

## *A GeoVerra Perspective on Mobile Mapping Innovation*

Leveraging Wearable Mobile Mapping Systems:  
Innovative Solutions for Transportation Infrastructure

Canada's Land Surveying & Geomatics Experts



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A surveyor wearing an orange hard hat and a high-visibility safety vest is seen from behind, looking down a railway track. The surveyor is holding a tripod-mounted instrument, likely a total station or level. A "GeoVerra" logo is visible on the back of the vest. The background shows a clear view of the railway tracks receding into the distance, with some greenery and buildings visible on the right side.

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# Introduction





## Mohamed Attia

### Vice President Geospatial & Advanced Technology

- B.Sc. & M.Sc. In Civil Engineering, Egypt
- PhD, Geomatics Engineering, University of Calgary
- Registered Professional Engineer in Alberta, Geomatics Engineering
- Working with GV since 2014 delivering geospatial and advanced technologies solutions to various industries: Oil & Gas, Transportation, Infrastructure, Industrial, Land Development, and Pipelines



[www.geoverra.com](http://www.geoverra.com)



Mohamed's LinkedIn

# GeoVerra / Our Roots & Team

Hughs & Taylor   Waberski Darrow Survey Group   George Munro & Associates

Usher Canada Ltd.   Maltais Geomatics   Crape Geomatics   EZRA Consulting

Condon Survey Group   Focus Corporation   J.W. Sharpe & Associates

Fulton & Associates   Sunbow Consulting   All West Surveys

Peters Survey   Wright-Focus   Opus Stewart Weir

GPEC   Lennon Trilogy   Cadastral Group

WSP   Altus Group   MMM Group



600+ **Team Members**



160 **Field Crews**



23 **Locations**



100+ **Years of Experience**



# Offices / 23 Locations Across Canada

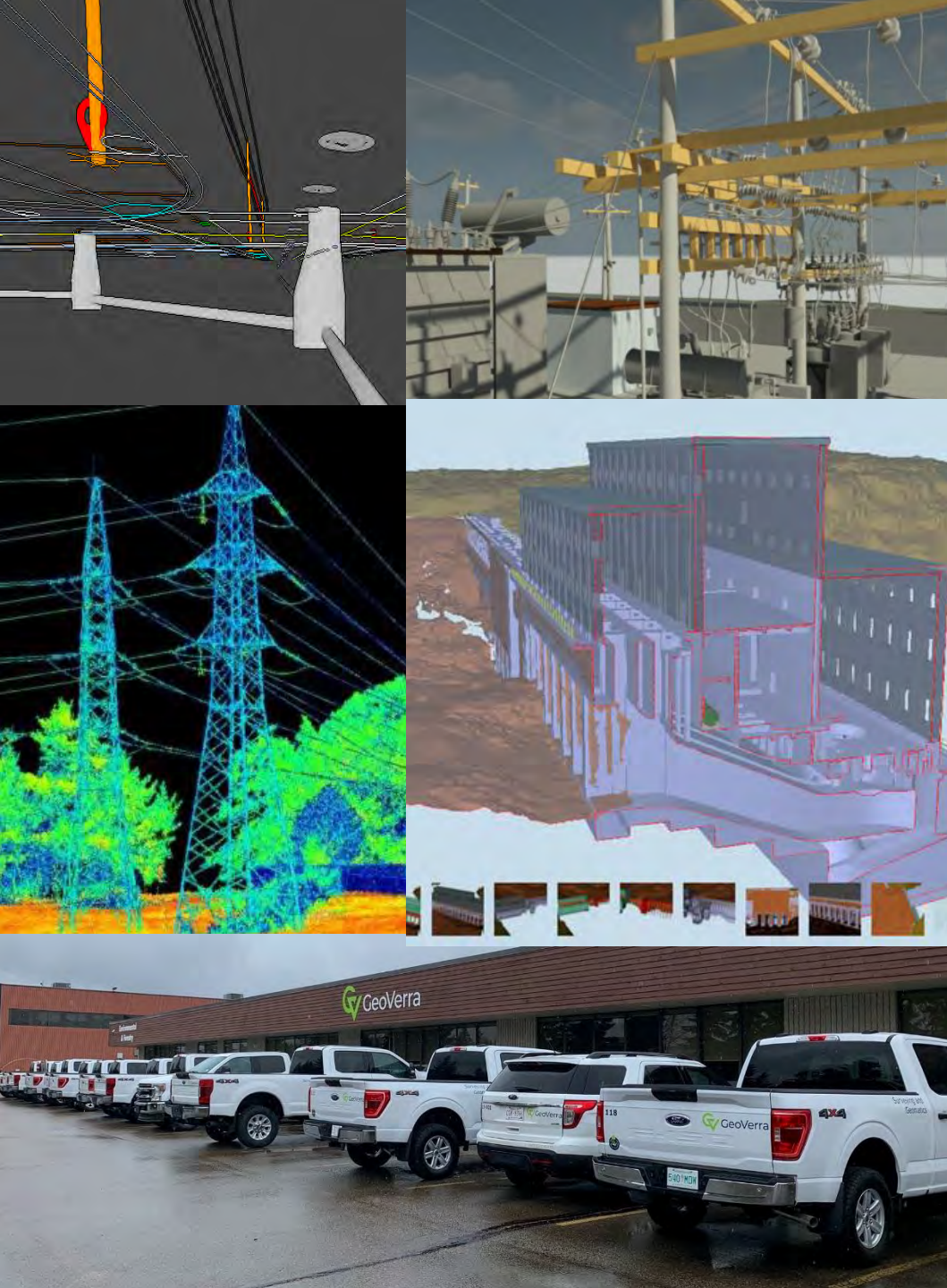


## Innovation & Technology

As a well-established company with a new name and culture, we're geared towards continuous improvement and integrating new systems with existing processes that work.

We aren't investing in just any technology. We're focused on the things that create efficiencies to better serve our clients:

- Updated fleet
- New surveying and geospatial equipment
- Geospatial team, focused on new technology
- Customized web-portals
- Up-and-coming talent with efficiencies-driven mindset





A background image showing two surveyors in orange safety vests and hard hats working on a utility tower. They are operating a yellow total station mounted on a tripod. The scene is set against a grey, overcast sky. The image has a semi-transparent dark overlay.

