Case Study

Organization
TDS Telecommunications
Corporation

Location
Madison, Wisconsin

Industry
Telecommunications

TDS Cuts Weeks off Easement Retrieval

TDS Telecommunications Corporation is the United States' seventh-largest local exchange telephone company. TDS provides more than 1.2 million residential and business connections to Internet, phone, and TV entertainment nationwide. To comply with land-access regulations, TDS relied on a manual process that could take weeks. An outside plant engineer (OSPE) needing easement information would put in a request to the Route Acquisition (property rights) team, which sent someone to external record offices such as the courthouse to sift through filing cabinets to find relevant documentation. Then TDS found a simpler answer in digital data integration.
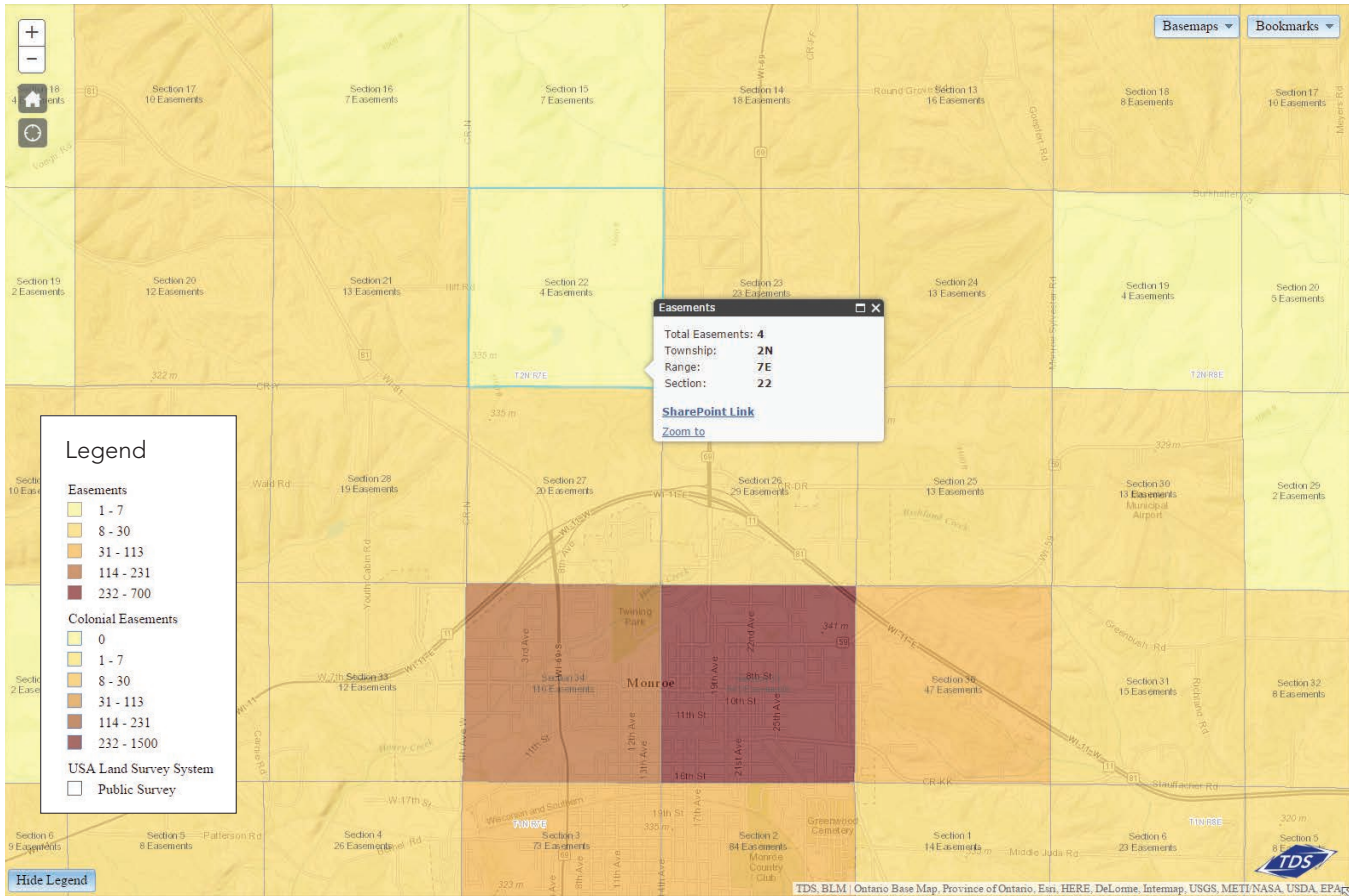
What Did TDS Do?

So far, TDS has made nearly 40,000 nationwide land-use agreements available on an easement registry system. The company first put the easement documents into Microsoft's web application platform, SharePoint. The resultant map enables engineers to identify, in a few clicks, the pertinent easement documents. This eliminates the need for manual document retrieval and shaves weeks off the process. With information at their fingertips, TDS engineers can move to the next phase of their workflow instantly. The easement map has freed labor resources in the engineering and property rights teams, as well as accelerated projects. TDS is currently incorporating right-of-way (ROW) records, parcel data, permits, and other types of information into the map to make it even more valuable. Engineers

> "All the pertinent land-use information is on the geospatial easement registry map. It's at the engineers' fingertips. They can go to the map and see the six or eight pertinent documents, versus going through the property rights team and waiting weeks. The map empowers the engineers to do their own research."
>
> **Kevin Berrett**
> Associate Manager
> Route Acquisition, TDS
> Telecommunications Corporation

esri

TDS engineers access easement information directly from a web map. They can pull up information related to localized townships, ranges, and sections, thanks to a SharePoint integration with GIS technology.

will be able to view where they can and cannot place facilities, based on the spatially displayed ROW information. Now, supported by documentation, TDS can assert with confidence that it is in compliance with all land-access regulations.

Can You Use This?

If your teams rely on manual processes to retrieve land records, consider integrating your data onto a web map. Maintaining tens of thousands of land-record documents on web maps provides a secure, intuitive way of delivering information quickly. This streamlines workflows, reduces project completion time, and empowers teams to directly access information they need.

Learn more at esri.com/telecom.

esri | THE SCIENCE OF WHERE™