

Newest Roadware easier to use

Roadware, the computer program that manages PASER, Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating data, has been upgraded. It now runs faster, manages files better, offers new report formats, and uses WisDOT data more efficiently. In addition, we've expanded the on-line help system and documentation, fixed some bugs, and made the program compatible with Windows versions 3.1 and 3.11.

"So far the response from our test sites has been very positive," says Randy Reihbrandt, a programmer working with WisDot and the T.I.C. who added the new features. He is available to answer user questions at 608/246-5454.

Version 4.0 will be distributed in September after the T.I.C. sends questionnaires to all current **Roadware** users. Only those who respond will receive the new version.

"I really like it," says Walt Raith, transportation planner at the East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission. He helped test the new version over the summer. "It really makes you think about what is going on out there. You put in your budget and the software will pick out the projects, spending down the budget and bringing up the overall condition rating.

"The program helps local elected officials and staff see how much they need to be spending to keep their roads in good condition and gets them to take a better look at what they're doing," Raith says. He is involved in a "2020" long-range transportation and land use planning project and now has all 22 jurisdictions in the RPC up and running on **Roadware**. The RPC offers training and technical assistance to locals who, for the most part, do their own pavement ratings.

Mike Hemp, Jackson County Highway Commissioner, is another long-term PASER and **Roadware** user. He made his first PASER-based report to the County Board in 1992. "It was a real eye-opener to the County Board to see what condition our roads are in," he says. "Right now about 50 percent of our roads need an overlay or grind and overlay." Over the last three years the Board has significantly increased the roads budget, Hemp says, "But we need a lot more."

It was the PASER reports that gave County Board members their first comprehensive view of the county's road needs as a whole. A number of them rode along and assisted in rating the road conditions. The Board increased the budget 35% that first year.

PASER helped Hemp and the Highway Committee to set priorities on which road projects to do first. Some roads in very bad condition were passed over because they carried so little traffic while the money went to other roads with higher ADT counts. "It helped us document why when people asked," Hemp says. "We could show that we were trying to do the best we could with the dollars on hand for the most people."

Hemp and his staff rated all 234 miles of county trunk highways again last spring and they expect to have a new PASER report in September to begin planning the 1996 budget. **Roadware's** new report and projection capabilities should make that job a bit easier.

PASER rating system booklets for Asphalt, Concrete, and Gravel roads are available from the T.I.C. A companion training videotape is available through County Extension offices. Training and technical assistance are available in many places around the state. Copies of Roadware (which requires a IBM-compatible PC, 386 minimum, and uses d-Base files) are also available. For more information, please call Steve Pudloski, 800/442-4615 or mail or fax the form below.

Reader Response



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