2

# Traditional Survey vs Mobile Mapping

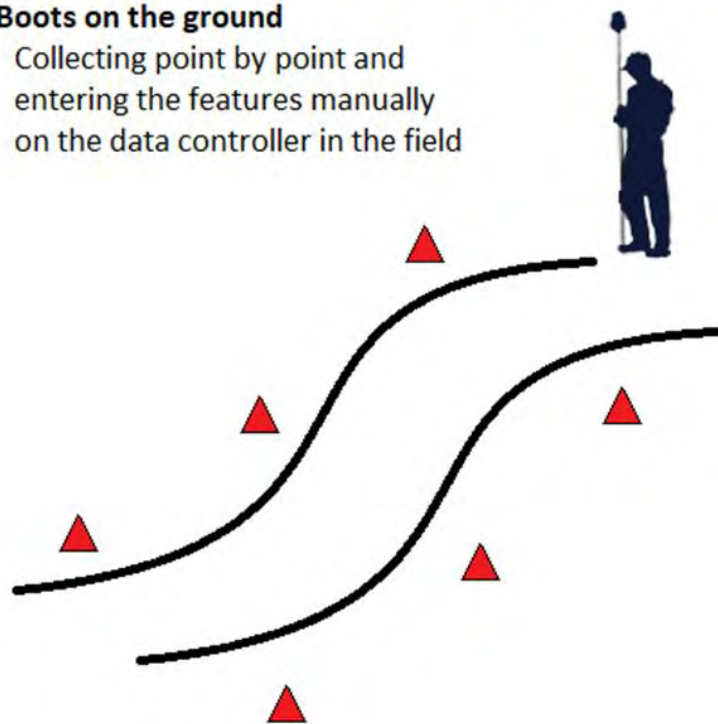


# Traditional Survey vs Mobile Mapping

## Traditional Technologies

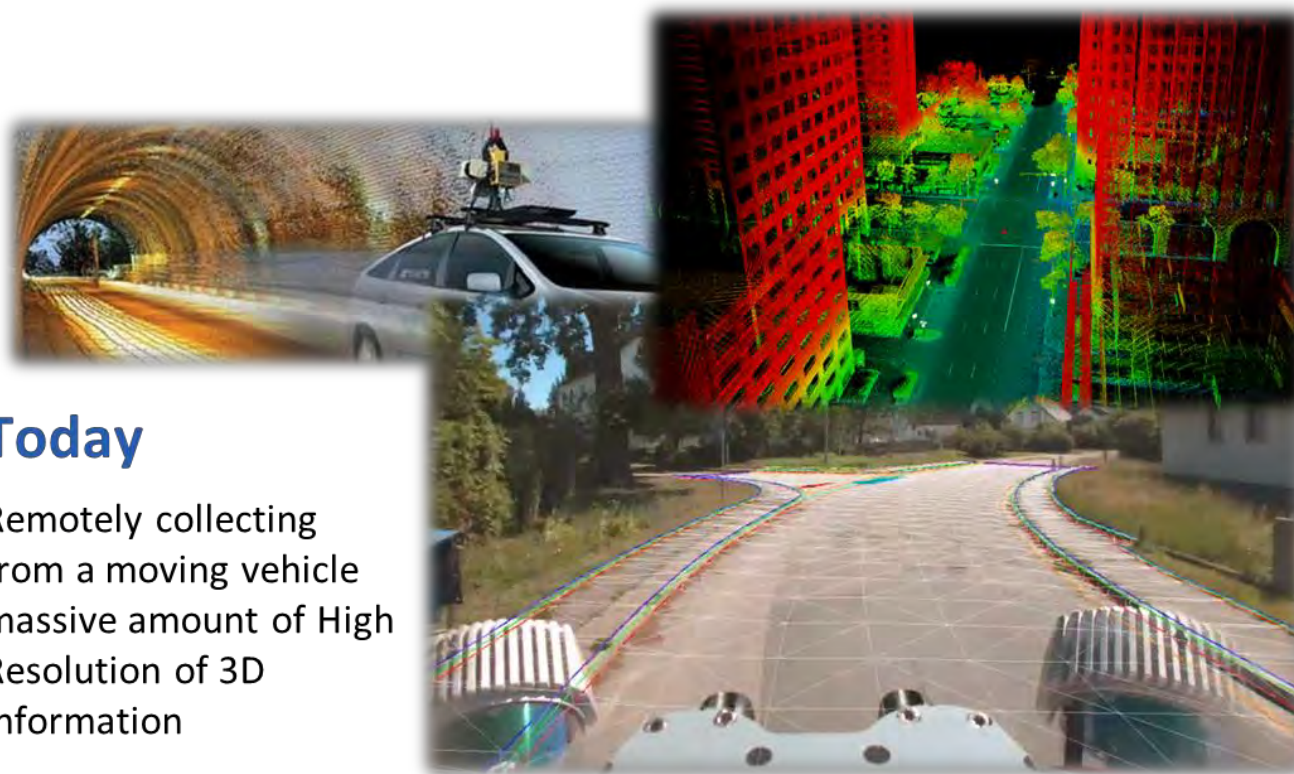
### Boots on the ground

Collecting point by point and entering the features manually on the data controller in the field



## Today

Remotely collecting from a moving vehicle massive amount of High Resolution of 3D information



# Traditional Survey vs Mobile Mapping

## CHALLENGES OF THE TRADITIONAL SURVEY METHOD

1. Obstructed line of sight
2. Slow process
3. Small feature
4. Room for error
5. Cumbersome linework



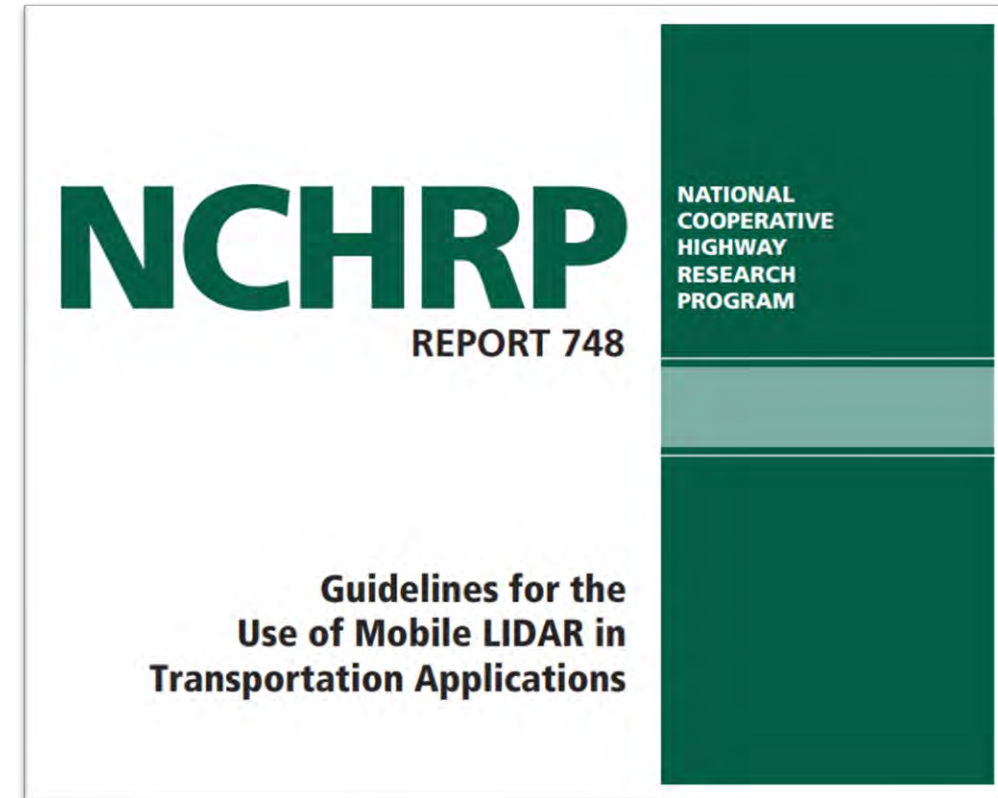


# Traditional Survey vs Mobile Mapping



## TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH BOARD 2013 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The guidelines document aims to:

- Encourage effective use of mobile LIDAR in transportation.
- Support agencies in adopting mobile LIDAR cost-effectively, minimizing risks.
- Facilitate communication between data providers and users within agencies.
- Create a clear management process with guidance on quality and deliverables.
- Ensure data providers supply sufficient metadata and documentation for reproducibility.
- Offer recommendations for data management and long-term dataset viability.





# Traditional Survey vs Mobile Mapping

Visual	Type of Equipment	Best Fit For	Strengths/Industries
	<b>Vehicle Mounted Mobile Mapping System</b>  Images and LiDAR	<b>Large Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Corridor Mapping</li><li>• Highways</li><li>• Roads</li><li>• Railroad</li><li>• Airport</li></ul>
	<b>Stationary Terrestrial Laser Scanners</b>  Images and LiDAR	<b>Small Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intersections</li><li>• Small Road Blocks</li><li>• Buildings Outdoors/Indoors</li><li>• Tunnels</li><li>• Complex Areas</li></ul>



# Traditional Survey vs Mobile Mapping

Visual	Type of Equipment	Best Fit For	Strengths/Industries
	<b>Vehicle Mounted Mobile Mapping System</b>  <u>Images and LiDAR</u>	<b>Large Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Corridor Mapping</li><li>• Highways</li><li>• Roads</li><li>• Railroad</li><li>• Airport</li></ul>
	<b>Walkable Backpack Mobile Mapping System</b>  <u>Images and LiDAR</u>	<b>Small Areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intersections</li><li>• Small Road Blocks</li><li>• Buildings</li><li>• Outdoors/Indoors</li><li>• Tunnels</li><li>• Complex Areas</li></ul>



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# The NavVis VLX 3 Wearable Mobile Mapping System



# The NavVis VLX 3 Walkable Mobile Mapping System



## LiDAR Sensors

Utilise two 32-layer lidar sensors alongside innovative SLAM software to achieve exceptional point cloud quality in a wearable device.

## Imagery Sensors

The device features four cameras that capture high-resolution images from all angles, providing a full 360° view without including the operator.

