DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MnDOT Right of Way Mapping - Frequently Asked Questions:

If you have a question not covered below, please Contact Us.

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What is a right of way map and what purpose does it have?
The right of way map visually displays an approximation of MnDOT's highway right of way. The map is used as a general index to identify official documents and other records associated with the acquisition, disposal and administration of highway right of way. It is not a boundary survey, as-built survey or plat; nor is it intended to represent or be used in place of the official document of record. Contact the appropriate MnDOT District office for information regarding the current status of specific rights or interests of highway right of way.
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How can I get a right of way map?
The easiest way to access Right of Way Maps is to visit our Right of Way Mapping & Monitoring website at the following link: http://www.dot.state.mn.us/maps/gisweb/row/. The link provides comprehensive solutions for self-service operation to find, view, and print right of way maps. The site's spatial index format simplifies finding a map, if available, for any particular site by just zooming into the area desired. Alternately, select and query tools are also available. Another source of right of way maps is the eDIGS public access web site. This site offers a variety of MnDOT documents including right of way maps. This website is available at the following link: http://dotapp7.dot.state.mn.us/eDIGS_guest/DMResultSet/Index
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How current are the maps?
An estimated 98% of maps are current. There are always maps in production on projects. Minor updates to old maps commonly occur as a result of ongoing adjustments or maintenance of the State's highway system.
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For what purposes or intended use does the right of way map serve?
The right of way map functions as a general guide or pointer to other information or supportive documents used to acquire the highway right of way or release it from State authority. The map content consists of information to help facilitate locating official documents or other reference information. Any features shown by location, symbol or description need to be confirmed by the appropriate legal document and/or representative authority. Contacting the appropriate MnDOT district office to confirm highway right of way existence or location is advised. See our brochure linked in the **Related links** section of the following page:
http://www.dot.state.mn.us/landmanagement/contacts.html
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How do I know if I have the most current map?
This can be difficult at times due to the variety of map files, formats, and indexes involved. Often two or more maps are required to have all of the most current information for a particular area. If comparing between two maps for the same area, normally the newest map has the widest right of way width and the highest parcel numbers of the applicable maps. The newest map generally has the highest file number but this may not always be the case. Another consideration are those maps that may be in production within either the Office of Land Management (OLM) LIS and R/W Mapping Unit, or as a Workmap in the districts. The Office of Land Management Project Coordination Unit or the district right of way personnel have the most current information on active acquisition projects.
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What information is shown on the maps?

The focus of the final right of way maps is to visually display the real estate that MnDOT administers and is responsible for. Real estate previously held by MnDOT is also portrayed for reference purposes. Listed below are map features in general order of their importance to MnDOT operations (items near the end of the list may not appear on some maps):

- New right of way, permanent easements and access control.

- Parcel caption blocks, parcel flagging, area and type tabulation, plat number, control section number, and state project number.
- Public Land Survey (PLS) lines (section, township, range, quarter lines, sixteenth lines,
- etc.)
- Existing right of way.
- Subdivision lot and block lines and related subdivision information
- Property line of ownership
- Right of way of other road authorities
- Road names and width
- Railroad right of way and related information
- New right of way centerline
- Existing right of way centerline
- PLS government lot information
- Above-ground topography
- Commissioner's Orders
- Vicinity map
- City names, river and lake names
- Road structure (curbs, shoulders, edge of road)
- Mile post markers
  Grid ticks

For more detailed information on these map features, feature themes or standards used in mapping see:

> http://www.dot.state.mn.us/caes/cadd/
>
> http://www.dot.state.mn.us/surveying/manuals.html
>
> http://www.dot.state.mn.us/row/rowmanuals.html

What are the typical map extents? Does a single map cover an entire highway?

Maps normally cover a construction project. Larger projects may involve more than one map. Very rarely does a single map cover an entire highway.
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What is the difference between a right of way plat and a right of way map?

The right of way plat is a legal document portraying proposed acquisition. The right of way map is an evolving graphic document (not a legal document) that portrays the right of way that was acquired and/or ultimately relinquished from MnDOT's administrative responsibility.
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Can I get information on historical right of way limits?

Yes. There are usually several maps for a given portion of highway. Each one reflects a different construction phase for a given location.

Can I get right of way information shown on top of a digital photograph?
MnDOT does not offer this as a standard printed product or service.

Can I order a printed right of way map?
We no longer provide this service. To reduce our overhead costs we provide our customers the self-service website for downloading their own maps. If you need assistance in printing your map or downloading a file for printing, contact us by email at: LISRWMAP.dot@state.mn.us or complete the request for assistance form on our website.

What file formats are available for digital map files?
Raster files are in TIF format. CAD files are in MicroStation DGN format.
Both types of maps are available in PDF format

What are the earliest dated maps available?
The earliest maps date to the 1920's when MnDOT was known as the State Highway Department. Around 1990 we began adding dates to maps.

