



# **GeoAutomation – The Mobile Mapping System**

## **Survey-Enabled Imagery –**

## **A New Direction in GIS Data Collection or Why Are You Still in the Field?**

**Presentation to:  
URISA BC  
GIS Technology Showcase  
January 19, 2011**

Mobile Mapping Review

What is GeoAutomation?

Asset Management and other Applications

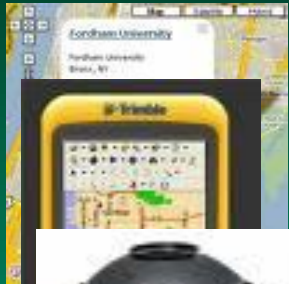
Why Are You still In The Field?

Demo

# GeoAutomation – Mobile Mapping Review

- ▶ The term ‘Mobile Mapping’ has been described in many ways:

- ▶ A map on a cell phone or a GPS enabled device
- ▶ Field data collection with a hand held device such as an ArcPad (GPS enabled or not)
- ▶ Vehicle mounted imagery collection
  - ▶ Google Streetview© or MicroSoft Streetside©
  - ▶ iLOOKABOUT© and similar video or digital frame imagery
- ▶ Vehicle mounted data collection
  - ▶ Video imagery
  - ▶ Video imagery supplemented with digital frame imagery
  - ▶ Terrestrial LiDAR point cloud data supplemented with digital frame imagery / mosaics and /or video
  - ▶ Georeferencing performed by vehicle mounted GPS/IMU and other devices



# GeoAutomation – What is it?

- ▶ GeoAutomation is a mobile digital camera system.
- ▶ Does not rely on GPS, IMU, LiDAR, INS or DMI systems for accuracy and georeferencing
- ▶ Developed in Europe by University of Leuven (Belgium) and licensed to McElhanney
- ▶ It is a simple, accurate and cost effective solution for:
  - ▶ Asset Management Inventory
  - ▶ Engineering Survey
  - ▶ Property Assessment
  - ▶ Asset Condition Assessment
  - ▶ Mapping and GIS requirements.



# GeoAutomation – What is it?

- ▶ GeoAutomation is primarily a ‘survey’ tool.
- ▶ It allows users to sit in the comfort and safety of their office workstation and accurately collect data.
- ▶ Georeferenced using automated pixel correlation, photogrammetric triangulation, and ground control and / or GPS.
- ▶ Software has direct links to ArcGIS, MicroStation and AutoCAD
- ▶ Also a great visualization tool for condition assessment and a building block for 3D models.



- ▶ The GeoAutomation solution is based on proven science and technology, Photogrammetry.
- ▶ Accuracies can be independently verified.
- ▶ Ability to reprocess data to higher accuracy with the addition of photo ID ground control, post collection.
- ▶ Accuracy based on ground control or GPS data.
- ▶ 14 camera views.



# GeoAutomation - Mobile Camera System





# GeoAutomation – McElhanney's Truck

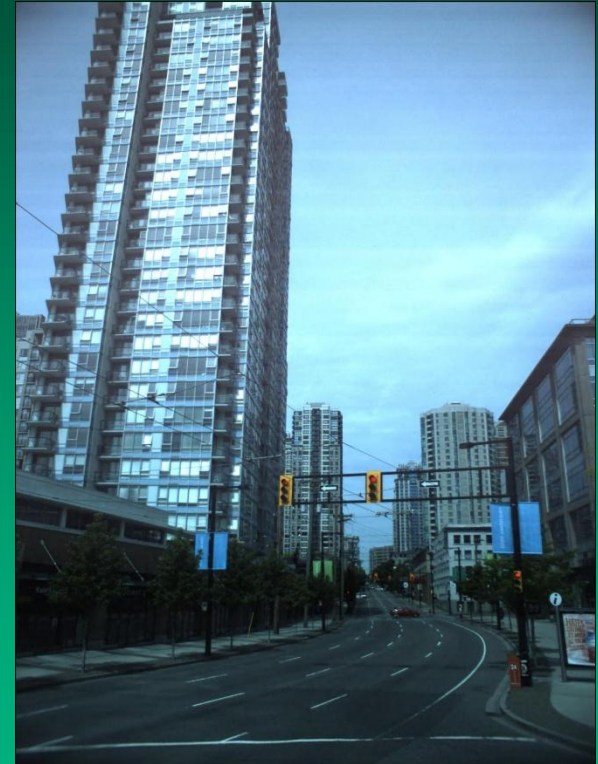






# GeoAutomation – Cameras and Collection

- ▶ Cameras collect and compress 11 frames per second.
- ▶ Thousands of images per km.
- ▶ Each camera has its own computer with a 1.5 TB or 2.0 TB storage capacity.
- ▶ Require 3GB – 5GB storage for every km of image data.