# The NavVis VLX 3 Walkable Mobile Mapping System

## Laser Scanners

Number of laser scanners	2 × 32-layer
Laser class	1, eye-safe per IEC 60825-1:2007 & 2014
Wavelength	903 nm
Range	Up to 300 m
Points per second	2 × 1,280,000

## Accuracy

Accuracy of point cloud	5 mm in a dedicated test environment of 500 m <sup>2</sup> <sup>(1)</sup>
Control point support	Ground and wall

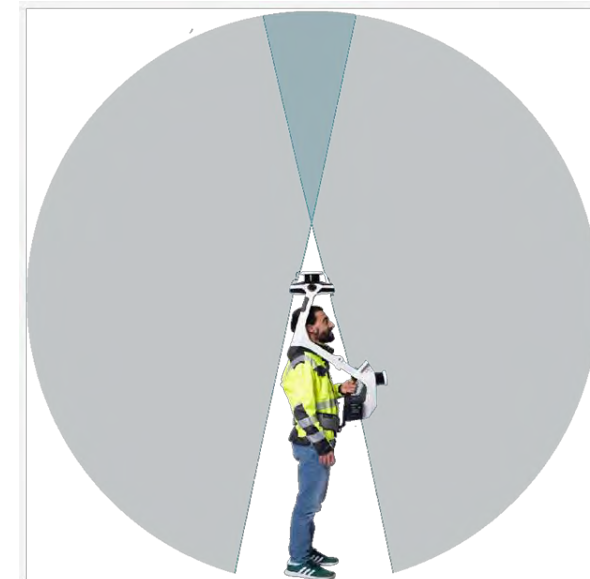
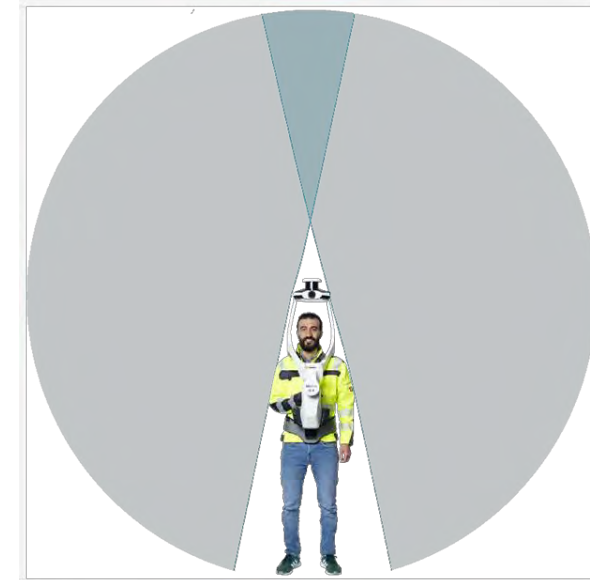
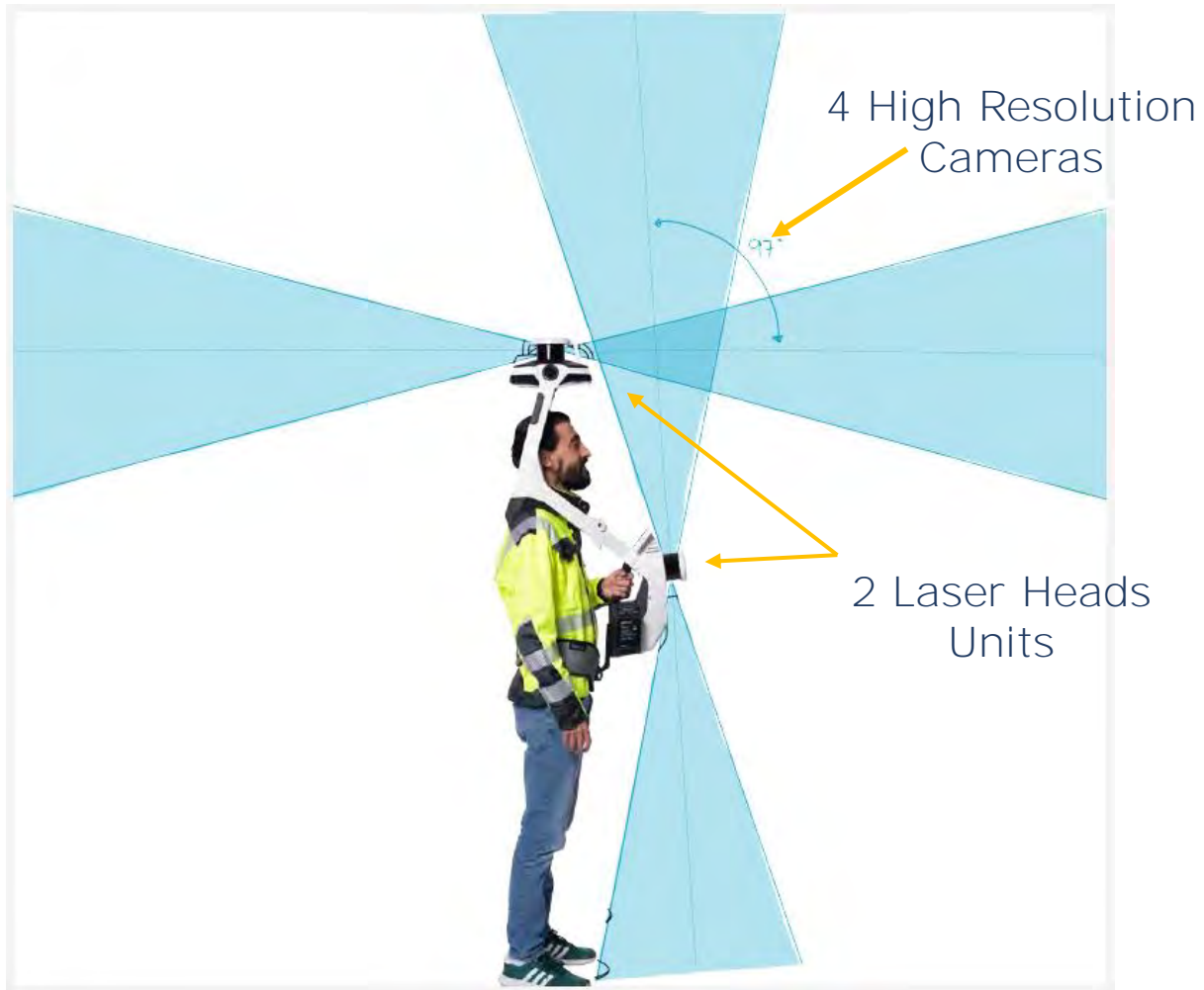
## Cameras

Number of cameras	4
Image resolution	4 × 20 megapixel
Focus	Fixed
Lens	Fisheye, 3.3 mm, aperture f/2.4

## Output

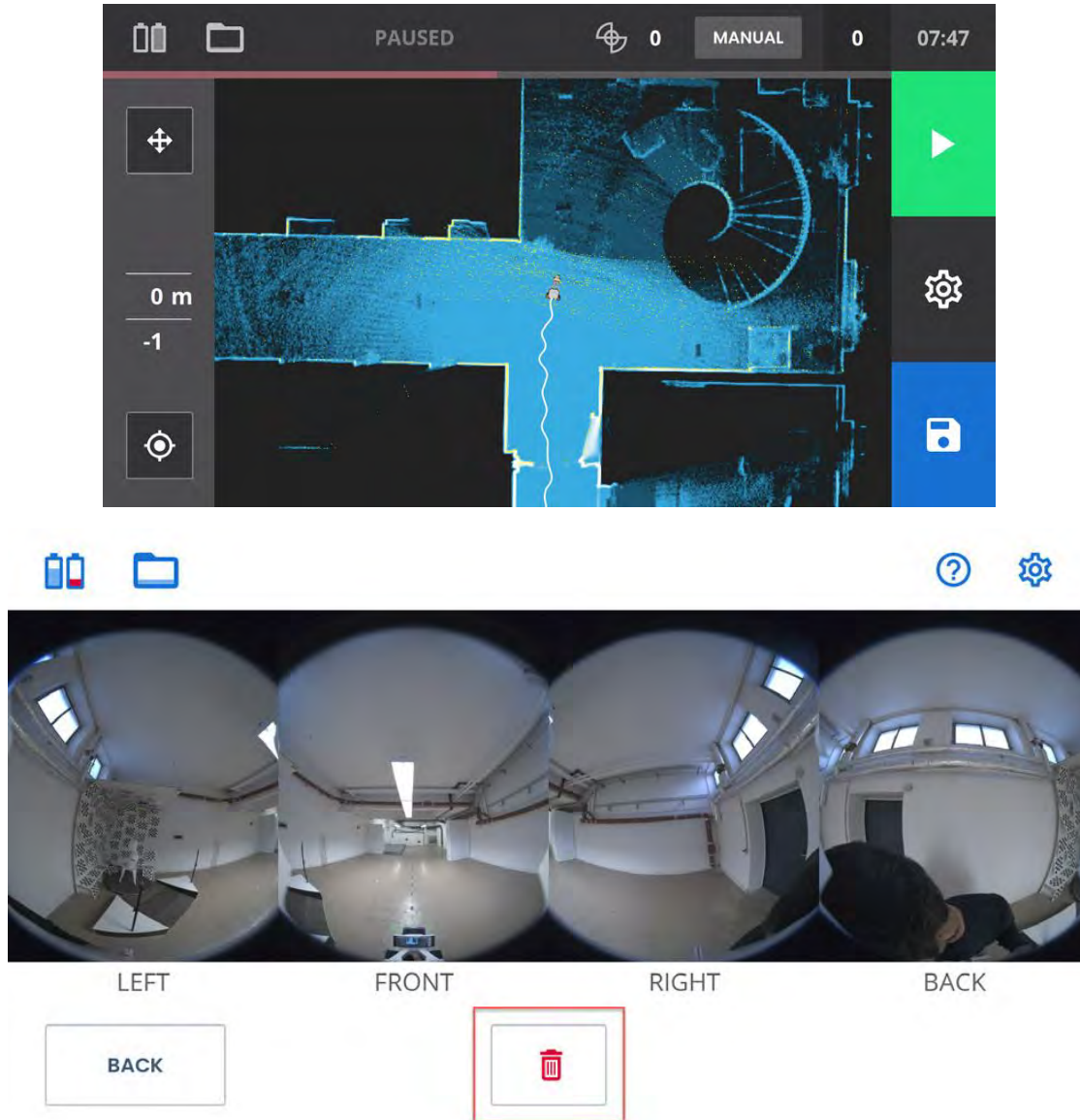
Images	JPEG
Point cloud	E57, LAS, PTS, XYZ, PLY

