Project Photos

Informational Bulletin

DGLVR Photo Tips

Version 1.0, 9/15/17

Purpose of these photo tips:
To take more effective project phots for use in education and outreach efforts for the Program.

Common Photo Issues
- Poor Composition (can't tell what you are looking at);
- Inconsistency in shots, especially before and after;
- Not taking before pictures at all;
- Taking to many "random" photos;
- Storing, organizing, and finding photos when needed;
- Eventually giving up and not taking pictures anymore.

Zoom out when taking pictures to get more context, and include people or objects for scale reference.

Shoot for Contex
- Zoom out to capture what is around your focal point;
- You can always crop later, you can't "un-crop";
- People add context and scale.
- If you are taking a picture of something off the road, try to include the road in the picture.
- Use props (hats, bottles, yourself) for scale if alone.

Consider time of year, and avoid intermittent sun/shade.

Weather/Lighting
- Intermittent sun/shade makes for BAD pictures;
- Go out on some rainy days to get some pictures of drainage in action.
- When possible, take photos in the same season.

Landmarks
- Use anything that will not move, buildings, distinctive trees, utility poles, signs, etc. for better before, during, and after sequences
- Take pictures looking the same direction.

Use landmarks in before/after pictures, in this case, the house, driveway, and powerline-cut tree in background.

Photopoints
Photopoints are marked positions where photos can be repeated throughout the life of a project. The easiest way to establish a photopoint is by pounding a fence stake into the ground, and placing the camera on the stake to take pictures. Photopoints may only last a day for items such as crosspipe installation, or they may be used for years to show complex practices or road fill. Using

project starts
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ould be good vantage points
elevated
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aspect, lighting, vegetation
or practices you want to

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Camera
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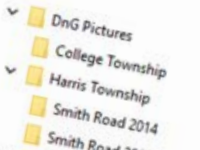
e

ins, print and
these photos
uring" and

Good photos of a good project, but using a photopoint such as the one drawn in above will insure before and after photos match exactly

ncy while reducing the number of "random shots" you take. This d finding images easier.
f taking pictures, take the first picture on each road either of the

r projects. A cell phone or DSLR camera is great for taking
r time lapse photography. If you are contemplating time
time lapse camera. These cameras allow for multiple
ically create movies from still images, have excellent
re weather resistant



DGLVR Webinar

Project Photo Taking Tips

4/3/2018
Starts at 10am

Note this presentation is almost the same as presented at the 2017 Annual Workshop