# GeoAutomation – Cameras and Collection

- ▶ Urban Environment with high accuracy (up to 2cm) requirements:
  - ▶ Maximum collection speed is 35km per hour.
- ▶ Highway Environment with GPS accuracy (approx 25cm) requirements:
  - ▶ Maximum collection speed is 75 km per hour.

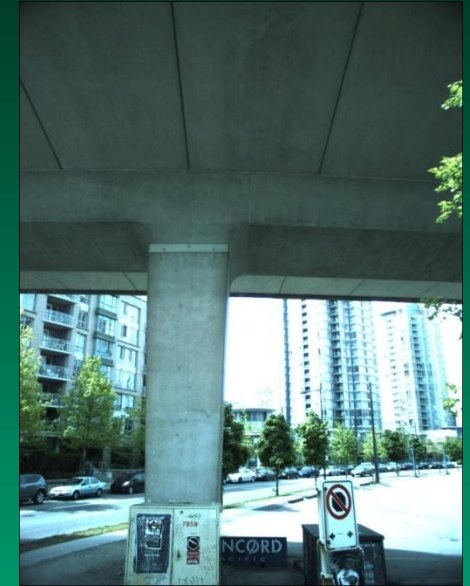




# GeoAutomation – Pixel Correlation

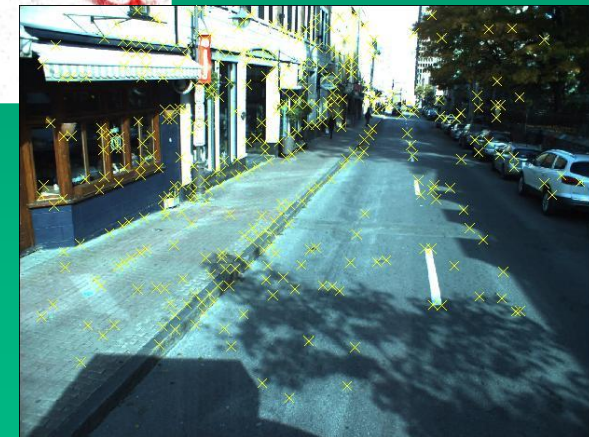
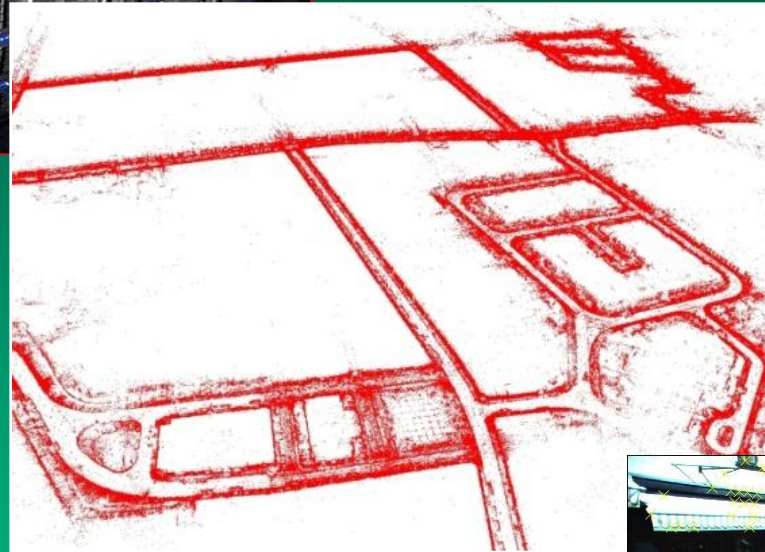
- ▶ Imagery processed with advanced pixel correlation algorithms.
- ▶ Resulting in each image frame having hundreds of tie points.
- ▶ Each processed tie point or “track point” has the triangulated x, y and z coordinate of the same pixel in at least twelve other image frames.
- ▶ The process creates a tightly controlled LiDAR-like 3D image structure that has a relative accuracy down to the pixel level.