# The NavVis VLX 3 Walkable Mobile Mapping System

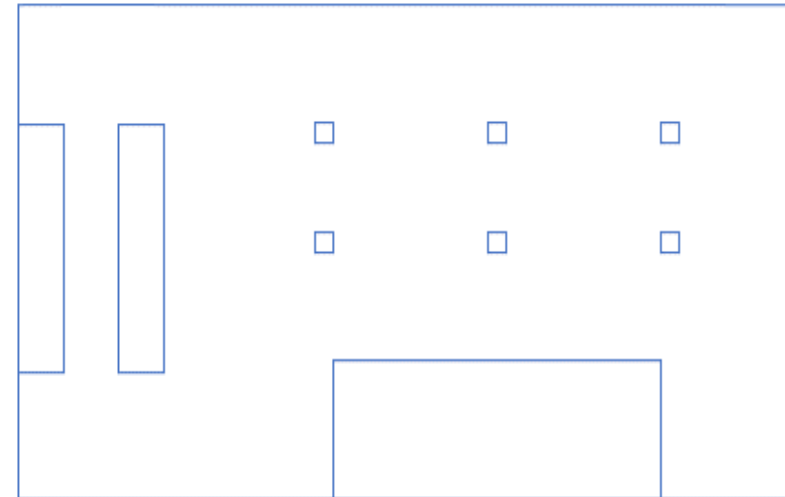




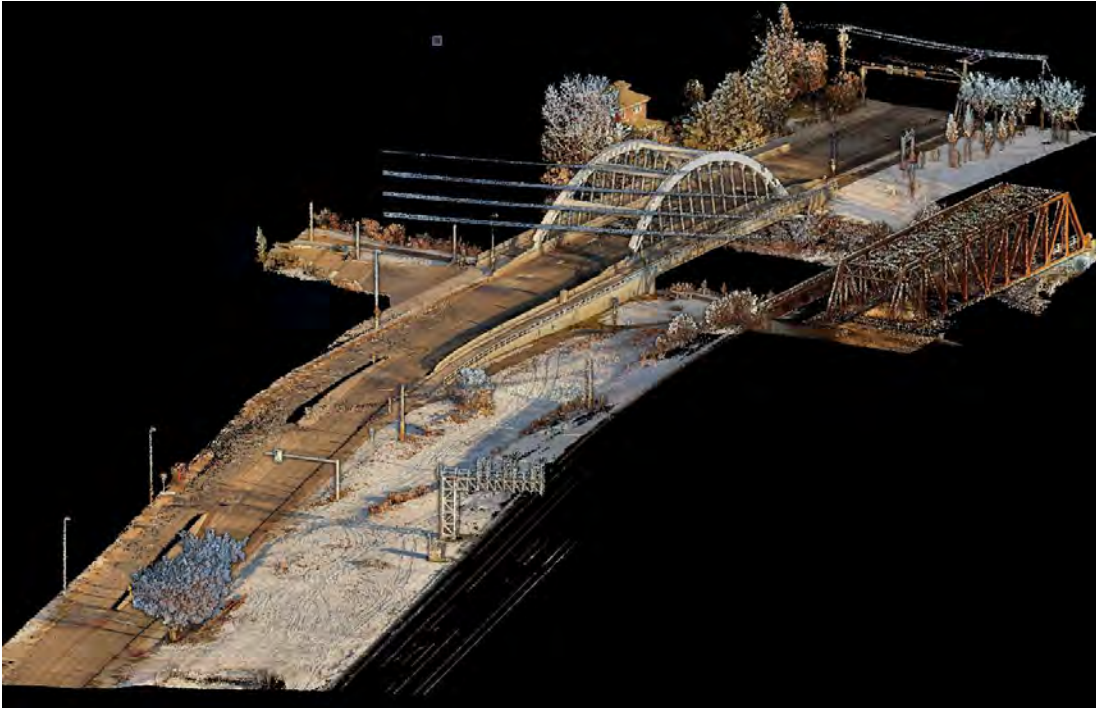
# The NavVis VLX 3 Walkable Mobile Mapping System



## SLAM Technology and Mobile Mapping



# The NavVis VLX 3 Walkable Mobile Mapping System



## Quantified Results - Challenging Environment

**NavVis VLX surveys a comparable area in just one-tenth the time of traditional equipment.**

A survey control network was established in around three hours, and in under two hours (specifically 108 minutes), the area surveyed was:

**With traditional equipment:**

Approx. 3,800 square meters (40,900 square feet) (10% of the site)

**With NavVis VLX:**

Approx. 38,000 square meters (409,000 square feet) (100% of the site)

**NavVis VLX achieved an accuracy of better than 6 mm**

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# Benefits of Wearable Mobile Mapping







**Stationary Terrestrial Laser Scanners**

## Terrestrial Laser Scanners

- Requires multiple setups to capture a large area, with additional time spent planning and aligning scan stations.

## Efficiency & Speed



**Wearable Backpack Mobile Mapping System**

## NavVis VLX 3

- Designed for walkable mapping, it enables continuous data collection while moving.
- Covers large areas faster, reducing field time significantly (up to 50% less in many cases).
- Eliminates the need to reposition equipment multiple times.



**Stationary** Terrestrial Laser Scanners

## Terrestrial Laser Scanners

- Bulky and stationary, making it less suited for tight or hard-to-reach areas.
- May struggle in areas where line-of-sight is restricted.

## Flexibility in Accessing Complex Environments



**Wearable Backpack** Mobile Mapping System

## NavVis VLX 3

- Ideal for narrow, complex, or confined spaces such as train stations, tunnels, and urban environments.
- Can be easily carried and maneuvered, even in areas with obstacles or heavy pedestrian traffic.



**Stationary Terrestrial Laser Scanners**

## Terrestrial Laser Scanners

- Provides real-time feedback via its built-in screen, allowing users to monitor data collection and quality on the go.
- Reduces the need for re-surveys by ensuring complete coverage during the initial pass.

## Real-Time Data Visualization



**Wearable Backpack Mobile Mapping System**

## NavVis VLX 3

- Requires post-processing to verify coverage, which might reveal gaps after fieldwork is complete.





**Stationary** Terrestrial Laser Scanners

## Terrestrial Laser Scanners

- Typically requires more setup time and potentially disrupts site activities during scanning.



**Wearable Backpack** Mobile Mapping System

## Lower Disruption

## NavVis VLX 3

- Walkable mapping minimizes disruptions in public or operational spaces (e.g., train stations or roads).
- Quickly completes surveys in high-traffic environments without the need for cordoning off large areas.