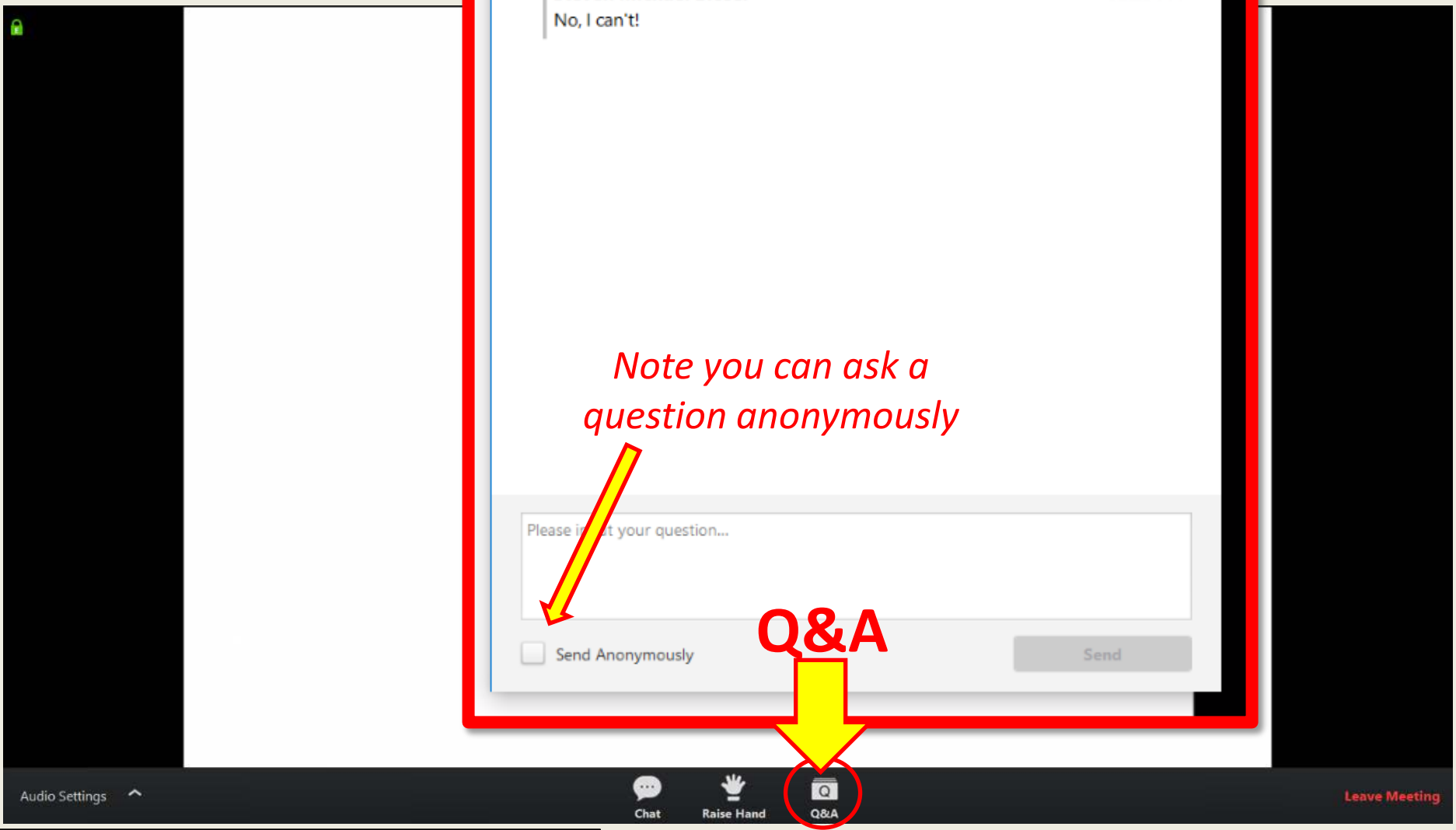
If you are reading this, then you are successfully seeing the webinar video. Webinar audio should be automatic through your computer, and options can be accessed in the "audio options" button on the bottom left. If you are having audio issues, or are in a location where listening via phone is preferable, audio is also available on the CDGRS conference line at:

866-823-7699.

For technical assistance, call: 814-865-5355

PENNSTATE

Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies



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Purpose:

To improve your ability to compose, take, store, and organize your project pictures.

Have you ever said:

- “the picture doesn’t show it well, but…”
- “not the greatest picture, but…”
- “these are before and after, unfortunately not from the same spot, but…”
- “I have a good picture of that…somewhere”

For audio via phone: 866-823-7699
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Why we need you to take better phots:

- **Center staff:**
  - is admittedly not all that good at taking photos
  - only sees most jobs once, maybe twice

- **CD Staff** is there before, during, and after project implementation. Better pictures will help in all program education and outreach, local, statewide, and beyond.

Common Photo Issues:

- Poor Composition (can't tell what you are looking at)
- Inconsistency in shots, especially before and after
- Taking to many "random" photos
- Storage, organizing, and finding photos when needed
- Eventually giving up and not taking pictures anymore.

Crawford CD

- **Photo Composition**
- Consistency
- Equipment/Storage

Shoot for Context

- CD Pictures from Sharing Sessions (un-cropped):

Shoot for Context

ZOOM OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- You can always crop later, you can't "un-crop"
- Capture what is around your focal point.
- People add context and scale

Shoot for Context

- **ZOOM OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- You can always crop later, you can't "un-crop"
- Capture what is around your focal point.
- People add context and scale

BAD

What is it?

Where is the road?

Shoot for Context

- **ZOOM OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- You can always crop late
- Capture what is around
- People add context and

BETTER

Shoot for Context

- **ZOOM OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- You can always crop later, you can't "un-crop"
- Capture what is around your focal point.
- People add context and scale

BAD

How big is it?