- ▶ Imagery processing is completed with ground control (GPS and / or GCPs)
- ▶ The required accuracy is always client dependent
- ▶ Image collection can take place without GPS. Photo ID control can be added as required
- ▶ Image Accuracy guaranteed to client requirements with Accuracy Statements and confirmed with blind control





# GeoAutomation – Image Processing





- ▶ **Track points are easy to find in urban or road imagery:**
  - ▶ **At intersections of linear features;**
  - ▶ **Along linear features; and**
  - ▶ **At locations of image contrast**



# GeoAutomation – Accuracy Expectations

Accuracy	Control	Application
Dependent on ortho	Ortho Photo	Video reviews; on-line street views; asset management
20-30cm (8"-12")	On Board DGPS	Asset management, data collection
10 cm (4")	100–200m (330-660 ft)	Forensics – Preliminary engineering design
5 cm (2")	50m (165 ft)	Detailed Design mapping – Public works infrastructure – Curb and gutter
1-2 cm (.4 – .8")	20m (65 ft)	Pavement overlay design and volume calcs - tie-ins

# GeoAutomation – How Do You Work With It?

- ▶ Software has direct links to ArcGIS, MicroStation and AutoCAD.
- ▶ Simple set up, with CAD or GIS screen on one side and GeoAutomation screen on the other, or as an inset window.
- ▶ The points collected in the video were ‘surveyed’ to the x, y and z accuracies of the imagery.
- ▶ Points are surveyed, mapped, or assets are collected and directly input into your CAD or GIS system for manipulation and analysis.
- ▶ Simple. Fast. Economical.

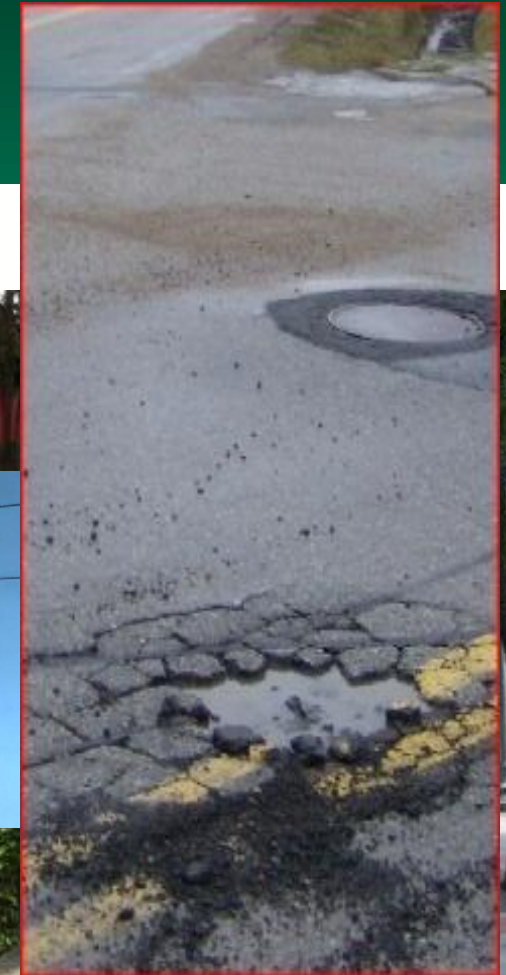






# GeoAutomation – for Asset Management

- ▶ Asset Management Needs
  - ▶ Locate
  - ▶ Measure
  - ▶ Identify
  - ▶ Inspect
  - ▶ Meet Regulatory Requirements
- ▶ Asset Inventory for:
  - ▶ Electric Utilities
  - ▶ Water Utilities
  - ▶ Signage and Furniture
  - ▶ Traffic Control Systems
  - ▶ Pavement and Sidewalks
  - ▶ Urban Forestry