**Stationary** Terrestrial Laser Scanners

## Terrestrial Laser Scanners

- While highly accurate at individual setups, aligning multiple setups in GPS-restricted areas can be challenging and time-intensive.

## Positional Accuracy in GPS-Challenged Areas



**Wearable Backpack** Mobile Mapping System

## NavVis VLX 3

- Equipped with advanced SLAM (Simultaneous Localization and Mapping) technology, ensuring high positional accuracy even in GPS-restricted areas such as indoors, tunnels, or dense urban canyons.



**Stationary Terrestrial Laser Scanners**

## Terrestrial Laser Scanners

- While precise, TLS data may require additional post-processing steps for alignment or stitching, increasing time before use.

**Seamless Integration  
with Digital Workflows**



**Wearable Backpack Mobile Mapping System**

## NavVis VLX 3

- Generates highly accurate 3D point clouds and panoramic imagery that integrate directly with CAD/BIM software, streamlining design and analysis workflows.





**Stationary Terrestrial Laser Scanners**

## Terrestrial Laser Scanners

- Longer setup and scan durations translate into higher labor costs, particularly for large or complex projects.



**Wearable Backpack Mobile Mapping System**

## Cost-Effectiveness

## NavVis VLX 3

- Reduces overall project costs by minimizing field time and the need for revisits.
- Allows smaller teams to complete projects faster.



An aerial photograph of a multi-lane highway. A small car is visible in the middle lane, and two large trucks are in the right lane. The highway is flanked by green grass and a concrete drainage ditch. A large, semi-transparent green number '5' is centered over the highway.

5

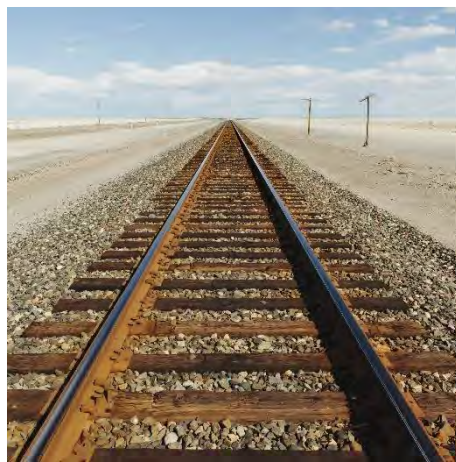
# Applications in Transportation Projects



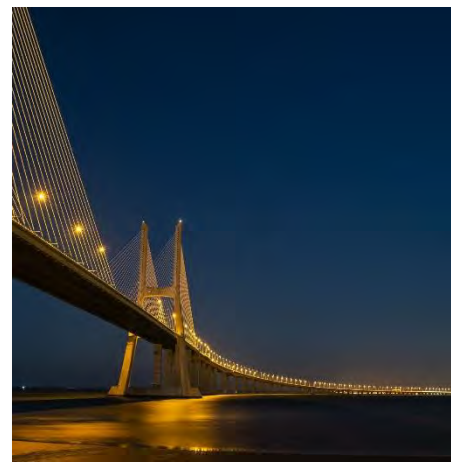
# Applications in Transportation Projects



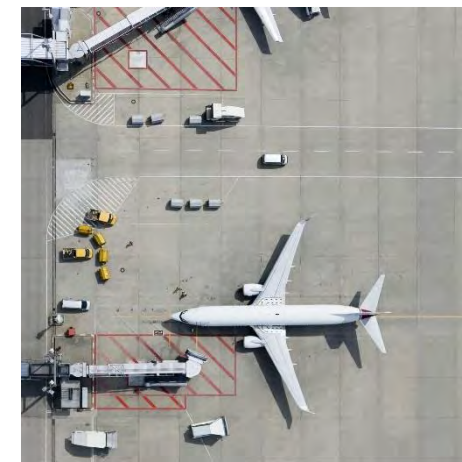
**Highways &  
Urban roads**



**Rail & LRTs**



**Bridges &  
Tunnels**



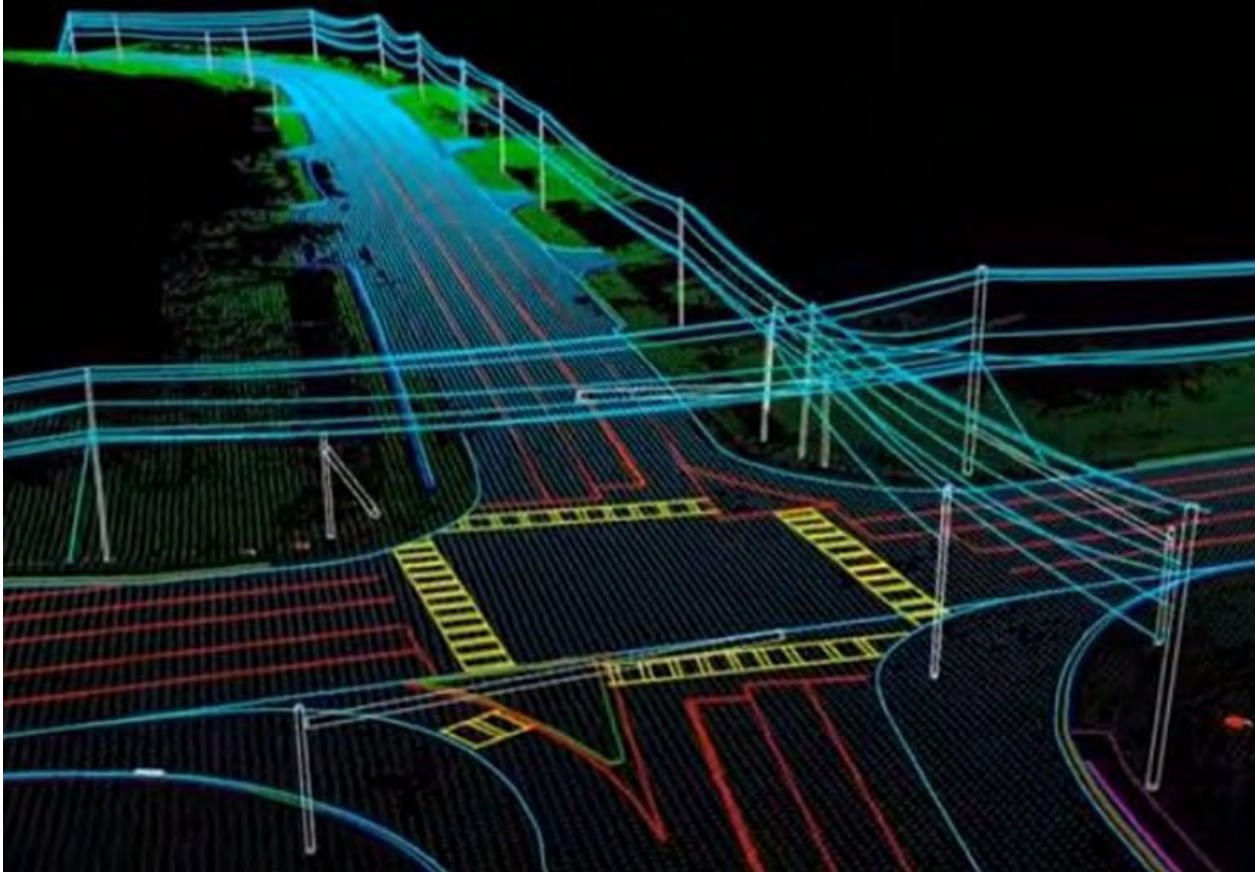
**Airports**



NavVis VLx3 can collect accurate and high-density geospatial remotely, avoiding unsafe areas and limits disruption of sites and work areas.

- Corridor Mapping
- As-built Surveys
- Asset Management
- Structural Inspection
- 3D Modeling – of transportation infrastructures
- BIM
- Road and Railway Mapping and Inspections
- Road and Sidewalk Condition Analysis





## **Survey Grade**

- Topography Feature Extraction
- Structural Model Extraction
- Automated Analysis
- Surface Modeling

## **Engineering**

- Higher accuracy is required
- The relevant information for the asset database is extracted from the gathered data (LiDAR only)
- Roadway survey for design
- As-built survey for quality control
- Vertical clearance (bridges, signs, wires, etc.)

