



*Florida Department of Transportation*

RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.  
SECRETARY

**PRODUCTION SUPPORT MEMORANDUM 20-01**

DATE: **May 28, 2020**

TO: District Directors of Transportation Operations, District Directors of Transportation Development, District Design Engineers, District Structures Design Engineers, District Roadway Design Engineers, District Traffic Operations Engineers, District Consultant Project Management Engineers, District Project Development Engineers, District CADD Managers

FROM: Paul Hiers, P.E., Manager, Production Support Office

DocuSigned by:  
*Paul Hiers*  
C2CB53A3814D408...

COPIES: Courtney Drummond, Will Watts, Tim Lattner, Jason Watts, Rudy Powell, Dan Hurtado, Scott Arnold, Michael Shepard, Robert Robertson, Amy Tootle, Stefanie Maxwell, Trey Tillander, Bren George (FHWA)

SUBJECT: **Transition to Bentley's OpenBridge Modeler (OBM)**

This memorandum outlines the Department's adoption of Bentley's OpenBridge Modeler (OBM) Connect Edition. This change is necessary due to Bentley's transition away from MicroStation/GEOPAK in Select Series Edition.

To support Bentley's current civil software application, the Production Support CADD office has expanded FDOT Connect Workspace to support the OBM functionality. The new workspace provides tools for Bridge 3D Modeling in Design, Plan Production, Automated Quantities and Building Information Modeling (BIM).

A workspace to implement 3D Bridge Design for Autodesk will be introduced later.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The first production release of the expanded FDOT Connect Workspace is scheduled for July 2020.

All projects that begin the design phase on or after January 1, 2021 must use Bentley's OpenBridge Modeler (OBM) Connect Edition and the expanded FDOT Connect Workspace. The use of OBM after the release of the FDOT Connect Workspace in July 2020 is encouraged.

Production Support Memorandum 20-01  
Transition to Bentley's OpenBridge Modeler (OBM)  
Page 2 of 2

## **BACKGROUND**

Bentley Systems began a transition to OpenRoads Technology in the legacy GEOPAK application software with the release of Select Series 2 (SS2) version in August 2010. Subsequent versions of SS3 and SS4 enhanced functionality, including the move to model-centric designs. In April 2017 Bentley released the first version of OpenRoads Designer Connect Edition as a standalone product; completing the transition to OpenRoads Technology. This essentially halted enhancements and fixes to the SS4 version of GEOPAK.

Following the April 2017 Bentley release, the Production Support CADD Office began development of a custom FDOT Connect Workspace for OpenRoads Technology. In July 2019, the CADD Office released the new FDOT Connect Workspace.

The FDOT Connect Workspace has been expanded to include resources for OpenBridge Technology. This workspace has multiple advantages which includes optimizing cross discipline resource sharing, supporting Single-Source-Data serving multiple needs, and ensuring continuity and consistency of CADD standards.

The transition to Bentley's current civil software application (OBM) will not require bridge designs to be modeled. Structure plans can be developed and delivered as they currently are.

## **OpenBridge Modeler Training**

Training opportunities on the FDOT Connect Workspace for OBM will be provided via district workshops, webinars, and FDOT Learning Curve. These trainings will be scheduled following the production release of FDOT Connect which is scheduled for July 2020. Training is also available for all Bentley software through the Bentley Learn Server.

## **CONTACT**

Vern Danforth P.E.  
Production Support CADD Office  
(850) 414 – 4897  
[vern.danforth@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:vern.danforth@dot.state.fl.us)

Dongming White P.E.  
Production Support CADD Office  
(850) 414 – 4308  
[Dongming.white@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:Dongming.white@dot.state.fl.us)