

DISTRICT THREE DESIGN NEWSLETTER



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From the Editor's Desk -

Rodney Chamberlain, P.E., District Design Engineer



Welcome to the summer edition of the District Three Design newsletter. The newsletter was transitioned from quarterly to biannual, so this is the first edition in about six months.

First, a few words about subconsultant teaming opportunities. With the number of contracts versus the number of consultants pursuing the contracts, teaming has been a viable business model in many cases.

Teaming has also been viewed as a way to fold underutilized categories and small businesses into our projects, and historically, there has been a lot of value in this process. The value this brings to the selection is related to the diversity of the teams that submit letters. Multiple primes all utilizing the same subconsultants lower the value that we are seeking and in the end, potentially diminish the quality of the product by removing the competitive aspect of the pursuit. The occasional unavoidable situation where the teams all have a very similar make up has morphed into a habitual showing at every selection. This practice makes it more difficult for teams to stand out from one another and in the end, more difficult for TRC members to identify differences by which to assign scoring. The message here is to look for ways that teaming opportunities are diversified in a manner that enhances competition.

A couple of issues have arisen lately where some design changes were made on a set of plans at Phase III or even later, based on phase review comments. Designers need to be careful when making certain changes because of the unforeseen impacts these changes will have elsewhere. If a review comment is requesting or results in a potential change, make sure you are coordinating this with your Design PM to ensure that it's a revision that Design can support.

Recently, the District's QA/QC review process has been kicked off again. Keith Hinson has been (and will be) visiting various consultant offices to review the implementation of QA/QC plans by consultants under contract. All design contracts require the submission of a QA/QC plan, and that plan

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District 3 Quarterly Design Newsletter

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From the Editor's Desk

Rodney Chamberlain P.E., District Design Engineer

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isn't worth much if it's not being followed. These audits are viewed as a means for constructive dialogue and not meant to be punitive "gotcha" moments. Take advantage of this opportunity to showcase the QC culture in your office – these reviews have just as much likelihood to be positive as negative.

A few brief words about ground-in rumble stripes (and strips). We have just about completed the first project where the ground-in rumble stripes are being filled-in. We continue to receive numerous complaints at other locations and we will be looking into a repair project at these locations. However, complaints are not generated at all locations where the rumble stripes were installed. The new standard has removed the ground-in portion from the edge stripe and we believe this will reduce the number of strikes significantly, thereby reducing the potential for complaints. Be sure to get with your Design PM to be looking at the viability of audible-vibratory applications, including profiled thermo.

By now, the FDM has become standard in all of our newer projects and context classification is the new norm. In my discussions with Central Office, I have learned of many more changes coming, including what I understand will be major changes to the MOT indexes (formerly 600-series). I encourage anyone working on an active design or pursuing a design to be vigilant about design bulletins and their implementation schedules. Equally as important is understanding District preference in these changes.

The District 3 Project Management Team is proud to announce Kevin Fussell as the new Design Project Management Supervisor.

Kevin received his Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering from Florida State University and is a registered Professional Engineer in Florida.

He began his career with the Department in 2006 with an OPS position in the Materials and Research laboratory and then went on to complete the FDOT P.E. Training Program. After completing the P.E. Training Program, he returned to the District Materials office to work as a Geotechnical Engineer for a couple of years and then moved into the Asphalt section as a Pavement Engineer before joining the Design Project Management Team in 2016. Kevin will continue to manage design projects in addition to other responsibilities that come with his new position.

Kevin is married to Haley Fussell and they have two sons (Jaxson and Cal) and a brand new daughter, Blayke. Kevin enjoys spending time with his family, hunting, fishing, playing guitar, and farming in his spare time. His family is involved at First Baptist Church of Chipley and enjoy living in their hometown. He is excited to serve the Department in this new capacity. Please join us in congratulating Kevin on his new position and the new addition to his family.

Same Face, Different Place

Kevin Fussell, P.E.

Design Project Management Supervisor



From Kerrie's Desk—Consultant Marketing

Kerrie Harrell, P.E. - District Consultant Project Management Engineer

With over 80 consultants submitting letters of interest for our District 3 design program, I get asked a lot about marketing efforts and best practices. The one thing I have realized is there is always someone going slightly overboard or not doing enough. The reality of the situation is we have 22 contracts this year and a significant percentage of the +80 consultants will not get a shortlist opportunity. This reality tends to shift most Consultants into the going "slightly overboard" category. For this reason, I want to mention a few things that need to be considered before you contact every resident who lives along a 3R project (i.e. please do not do this).



