

CASE STUDY



Supporting safer, more efficient roadway maintenance in challenging conditions

West of Scotland Consortium

The ability to make the right roadway maintenance decisions in adverse weather situations is critical for the West of Scotland Consortium.

Led by South Lanarkshire Council, the consortium's 13 members know how vital their work is to their constituents. To safely manage road maintenance, the team needs access to the best data, analytics, and technology.

For the past five years, the West of Scotland Consortium has used the RoadMaster solution from DTN[®] for the task. It has been so effective that they extended their contract.

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Adam Leslie,
winter, fleet, and
business development
team leader, South
Lanarkshire Council



What they were up against

Planning, executing, and maintaining road work is a difficult task for any council. Budgets are often tight, and any work undertaken is usually linked directly to the safety of road users.

The biggest challenge, however, relates to factors that lie beyond their control. Adverse weather conditions are arguably the biggest threat to both the council's plans and the safety of the teams undertaking the work.

To overcome the challenge, the West of Scotland Consortium needed a tool that provides accurate weather forecasting data and a support team that understands both road management and meteorology.

The consortium must maintain the road network and keep it safe for users. It can only do this with a solution that offers forecast accuracy, cost-effectiveness, and ease of use.

What we did to help

DTN provides RoadMaster, a route-based forecasting platform. It delivers location-specific information, which supports the planning of safer road work.

Its hyperlocal forecasts help road maintenance managers make critical decisions about where, when, and how to grit across one or several road sections.

The in-house team of meteorologists at DTN supports the data provided by RoadMaster, bringing extensive road-specific knowledge. This experience allows them to offer the consortium deeper insights when required, which is particularly beneficial during the winter when balancing traffic safety with operational efficiency is a significant challenge.

In such instances, weather forecasts don't provide all the necessary answers. It's where the combination of a powerful analytical software platform and years of first-hand experience deliver a significant advantage.

Therefore, it is no wonder that the West of Scotland Consortium decided to continue using RoadMaster.

“It was a high vote of confidence from the council to extend the contract for the maximum time.”

Adam Leslie, winter, fleet, and business development team leader, South Lanarkshire Council

What the impact was

RoadMaster has made a meaningful impact on the consortium's ability to accurately and safely plan road work.

"We have worked with DTN over the last several years to make critical road maintenance decisions," said Adam Leslie, winter, fleet, and business development team leader at the South Lanarkshire Council. "We are very pleased with the accuracy and reliability of their forecasts, as well as their availability to provide additional insights in challenging weather conditions. It was a high vote of confidence from the council to extend the contract for the maximum time."

It isn't just the data offered by RoadMaster that makes the difference. The road safety forecasting experience DTN offers has been critical to the partnership.

"We recognise how weather can impact transport operations and are committed to delivering the best operational intelligence to our customers so they can make confident decisions that can help reduce risk, increase safety, and better protect their communities," said Renny Vandewege, general manager, weather and climate at DTN. "Through our continued partnership with the South Lanarkshire Council, we can proudly help keep travellers and commerce moving safely throughout the region."

The numbers speak for themselves. Over the first three seasons, when the consortium sent out a questionnaire to rate RoadMaster's performance, the team rated its accuracy at 90% — against a benchmark of 70%.

See RoadMaster for yourself

Take a tour with a trusted DTN expert.

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