

Accessing FDOT Aerial Photography Archive Collection Using APLUS

Q: Where can I find the recorded video and Questions & Answers?

A: You can go to the Engineering/CADD Systems Office (ECSO) Posted Webinar site in the FDOT Delivery section under FDOT Digital Delivery:

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/ecso/downloads/GoToMeetingTraining/PostedWebinars.shtm#loadSection>

Q: For the line tool, what is the offset to the left and right that aerials will be provided?

A: There is no offset at this time. You will get any aerial that intersects the line. For older aerials this is not a problem because of the overlap of the images. On the newer orthophotos that are tiled, there may be a chance that the line just misses the corner of a tile. You can contact us for that tile.

Q: Approximately how long does it take to receive the .zip file with the aerials? I'm sure it is size dependent, but what would be a reasonable time frame?

A: It is pretty quick but it depends on the size of the file and band width. Most downloads should be less than a minute. This is the reason we limit the ZIP downloads to under 4 sq. miles.

Q: The MicroStation settings?

A: Under Design file settings Working Units, the DGN could be set to Feet or US Survey Feet (based on project).

Q: For raster?

A: Under Workspace Preferences select Raster Manager. On the Georeference tab ensure you have the "Use Sister File" box checked and that the Default Unit Settings are set to US Survey Feet. You can set the units to feet since most aerials have a +/- 7 ft map accuracy.

Q: What about the web map service section?

A: Contact Image Services and we can provide you with a guide on connecting the WMS in MicroStation or AutoCAD.

Q: Should it be Survey Feet or just Feet?

A: Survey feet is best but for the aerials FEET works also.

Q: Please do a sample, start at the FDOT web site, look up Univ. of Fla.?

A: We used to have a link on the website. You can do a web search for UF Smathers Library then select Libraries and scroll down to the Map & Imagery Library.

Q: MicroStation can use WMS also; is FDOT WMS setup with the OGC format so it can be used in MicroStation?

A: Yes. Contact Image Services and we can provide you with a guide on connecting the WMS in MicroStation.

Q: Are signed XML currently required?

A: Currently Signed XML files are not required, however the delivery of XML data is required. The CADD Manual in Chapters 4.17.1 and 5.12 discuss this, and that XML data is provided to our contractors when we get it. Some states have begun replacing content in their plans with model data, or made model data higher in precedence in cases of information conflict (between the model and plans). This trend will continue. Florida is watching closely how this plays out, and may select particular projects to try this on sometime in the future. But we have to crawl before walk, and there will need to be some decisions made on what content will remain in plans, and what content will be in Signed models when that day comes. We do not foresee plans going away entirely, ever, but certain content may no longer be necessary (like cross sections, for instance) when models become more widely used.

Q: How well does XML handle projected profiles, (i.e. sidewalk) where the stationing doesn't match the baseline and how would one export that information accurately?

A: LandXML defines a schema for describing route geometry. A projected profile is still, in the end, just a profile. LandXML does not record the provenance of the data, that is how the particular object came into existence (was it projected?, was it just keyed in the way it is?, etc.). It is the responsibility of the design package to properly record the geometry of the profile in question. The LandXML 1.2 Schema documentation can be accessed here:

<http://www.landxml.org/schema/LandXML-1.2/documentation/LandXML-1.2Doc.html>

And if you dig into the definition of the "Profile" object you see how a profile can be defined. An enumeration of the Profile can be its own start station, or the design application could provide the start station of the profile different to that of the alignment itself. But the responsibility to write the data correctly is upon the design application itself. Things get trickier when in your example the profile does not represent the alignment, but some offset object that isn't precisely parallel to alignment. It's the design application that interprets the XML data to handle the profiles.