Do the right of way maps delineate right of way plats?
Yes, by parcel, except for the cases when parcels are not acquired by plat reference. .

What kind of parcel information is shown?
The parcel number, owners name, control section, general ownership, acquisition size amounts, owner balances, parcel taking and delineation, plat number, right of way widths.

What kind of centerline information is shown?
Only the centerlines used to establish the right of way. The centerlines show stationing, point of curvature and tangency, and curve data such as delta, radius, length, tangent, and degree of curve.

Do you have metadata on the right of way maps?
Metadata information is available for the maps. Click the metadata tab on the map query popup screen.

Is the data in in GIS format?
The maps have been geo-referenced with an accuracy designed to primarily support the footprint of the map for visual searching purposes. See the metadata for a more detailed explanation.

Are the maps I download georeferenced?
The world files (TFW) are no longer available for download from our Right of Way Mapping and Monitoring application. They may be requested from the LIS & RW Mapping unit. Shape files can also be requested.
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I can't find the map I'm looking for. What now?
There is the chance that the map you are looking for does not exist. There is the possibility that no right of way has been acquired along that highway, so no mapping was prepared. Or, it may be a situation where the highway was acquired from the township, city, or county and no maps were created. An example of the later is when Hennepin County CSAH 18 became U.S. 169. For such a change, the local authority may have the best or additional maps. For information on proposed projects, current construction, or the most current information, contact the MnDOT district office appropriate for the area of interest. Contact information and the location of each MnDOT district office can be found in our brochure linked on the Land Management Contracts page in the **Related links** section.
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Can I use an address search to find right of way maps?
An address search is available in the search box located at the top of the screen.
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Why do some of the maps seem to be missing the title and vicinity map portion of the map?
Several hundred maps in the collection have attachments that may not appear with the map footprint or the rest of the map roll. These attachments were part of the original roll map and consist of title pages, inserts or other pertinent components. They were not initially made part of the map footprint because their content did not include actual ground features that would enable their spatial referencing. Often the missing part may contain a list of the Commissioner's Orders for the mapped area.
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Why do some maps contain overlapping sheets and others are edge to edge?
The roll maps originally drawn and maintained in their ink on linen format were photographed and scanned to create digital raster images. Each image was the same size and the photographs overlapped by approximately 10-15 percent. The patterns in the spatial index are quite evident. To improve the processing efficiency, a map's visual clarity, and the file management we are working to upgrade these digital images. The upgrade provides the result of an edge-to-edge format with sheet breaks occurring where match-lines exist in the original drawing. This enables better results when geo-referencing the image for the spatial index. Files in this format can typically be recognized by their long map footprint as compared to the standard sheet size versions. The clarity of each rescanned roll map improved as part of this effort doubling the resolution from 200 dpi to 400 dpi. A map in this version will contain the original title block information from the map roll.
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Why doesn't the CAD .DGN file that I downloaded look the same as the PDF file.
 Linestyles may or may not be imbedded in the downloaded CAD file.

PDF files have been created to include linestyles and text styles.
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What options are available for viewing the maps?
Oracle AutoVue is no longer used as a viewing platform in the application.
All the maps, CAD and raster, are available in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format and can be viewed using an Adobe viewer. Raster maps can also be viewed using the imaging software available on your computer. Not all raster maps may be viewable, and this will largely depend on the capabilities of the available viewer and computer. The CAD files can be downloaded and viewed if a Cad viewer is available. A Cad viewer, Bentley View, can be downloaded free from the Bentley website, but be aware the MnDOT custom linestyles will not appear unless the map is viewed within the Bentley Projectwise environment.
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What are my best options for printing the maps?
See *Printing* under User Tips on the Right of Way Mapping and Monitoring title page.
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Is there a symbol legend for the lines and points appearing on the maps?
See Conventional Symbol Legend for a general guide to the meaning of the symbols shown. Variations in symbol form and meaning are possible due to the age of the maps spanning nearly 100 years. Standards within a CAD format alone have varied considerably during their 30+ year evolution. For more information on current CAD standards see CAD Standards
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Why does the application display and respond differently between various electronic devices?
When using a laptop or desktop your screen resolution may affect the layout of the Right of Way Mapping application. The application's built in zoom buttons, the home button and previous/next extent buttons should appear in the upper right of the screen. However, on smaller screens those buttons may appear in the lower left of the screen and the pop up window that appears when you select a map footprint will also look different. The buttons will still work. The search bar on top will span the entire top of the application and the tool bar on the bottom of the screen will also span the entire bottom of the screen. The application will function as if the user is on a tablet or phone.
If the user wants to have the normal layout they must use the zoom function in the lower right corner of the window. This zoom function is part of the internet browser being used and is not part of the application. If the zoom function does not appear in the lower right corner of the window, the user will have to go to IE/Chrome settings and use the zoom control there.
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Contact:
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