit www.teleatlas.com or call us at **1-800-331-7881 (North America)** or **+32 9 244 88 11 (Europe)**.

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) maintains a hierarchy of classification for thousands of miles of roads throughout California. In addition to tracking new exits, road shortenings, and the re-naming of 166,000 miles of surface roads, the agency must regularly submit 1,600 California Road System (CRS) maps to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA).

The CRS maps are critical in determining federal funding for state and local road improvements. They include information such as the functional classification of each road within the state network, and are used to plan highway systems, determine jurisdictional responsibility, and develop financial plans.

Before Caltrans chose Tele Atlas as its map data provider, the agency found it challenging to create timely and accurate CRS maps in a cost-effective manner. Doing so required Caltrans to compile, standardize, and continually update the data changes that occur every day. The agency began to evaluate whether it could manage the intensive task of developing its own public domain database by coordinating with counties and local jurisdictions. "It was such a large scope," explains Roger Ewers of GIS Strategic Planning and Marketing at Caltrans. "It was not something we wanted to wrap our arms around." Fortunately Tele Atlas' unique change detection and management system was just the solution that Caltrans needed.

Tele Atlas Offers the Base Map Solution

After careful consideration, Caltrans selected Tele Atlas to provide its base map. The agency needed to move the existing functional classification attributes from its old base map to the new one, a process called conflation. Once Caltrans had completed the task with Tele Atlas' help, the organization began to see the benefits of developing a common base map that could serve as the data standard for all cities, counties, and



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transportation departments throughout California. Such a framework would allow the various agencies to share critical information faster and more efficiently.

For this reason, Caltrans adopted the Tele Atlas® ONE program, which provides a common base map of the highest quality for the entire government community. By refining its original Tele Atlas base map into Tele Atlas ONE, Caltrans developed a custom and definitive set of road features, including Caltrans-specific road attributes that support FHWA reporting mandates and a growing range of GIS applications and businesses. To this day, Caltrans and Tele Atlas continue to build a base map enhanced with Caltrans' needed attributes.

Tele Atlas®: Providing One Map for the Government Enterprise

Now more than ever before, government agencies in charge of transportation, utilities, and public safety know that cooperation within and across agencies is critical. Tele Atlas provides comprehensive GIS data that enables a uniform understanding of geographic location throughout all departments, agencies, and pre-existing databases, thereby helping organizations like Caltrans to increase efficiency of operations, minimize waste, maximize budgets, and eliminate information silos.

To further support a seamless data environment throughout an enterprise, Tele Atlas helps develop data quality standards and a system for maintaining up-to-date geographic content. California and its residents benefit from the continually updated information, both in terms of procuring federal funding and increased accuracy in road maps. "California's Tele Atlas program benefits the 600 or so cities,

counties, and metropolitan and regional transportation planning groups that we interact with," says Ewers, "in that all have access to the same road base for a common frame of reference."

Now Caltrans is able to keep functional class maps in the public domain, and uses the enterprise-wide program to produce accurate maps for state highway construction and maintenance workers. In addition, any data updates submitted by Caltrans become part of Tele Atlas' base map, which is then leveraged by many other Tele Atlas partners across the state, country, and globe. When these partners provide authoritative updates to Tele Atlas, their changes are in turn distributed to all users, including Caltrans.

"Tele Atlas ensures the underlying road data undergoes continuous improvement so that we have accurate, current information."

Roger Ewers

GIS Strategic Planning and Marketing, Caltrans

Tele Atlas data has proven to be a critical, cost-effective solution for Caltrans and other government customers in 41 U.S. states and in over 40 federal government departments and agencies. Ewers speaks on behalf of his team: "We're confident that Tele Atlas is an ever-improving product that will increasingly reflect existing road infrastructure to meet Caltrans' highway safety and business needs."



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