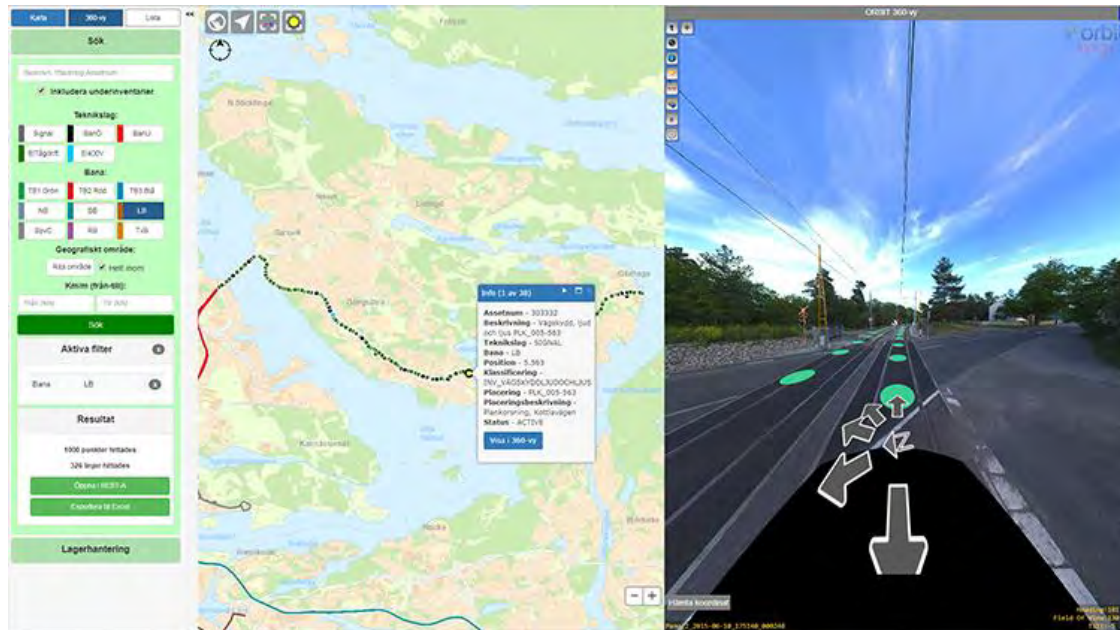


## Asset Grade

- Storm water, wastewater structures, culverts, drain inlets, etc.
- Manholes, hydrants, valves
- Signs, poles, structures/buildings
- Guard rails, paint lines
- Measure vertical/horizontal
- Attribute with greater detail
- Inspection (Roadways, signs, guardrails)

## GIS Inventory

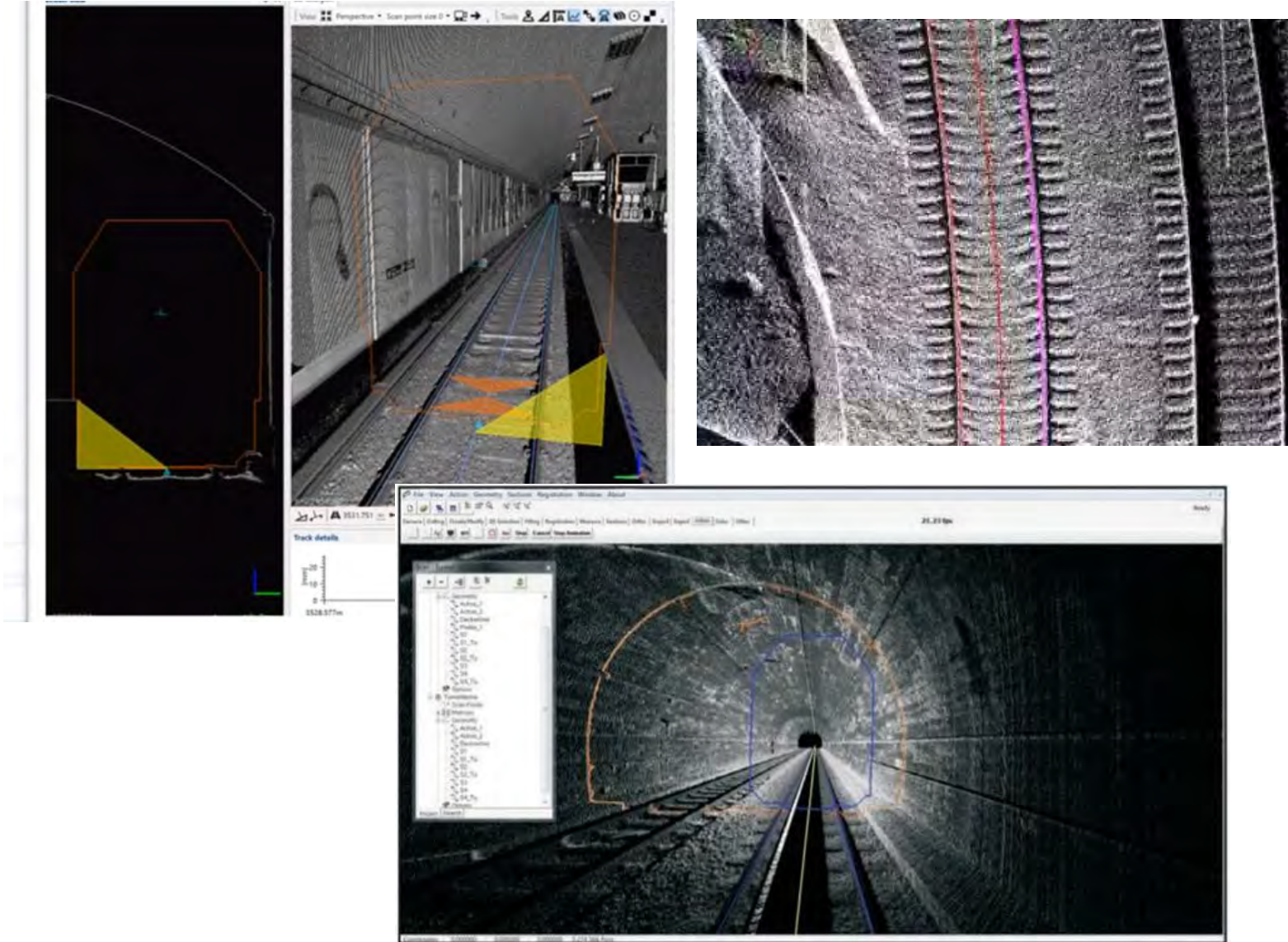
- Low Accuracy is required for GIS Inventories
- The relevant information for the asset database is extracted from the gathered data (LiDAR and Imagery).
- A great number of assets need to be identified, attributed and put in a database