Utility Companies – District 3 is very fortunate to have had a robust work program for several years. This has created a significant burden on utility companies not only with relocations, but coordination in general. These companies are coordinating in general on 90+ projects that are actively in design. If consultants contact them for marketing efforts, this could generate additional contacts from individuals who do not even represent FDOT. For this reason, I encourage you not to bother our utility companies unless you are on an active project. I request this simply to lessen the burden being placed on our Utility partners so that we can ensure the FDOT can successfully design and construct projects on time.

Permitting agencies – like the utility companies, the permitting agencies have even less staff available to answer general questions from FDOT design consultants. For procurement activities, we are only interested in learning what you as an engineer determine and recommend on a project. It is taking a year in some cases for the FDOT to obtain Federal permits on projects. We do not need Consultants who are not working on active projects to take our permitting reviewers time for project research.

Local governments and residents – keep in mind if you are coordinating with any individuals on an upcoming project, it is imperative to be clear you do not represent FDOT. I have received a phone call in the past where a Consultant unintentionally caused a property owner to be concerned about a discussion while doing preliminary project research for an upcoming FDOT project. This type of random unsolicited coordination can do you more harm than good. You are not getting bonus points during an evaluation for this effort, but you do risk causing me additional work. 😊

FDOT staff – keep in mind all District 3 employees are busy working on their primary job duties. Any contact you make with staff requesting information or researching takes time away from that individual working on their primary job duty (i.e. the job duty in which the District Secretary has given them 😊). I have received multiple phone calls from our staff letting me know that "my consultants" were bombarding them with a lot of questions about upcoming projects. As always, you are welcome to come talk to the Project Management Unit and Technical Review Committee members (TRC) prior to advertisement. However, please do not contact other Departments at FDOT during the marketing period. There will be plenty of time to gather this information after you are under contract.

I wanted to bring this to everyone's attention so you can have a better global understanding of the unintended implications of your marketing efforts. From a procurement standpoint, we want to know what your engineering ideas are and see what your team can offer on a project. Let's make it simple and focus on the important elements of a project – the engineering! Abiding by this guidance will simplify our efforts as well as your marketing efforts and will potentially reduce costs for your company.

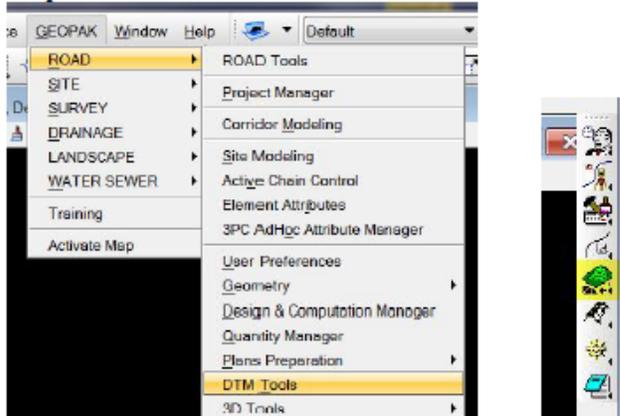
MicroStation Tips & Tricks— Howard Helms, CADD Manager *How to create a .tin file from the gdtmrd01 or survrd01.dgn*

How to create a .tin file from the gdtmrd01 or survrd01.dgn

Open the gdtmrd01.dgn from survey

Open DTM Tools

Geopak\Road\DTM Tools or from the Road Tools toolbar



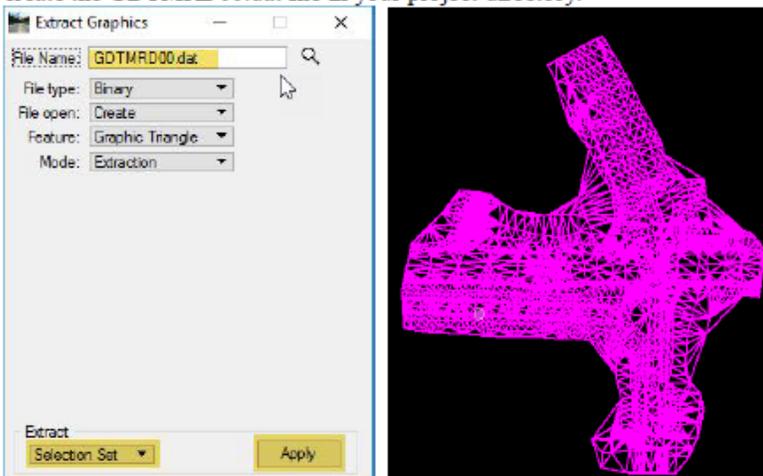
From the DTM toolbar click Extract Graphics



This will create a .dat file.

