

CASE STUDY



Nevada Department of Transportation Reduces Time & Travel with Mobile Field Tools

CHALLENGE ▼

Nevada Department of Transportation (NDOT) sought to improve several aspects of their electronic inspection process. Their goal was to streamline the process by eliminating top pain points for inspectors: thumb drives, clunky laptops, and travel to and from the office.

SOLUTION ▼

Infotech Mobile Inspector®
for daily reporting.

By implementing Mobile Inspector for daily reporting activities, the team at NDOT was able to exchange:

- » Thumb drives for automatic data syncs
- » Clunky laptops for svelte tablets
- » Time spent traveling for time spent inspecting projects

RESULTS ▼

The agency completes
95% of their daily reports
in Mobile Inspector.

- Reduced Equipment
- Reduced Travel Time
- Improved Productivity

After two different eras of daily reporting, Nevada DOT needed a change

“The challenge was that the inspectors were carrying around a normal-sized laptop instead of a small little tablet. We had to have thumb drives for them to import and export their daily reports. Having inspectors carry those tiny thumb drives [meant] they were getting lost or misplaced.”

Cecilia Whited
Associate Engineer, Nevada DOT

The first was the era of orange fieldbooks, where project information was handwritten in a notebook, to be compiled in the future. Seeking to digitize, NDOT then moved to FieldManager® and paired it with Fieldbook® so they could capture reports electronically. While this brought clear improvements over the paper-based process, there were still challenges.



The rule of thumb (drives)

With FieldManager and Fieldbook, NDOT's inspectors would record their daily reports in a bulky laptop.

From there, they would export the report into a thumb drive and drive it back to the office, where an office person would import the data and clear the thumb drive. Empty drives were then placed in a receptacle for inspectors to pick up the following morning.

This process led to two issues for the agency:

- » Lost or misplaced thumb drives meant there often weren't enough for the inspection crews, especially during 24-hour jobs
- » Inspectors would have to spend time driving back and forth from the job site to the office to drop off drives, taking away from valuable inspection time

“It just got kind of overwhelming. Especially with some of our crews, they had 24-hour jobs so you had some night crews and some day crews. Someone loses their thumb drive and that's one less they have... that was big motivation for us as a department to go with Mobile Inspector.”

Cecilia Whited
Associate Engineer, Nevada DOT

The benefits of using Mobile Inspector

With Mobile Inspector, NDOT has streamlined their all-around inspection process, from the devices inspectors take into the field to what they do after the reports are complete.

SO LONG, LAPTOPS

Inspectors can be more mobile by using iPads or mobile devices to record their reports. Balancing a bulky laptop in one hand and typing with the other is a thing of the past.

TAKING TRAVEL OUT OF THE EQUATION

“With the Mobile Inspector app, [inspectors] don’t need to come into the field office. They can do it all out on the job site, in their truck, or wherever they have Wi-Fi hooked up.”

Cecilia Whited, Associate Engineer, Nevada DOT

By automatically syncing data back to AASHTOWare Project Construction & Materials™, Mobile Inspector eliminates the need for inspectors to travel back to the office to turn in a thumb drive with their reports for a manual import.

INCREASING PRODUCTIVITY FOR INSPECTORS

“We have [inspectors] that could be a half-hour from the field office. Just in that respect, where they’re not traveling to the office to log in to AASHTOWare Project®, transcribing notes, creating the reports - just that time savings is significant.”



Without the need to travel back and forth from the office, inspectors can be more productive with their time and even hit more inspections in a day than they could before the introduction of Mobile Inspector.

Advice to interested agencies

What advice would you give to another agency that is considering a move to Mobile Inspector?

“Decide which platform you’re going to put it on. Our users are comfortable with iPads, they get a little more real estate that way versus an Android or an iPhone.”

Kristin McDaniel, Business Process Analyst, Nevada DOT

The latest version of Mobile Inspector is a Progressive Web Application (PWA), meaning that it will work on any Apple, Android, or Windows device without the need for an app store download. This flexibility grants the agencies the ability to choose which device works best for their inspection team.

“Provide rock-solid training for the users so they are fully prepared to use the product.”

Kristin McDaniel, Business Process Analyst, Nevada DOT

McDaniel points out that there are always few people in any organization that struggle with new technology. Providing comprehensive training is a great way to get in front of potential questions or issues down the road.