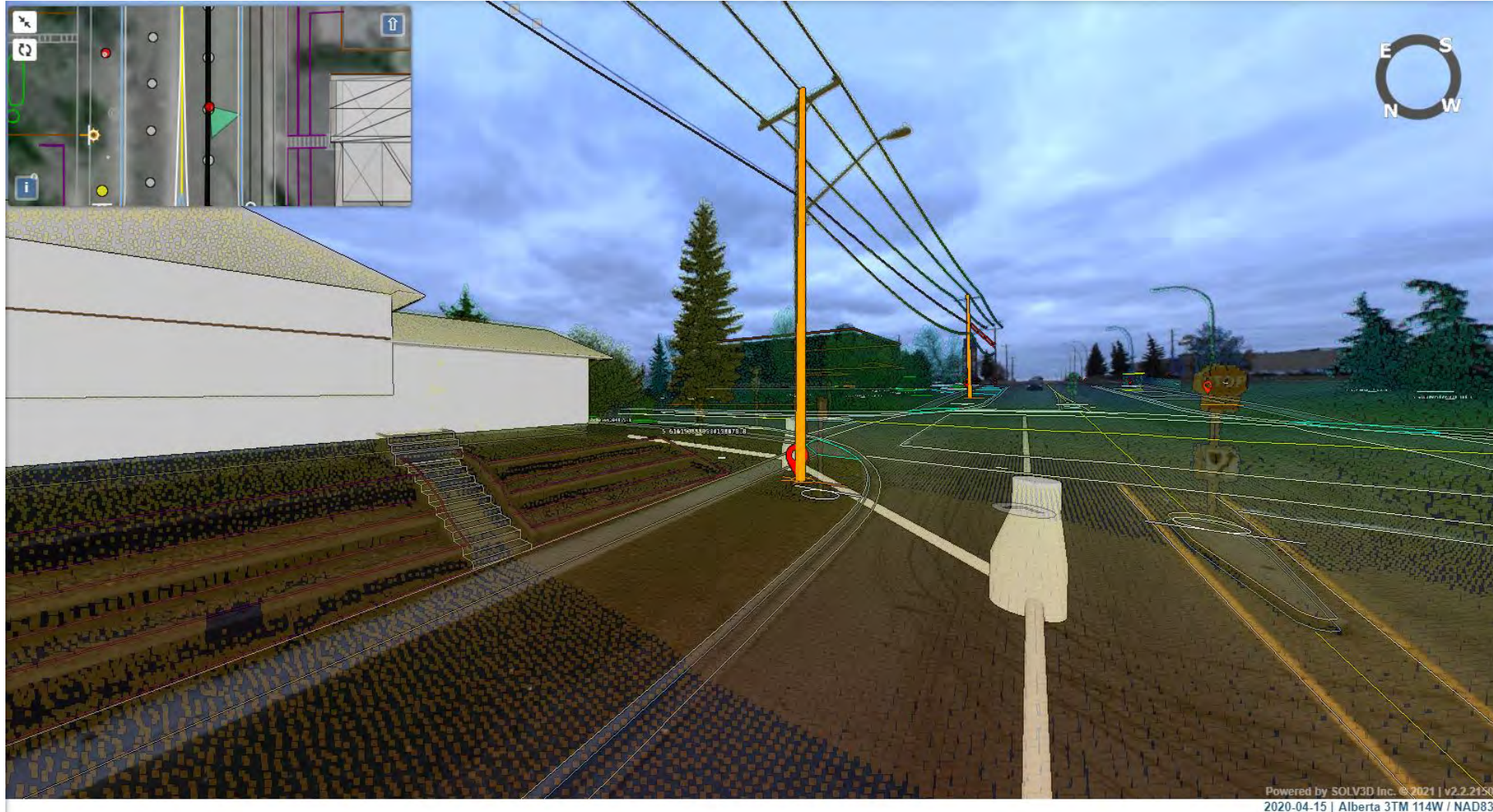
## Railways

- Rail lines extraction
- Rail Assets (post, signals, wires)
- Rail Clearances Analysis
- 3D models of terrain
- Web-Portal for Asset Management
- Surface Modeling



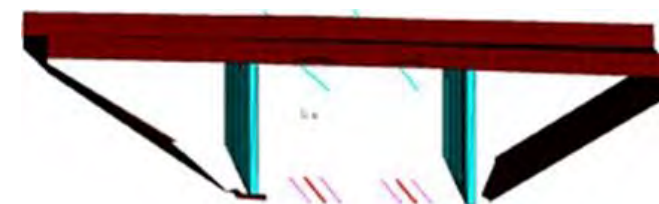
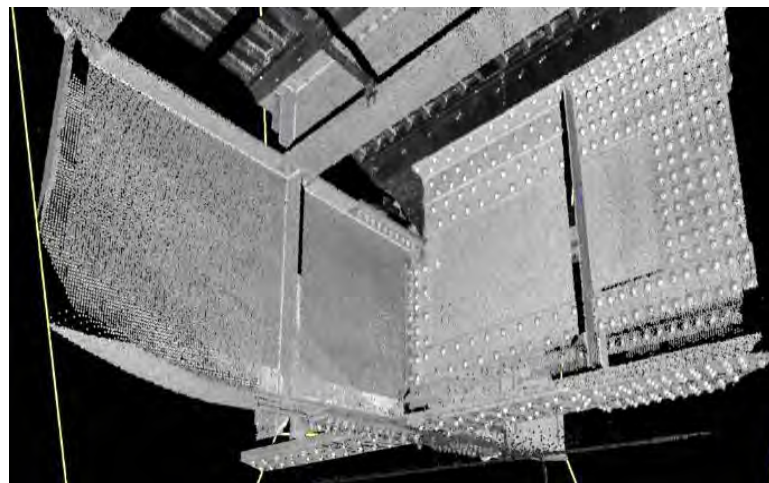
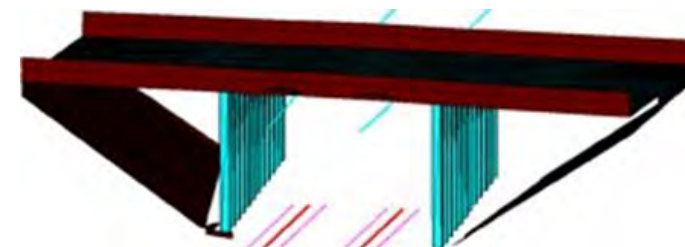
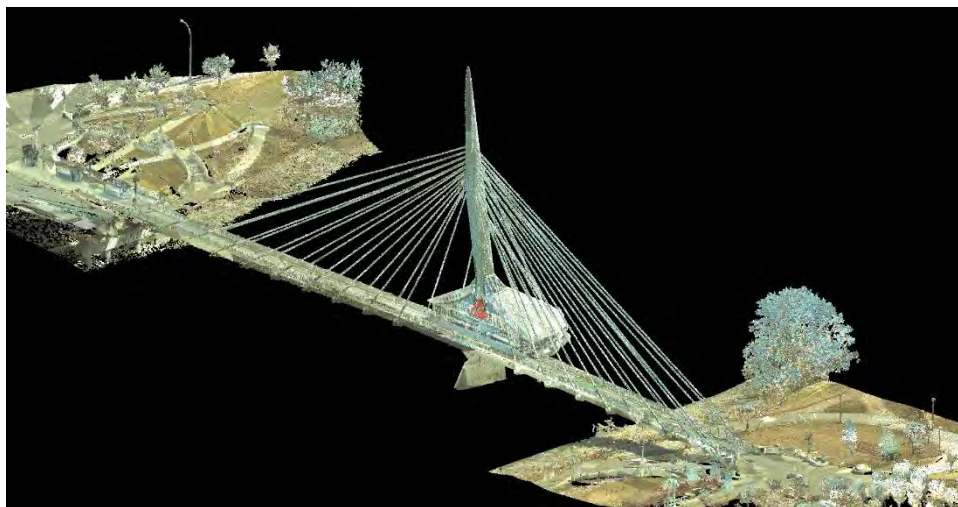