In **File Name:** GDTMRD00, **File type:** Binary, **File open:** Create, **Feature:** Graphic Triangle, **Mode:** Extraction

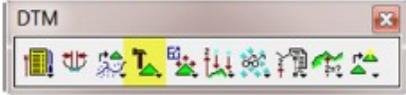
Make a selection set of all the triangles, by windowing in all the triangles in the file. Left click **Apply** this will create the GDTMRD00.dat file in your project directory.



MicroStation Tips & Tricks

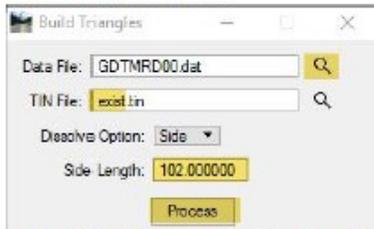
Howard Helms, CADD Manager

From the DTM Toolbar select Build Triangles

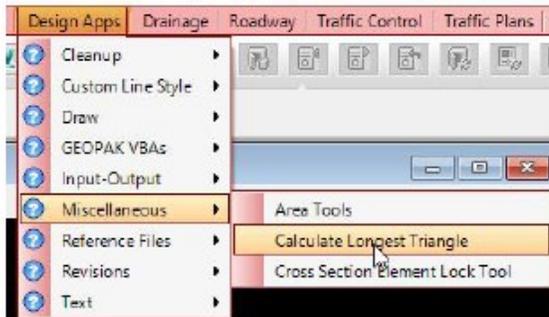


In the Data File: Choose Select File and go get the GDTMRD00.dat file you just created.

In the TIN File: exist



Goto FDOT toolbar\Design Apps\Miscellaneous\Calculate Longest Triangle



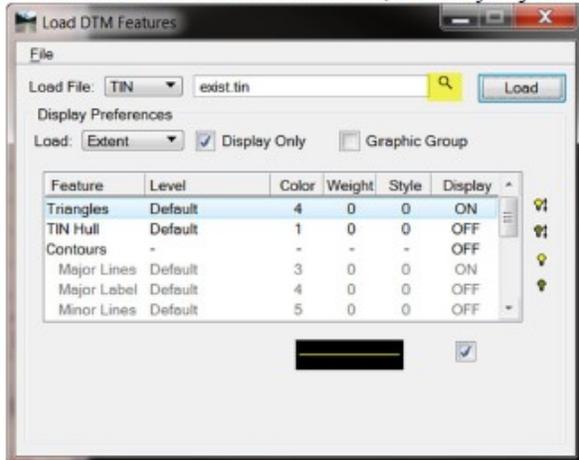
This will calculate the longest triangle in the gdtmrd01 and place it in the side length box.

Click Process this will create your exist.tin file in your project directory.

From the DTM Toolbar click Load: Load DTM Feature



From the Load DTM Features select, the file you just created.

