Oklahoma DOT Issues OS/OW Permits 360 Percent Faster

As a state that relies heavily on the agriculture, oil, and gas industries to power its economy, Oklahoma sees a particularly high number of trucks traveling through the state. As a result, it receives a tremendous amount of pressure from the trucking industry, which is in the business of transporting freight to its destinations as quickly as possible. The number of trucks requesting routes and permits from the Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (OK DPS) has grown substantially during the past several years.

The OK DPS issues more than 200,000 oversize/ overweight (OS/OW) permits per year – averaging 800

permits per weekday. With limited resources, it was a challenge to fill the permit requests in a timely manner. Truckers were forced to wait three days to a week to receive their permits and approved routes.

ODOT knew this process was damaging from an economic standpoint. It also realized a delay in receiving permits encouraged some truckers to attempt to circumvent the process – driving without permits and not knowing for certain if they were travelling a safe route.

In 2008, the state legislature met with ODOT and determined that improving the routing and permitting process for OS/OW vehicles was an issue with priority. The state and ODOT wanted to improve public safety and ensure that oversize loads would not endanger the public by travelling an unapproved route. In addition, improving the permitting process would foster economic development through the commercial trucking industry, and give trucking companies confidence they could receive a permit in a timely manner.

Overcoming Challenges

- Improve public safety
- Protect transportation infrastructure
- Automate permitting process to make it more efficient
- Enhance economic viability of trucking industry for state

Realizing Results

ODOT and OK DPS officials considered software from a number of vendors before selecting Hexagon's Automated Routing for Oversize/Overweight Vehicles application. In addition to routing, Hexagon combined its OS/OW application with technology from Cambridge Systematics to automate permitting functions.

ODOT's automated system creates safe OS/OW routing for vehicles moving through its jurisdiction, meeting the expectations of the commercial trucking industry while balancing the safety needs of its motoring public and protecting infrastructure. The routing application, which is integrated with Google Maps to provide familiarity to users, automatically generates safe travel routes, shares temporary changes

in road conditions in real-time, and logs routes for simple tracking and improved infrastructure management – all through an easy-to-use, web-based application.

With Hexagon's permitting application, carriers operating oversize/overweight vehicles can access an online permitting application to create an account, request, pay for, and receive a permit to operate. "Before implementation of Hexagon's OS/OW solution, our manual permitting process took one to three days to complete. Now, the total permitting process takes an average of 12 minutes to finalize," states Jay Adams, director – Tribal Coordination, Oklahoma DOT.

"The first six months, we processed 142,000 permits – that's approximately 15 percent more permits in comparison to previous years. We saw auto approval permits increase by as much as 55 percent, which means 55 percent of those permits are being issued within a matter of minutes instead of a matter of hours or days. That means a friendlier environment for distribution hubs and substantial cost savings for the state."

At a Glance

The Challenge

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) and the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety (OK DPS) grant over 200,000 routes and permits per year to oversize/overweight commercial trucks. The process to approve requests was inefficient and timely. Delays encouraged circumventing the permit process causing economic damage and public safety issues as trucks could travel hazardous routes. Limited resources proved process enhancements necessary to foster economic development through trucking companies' confidence in the timeline, and to ensure public safety.

The Solution

ODOT and OK DPS deployed an automated end-to-end routing and permitting service using Hexagon's Automated Routing for Oversize/Overweight Vehicles application. The web-based routing application is integrated with Google Maps and automatically generates safe travel routes, shares temporary challenges in road conditions, and logs routes for tracking and improved infrastructure management. The application allows authorized staff to update route notifications and restrictions in real time to better manage oversize/overweight vehicles. The easily accessible, faster process to approve permits generated US$3 million more in revenue than previous years, and reduced ODOT's permit processing overhead, saving money and staff time.

Hexagon's Restriction Management application for routing has proven particularly vital to ODOT. This application gives authorized staff the ability to enter, in real-time, route notifications and temporary restrictions such as accidents and lane closures that reduce a road's capacity for handling oversize/overweight vehicles. The Restriction Manager's interface also provides analysis based on truck dimensions for every bridge in the state, determining which bridges the OS/OW vehicle can travel across safely. Instead of simply relying on pre-determined routes, ODOT can analyze every truck to ensure bridges and routes are always 100 percent safe.

"With the Restriction Manager, we were able to do something no one else had done before," explains Adams. "With the help of Hexagon, Oklahoma DOT and the Department of Public Safety successfully implemented a system that routes based on safety, our primary goal. There's no limit to your return on investment when human lives are involved."

"Our OS/OW solution is a definite cost savings not only for our own people, but also for the trucking industry as a whole," continues Adams. "This system generated three million more in revenue than years past. If we look at numbers in that perspective, we had almost paid for the project in the first six months."

ODOT set a precedent with other departments of transportation across the United States based on its overwhelming success with its OS/OW system. "I believe a company's biggest asset is its reputation," says Adams. "And Hexagon has that proven reputation of dependability and unwavering partnership with Oklahoma DOT and Department of Public Safety. Oklahoma is one of those states that's going to be a major influential player in the future, and our technology and partnership we get from Hexagon is going to help us move ahead in the future."

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After a study was completed, ODOT determined that call logs had dropped so significantly after 2:00 p.m., it was no longer necessary to have the office open until 7:00 p.m. With its the Hexagon automated permitting system, all permits are now cleared from the queue before 5:00 p.m.

Contact us

For more information, please contact us at:

marketing.us.gsp@hexagon.com

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