## BIM





# Applications in Transportation Projects / Bridges

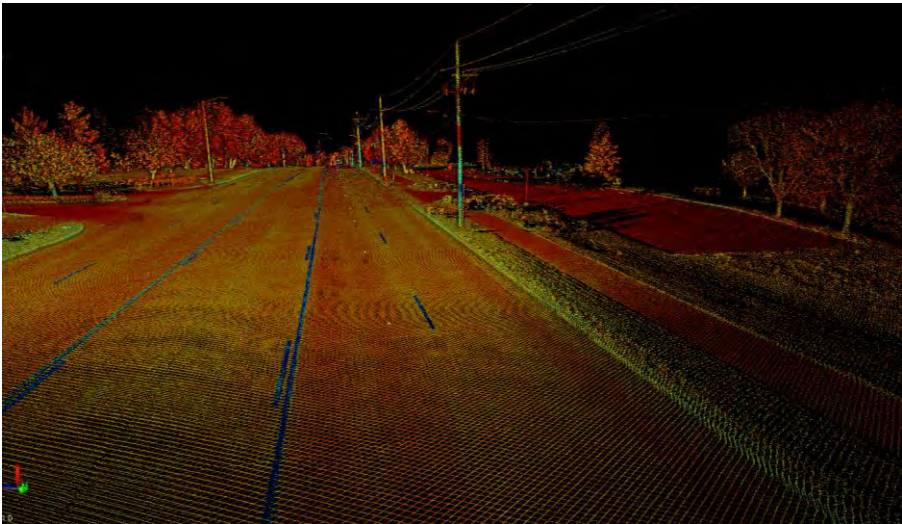




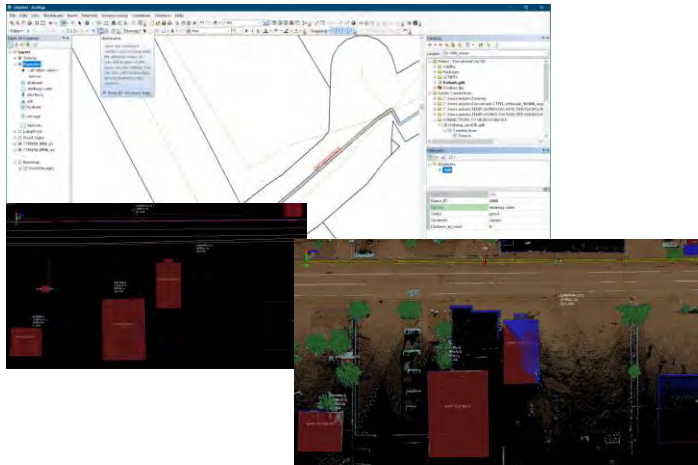
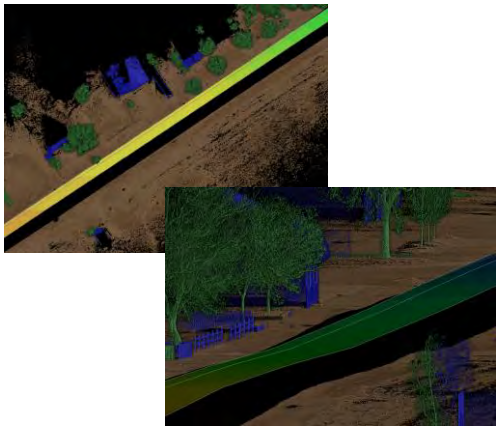
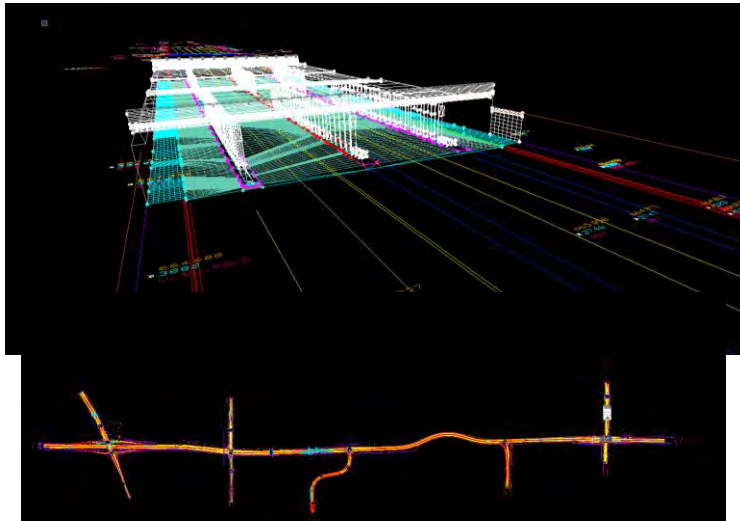
# Applications in Transportation Projects



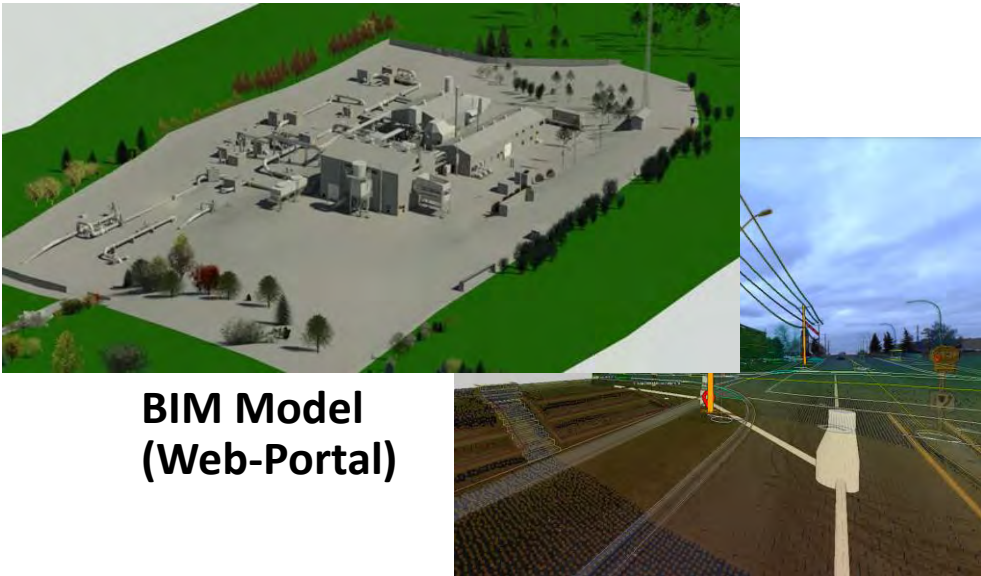
Imagery (Web-Portal)



Point Cloud (Web-Portal)



CAD Surface



BIM Model (Web-Portal)

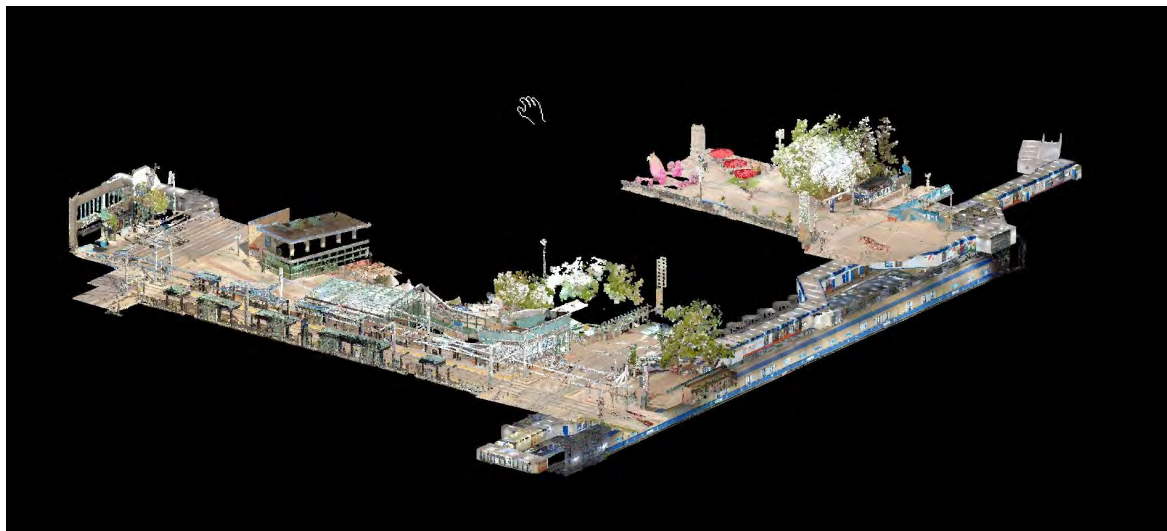




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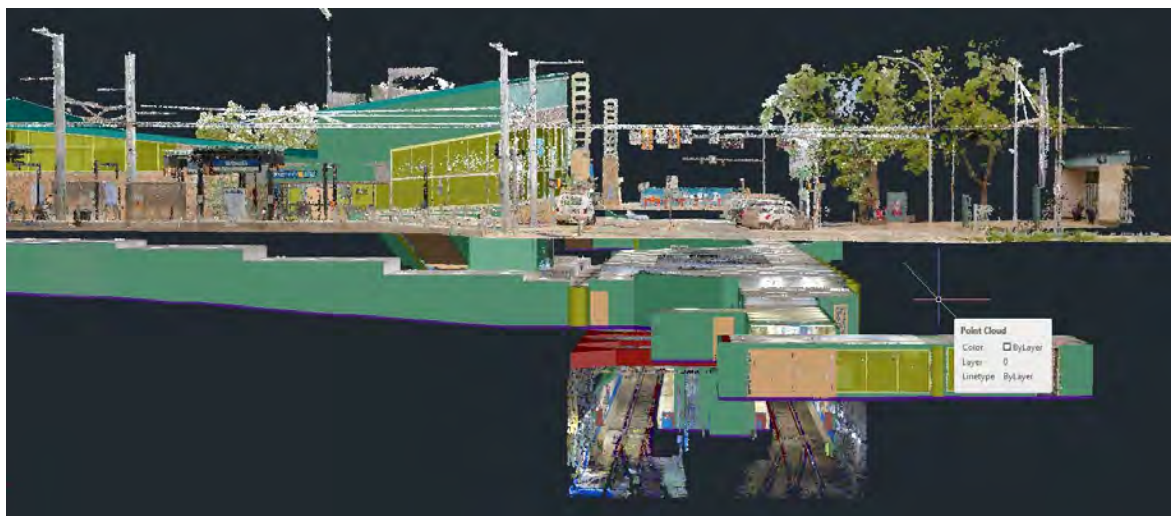
# LRT Station Mapping Project

# GeoVerra's 3D Train Station Mapping Project





# GeoVerra's 3D Train Station Mapping Project





Questions?





[geoverra.com](https://geoverra.com)