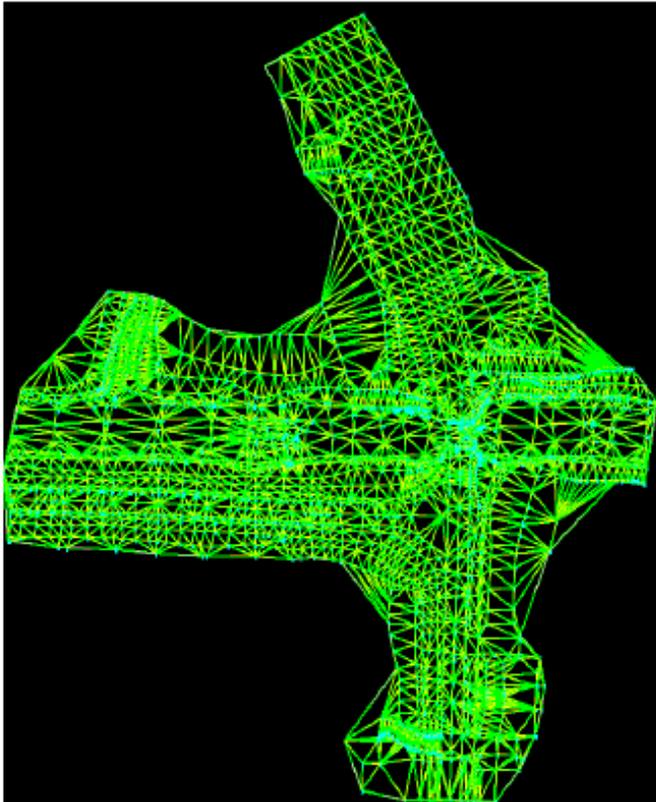


MicroStation Tips & Tricks

Howard Helms, CADD Manager

Select Load

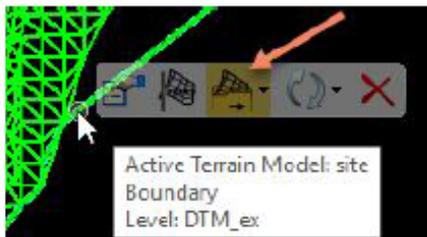
Then compare the .tin file with the GDTMRD01.dgn to make sure they are the same.



Creating a .tin file from a Terrain Model

There are 2 ways to get to **Export Terrain**

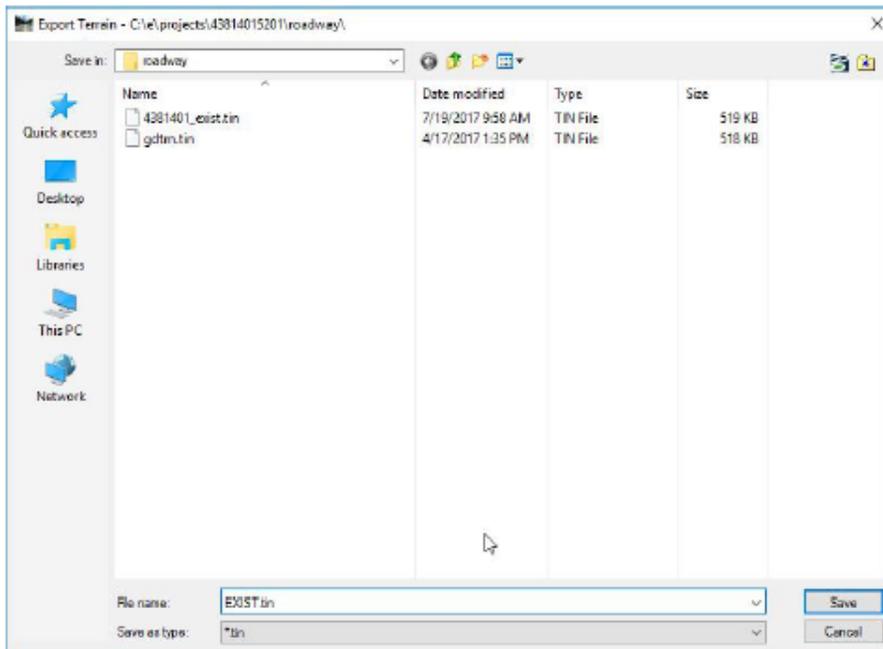
Left click on the Terrain Boundary and hover over it. A flyout will appear. Go to **Export Terrain Model/GEOPAK TIN**



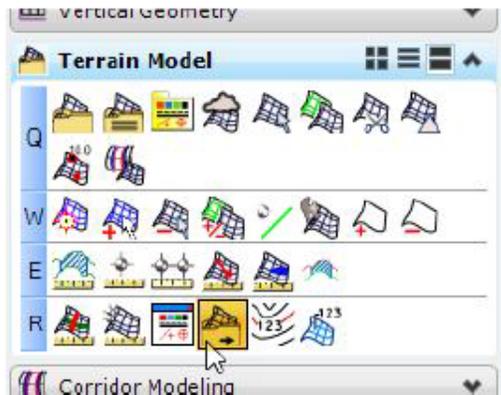
MicroStation Tips & Tricks

Howard Helms, CADD Manager

Name the file and click Save.



Go to Task Menu Bar/Terrain Model/Export to File



Read your cursor prompt it is asking you to select the Terrain to Export. Select the Terrain Model Boundary, by left clicking the boundary.



MicroStation Tips & Tricks

Howard Helms, CADD Manager

Read you're the next cursor prompt. It is asking you to select the Export Format. Use you arrow down key on your key board to get to the GEOPAK TIN format.



Name the file and click Save.

