Now more than ever, owners, contractors, engineering firms and materials suppliers nationwide are finding that using photo-based technology to capture, interpret and act on their transportation construction projects, without having to physically be in the office is invaluable.

Making the switch to photo-based inspection technology has provided them the potential to remain connected and confident about the progress of their inspection programs all while adhering to their local safety mandates in response to precautions surrounding Covid 19.

Construction Managers can log in from home to view project progress, approve, reject, and comment on daily inspection reports, and instantly retrieve past project data as needed. They are given a real-time window into jobsite progress and visual proof of a team’s cooperation in adhering to the work requirements set to keep everyone safe. One such technology is called HeadLight, which allows project inspectors to use software on an iPad to document progress through a simple photo and video capture process that can include on-screen annotation and typed details. Once complete, those photo-based observations are available to instantly create and submit daily reports from the field, so they don’t have to visit a trailer or an office to type up their notes at the end of a shift. All of that inspection data is securely saved in the cloud and when needed is easily accessible for various uses. For example, in paving work, an Owner can make use of all the density profile information to spatially map the quality metric across their entire network of roadways for future preservation needs. Or the contractor can track the location of each truck load, where the material was delivered, and correlate that to the lay down density as to ensure quality requirements are maintained throughout the job. This not only provides a huge efficiency gain when compared to having to dig through paper files, but enables capabilities that were previously impossible in a paper-based world.

Using photo-based inspection technology provides:

- a real-time view into projects from wherever you are that day, so progress is not delayed
- reduced administrative and record keeping burden for your inspectors so they can get home safely sooner
- the ability to easily search project data from your laptop or smart device, thus eliminating the need to enter an office or storage facility
- a fast and efficient method of tracking work items, quantities, and expenditure progress that eliminates the need for end-of-month reconciliation and lengthy report reviews.
Here are some comments about the value of photo-based inspection:

“We had a job condition where we had a lot of rain, and the subgrade was really moving a lot, which challenges the quality that we're trying to deliver. With HeadLight, we were able to take a video of trucks going over the top of it, and watch the delineation and the grade, and we were able to share that internally, and then our project managers were able to share that with the customer, and we were able to make a decision on what needed to happen next. All of that happened within 15-17 minutes. So the cost savings that it can bring to you is hard to wrap your brain around it. It's exponential at some point.”

- David White, VP Operations, Superior Paving

“As an inspector I felt one of the biggest benefits was in being able to add the images and videos to our diaries every day. I guess the selling point for me was the iPad was going to be in your hands all day and you could work on your report as you go throughout the day documenting stuff. Honestly, right away we noticed that the quantity and quality of our data capture out of the gate was much greater than what we were doing before.”

- Lester Fletcher, Lead Inspector, LADOTD

“Once an observation was posted, everyone on the team could view the observation and make comments. The ability to visually see what is going on in the field provides our operations/technical operations staff, external partners, as well as upper management, a virtual window into the field. Investing in inspection technology made sense because the more inspection done on a project, the better the chance of success of a quality job being done.”

- Scott Metcalf, Ergon

For more information about photo-based inspection technology visit: www.headlight.com or email: info@headlight.com