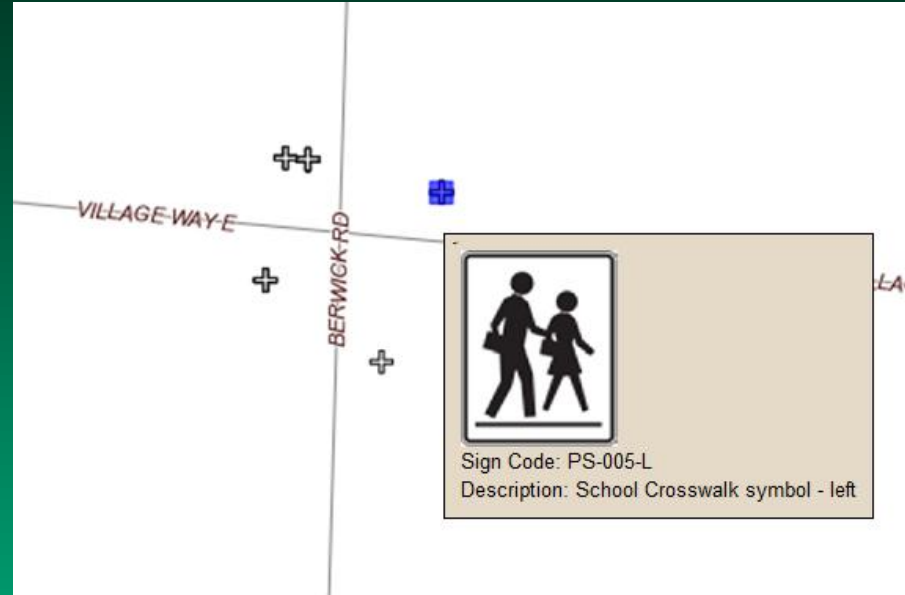




## Auto Feature Recognition



# GeoAutomation – Auto Feature Recognition



**Signs**  
**Manholes**  
**Valves**  
**Catch Basins**  
**Hydrants**  
**Etc.**



# GeoAutomation - Why are you still in the field?

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- ▶ Reduced Collection Time.
  - ▶ Simple field collection and asset attribution can take 5 – 15 minutes per feature.
    - ▶ GeoAutomation office collection and attribution of the same feature can be less than 1 minute.
  - ▶ More detailed field collection and asset attribution (electric utility distribution) can take 15 - 30 minutes per feature.
    - ▶ GeoAutomation office collection and attribution of the same feature can be less than 3 minutes.



# GeoAutomation –Why are you still in the field?

- ▶ No GPS Problems.
  - ▶ Urban canyon and dense tree cover issues are no longer a concern.
  - ▶ Control for any project can be accomplished with ground control only.
  - ▶ Where GPS is desired:
    - ▶ Can be collected with a local base station, greatly reducing issues.
    - ▶ Cameras are forward looking, able to ‘see’ under tree canopies.
    - ▶ Weak GPS areas are firmed up with surveyed ground control.
- ▶ Imagery delivered, ready to collect, with the required accuracy in every image.



# GeoAutomation –Why are you still in the field?

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- ▶ No Weather Delays.
  - ▶ Improves productivity greatly, especially during the winter.
  - ▶ All collection and attribution work is performed in the office.
- ▶ Workplace Safety Improvements.
  - ▶ Significantly decrease accident potential.
  - ▶ All collection and attribution work is performed in the office.

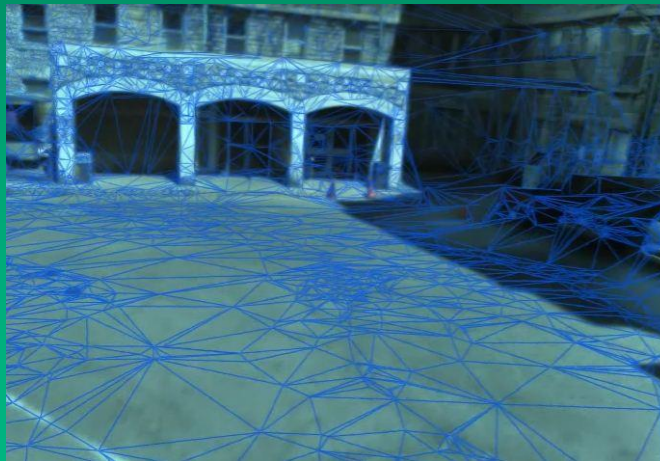


# GeoAutomation –Why are you still in the field?

- ▶ GIS Data Verification
  - ▶ What is the accuracy of your legacy data?
  - ▶ Improve the overall accuracy of the GIS database.
- ▶ Database Currency and Maintenance
  - ▶ Are your users confident that the information in the GIS database is both current and accurate?
  - ▶ GeoAutomation imagery will give them that confidence.

# GeoAutomation –Why are you still in the field?

- ▶ Additional Value:
  - ▶ Image library.
    - ▶ Revisit any time to view or collect additional data.
    - ▶ Provides a one point in time view, enabling ‘apples to apples’ valuation of assets.
  - ▶ 3D Modelling







# GeoAutomation –Why are you still in the field?

- ▶ Additional Value:
  - ▶ Reduction in Carbon Footprint.
  - ▶ Pre-construction Road Condition Inventory.
  - ▶ Improve image accuracy with addition of Photo ID control.
  - ▶ Engineering applications with additional GCPs.
    - ▶ GIS data collection for Engineering Survey design
    - ▶ Cross Sections
    - ▶ Virtual As-Builts



# GeoAutomation –Why are you still in the field?

- ▶ Potential for Cost Reduction.
  - ▶ Collection and attribution costs can be reduced up to 40%, depending on features collected.
  - ▶ Even greater savings in time and \$ in non-RTK areas; in collection of multiple features; and when using hand-held devices.
  - ▶ Worst case scenario – costs are the same as traditional collection and attribution methods – with all the additional benefits.



# GeoAutomation – Other Applications

- ▶ Building Information Management
- ▶ Property Assessment
- ▶ Facilities Management
- ▶ Forensics / Accident Investigation
- ▶ Property Litigation / Complaints
- ▶ Security Corridors



- ▶ Deliverables
  - ▶ Imagery
  - ▶ Software
  - ▶ CAD plug-in
  - ▶ Tracking points



Questions?

**Thank You!**