MTRI, Inc. The Michigan Technological

Crossing-i:

The Automated, Drone-Based, Crossing Inspection System

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Funded through USDOT Volpe Center Smal Business Innovation Research (SBIR) project requisitions V330A2070 & V330A2

Background

- Incidents at highway-rail grade crossings contribute to hundreds of fatalities a year. Lack on critical infrastructure data ("humped" crossings, inadequate sight distance) increase related risks.
- Drone-enabled 3D technologies can provide rapid, objective, and repeatable evaluation of the crossing environment, including vertical grades, acceptable sightlines, and identifying/locating relevant assets, such as signage.
- The Crossing-i system provides accurate and highly visual data and analytics from office environment to identify shortcomings/risks and establish prioritizations.

Crossing-i Development Under SBIR

Crossing-i was initially developed under Small Business Innovation Research Grants (Phase 1 and 2), funded by the Federal Railroad Administration

- 1. Prototype and algorithm development
- 2. Testing in laboratory environment
- 3. Develop Crossing-i analysis tools for automated analysis
- 4. Initial deployment and test at crossings
- 5. Web portal development for client access.
- 6. Business plan development
- 7. Next Steps:
- A.MTRAC Innovation Hub for Advanced Transportation 1 year project (Aug 2022-2023)
 - A. Seeking partners for technology implementation and commercial partnerships
 - B. Create virtual environments and reporting useful for Crossing Diagnostics
 - C. Perform data collections in multiple states across the U.S.

A Single Drone System for Crossing Inspection



Crossing-i uses a single customized drone platform (Tarot X6) capable of autonomously performing a pre-planned flight mission

We use Aeropoint ground control targets

High-resolution, geo-located data products, in a 30-45 minutes time period per crossing.







Partners and Crossing-i Demonstrations







- > 37 crossings surveyed in x states
- Field demonstrations with **five state DOTs** and four railroad companies.
- Collaboration and feedback for improvements

Automated Crossing-i Analysis Tools

"Humped" Crossings

442nd St, Harris, MN Humped Crossing Analysis Motorcoach School Bus Low-Boy Trailer Low-Boy Trailer Hang Up Locations: 442nd St Crossing ID#:082750K

Visual Sight Lines

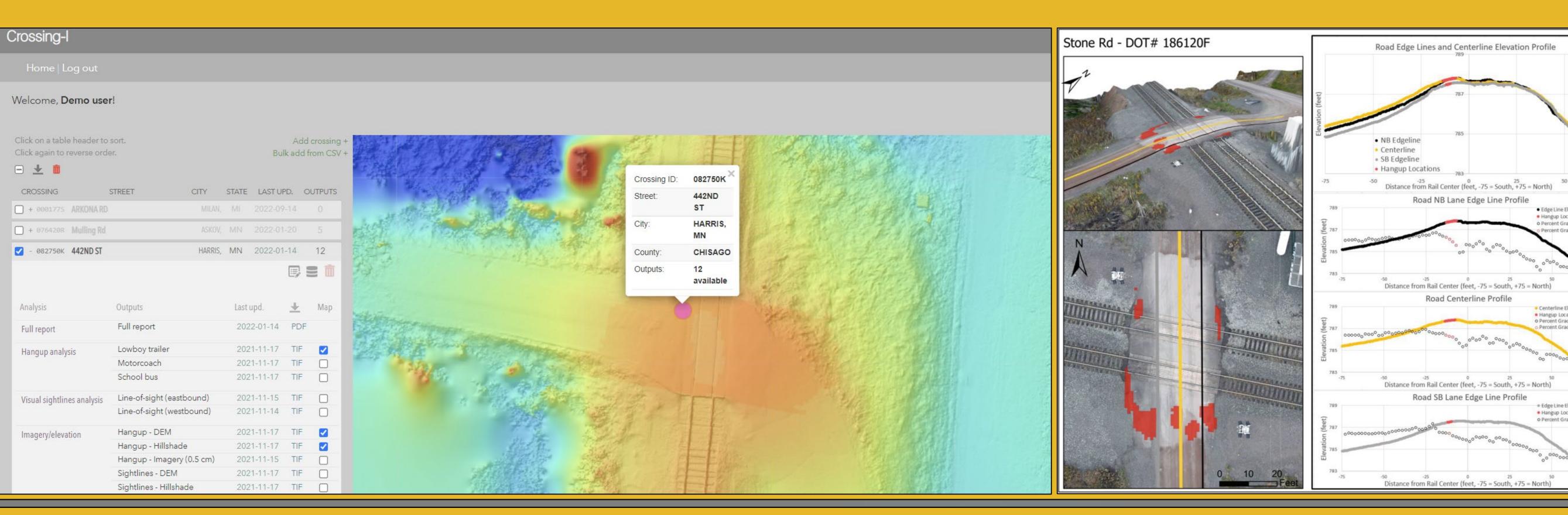


Sign Identification



Web Portal for Reporting and Data Sharing

- Customer access through Crossing-i web portal, analysis data, Crossing-i Reports created by MTRI, Inc.
- ▶ Integration of FRA crossing database to provide customer access to all associated data for a crossing.



Acknowledgments MTRI, Inc. thanks all transportation agencies and private firms who have assisted in development of Crossing-i, the USDOT Volpe Center for project funding, the Federal Railroad Administration (including program manager Cam Stuart), and Foresight ST.