Where is the road?

Shoot for Context

- **ZOOM OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- You can always crop later, you
- Capture what is around your
- People add context and scale

BETTER

Shoot for Context

- **ZOOM OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- You can always crop later, you can't "uncrop"
- Capture what is around your focal point.
- People add context and scale

BAD

Inlet or Outlet?

Where is the road?

How big is it?

Shoot for Context

- **ZOOM OUT!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**
- You can always crop later, you can't "uncrop"
- Capture what is around your focal point.
- People add context and scale

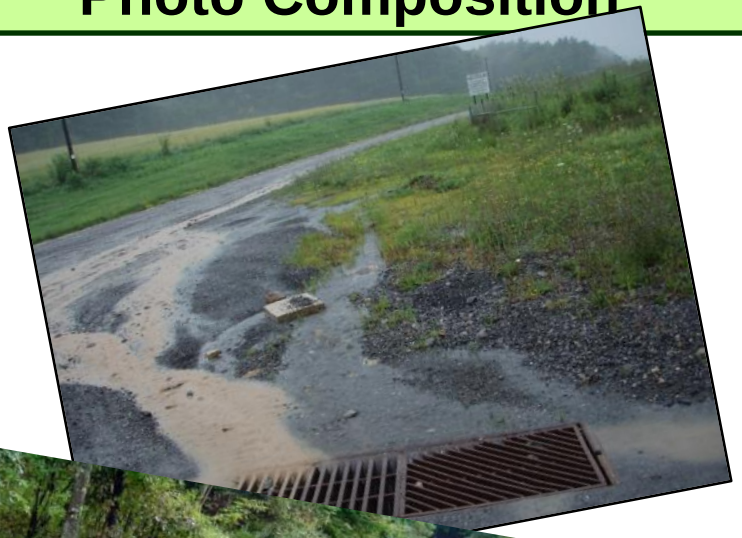
BETTER

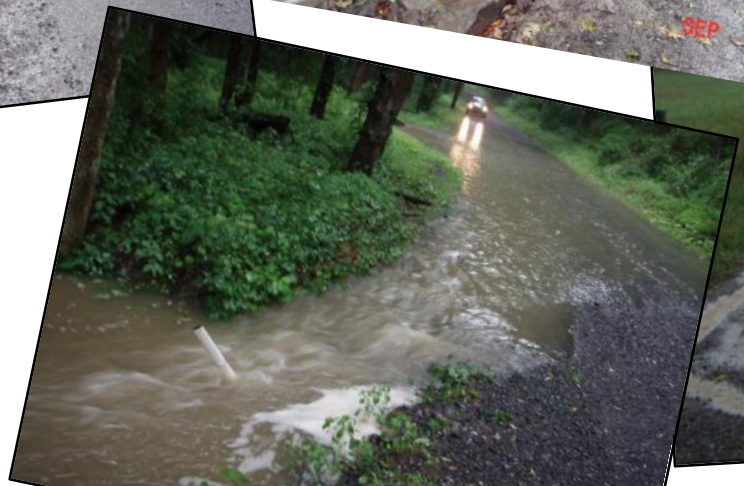
Weather/Lighting

- Intermittent sun/shade makes for BAD pictures
- Canopy Cover: choose cloudy day for uniform light

Weather/Lighting

- Buy an umbrella!!!!
- How bad are the roads?
- How good are the projects?





Seasons

- Seasons make a big difference

Seasons

- Seasons make a big difference

November (same year, nothing done!) July

Seasons make a big difference

Seasons make a big difference

Seasons make a big difference

Seasons make a big difference

Seasons make a big difference

Seasons make a big difference

Seasons make a big difference

Seasons make a big difference

Seasons make a big difference

Seasons

- Photos in different seasons look more dissimilar

Anyone know the technical term for this?

Seasons

- Photos in different seasons look more dissimilar

Anyone know the technical term for this? **Cheating!!!**

Seasons

- Photos in different seasons look more dissimilar

But a good project can actually look better in winter!

Use Props for Scale When Alone

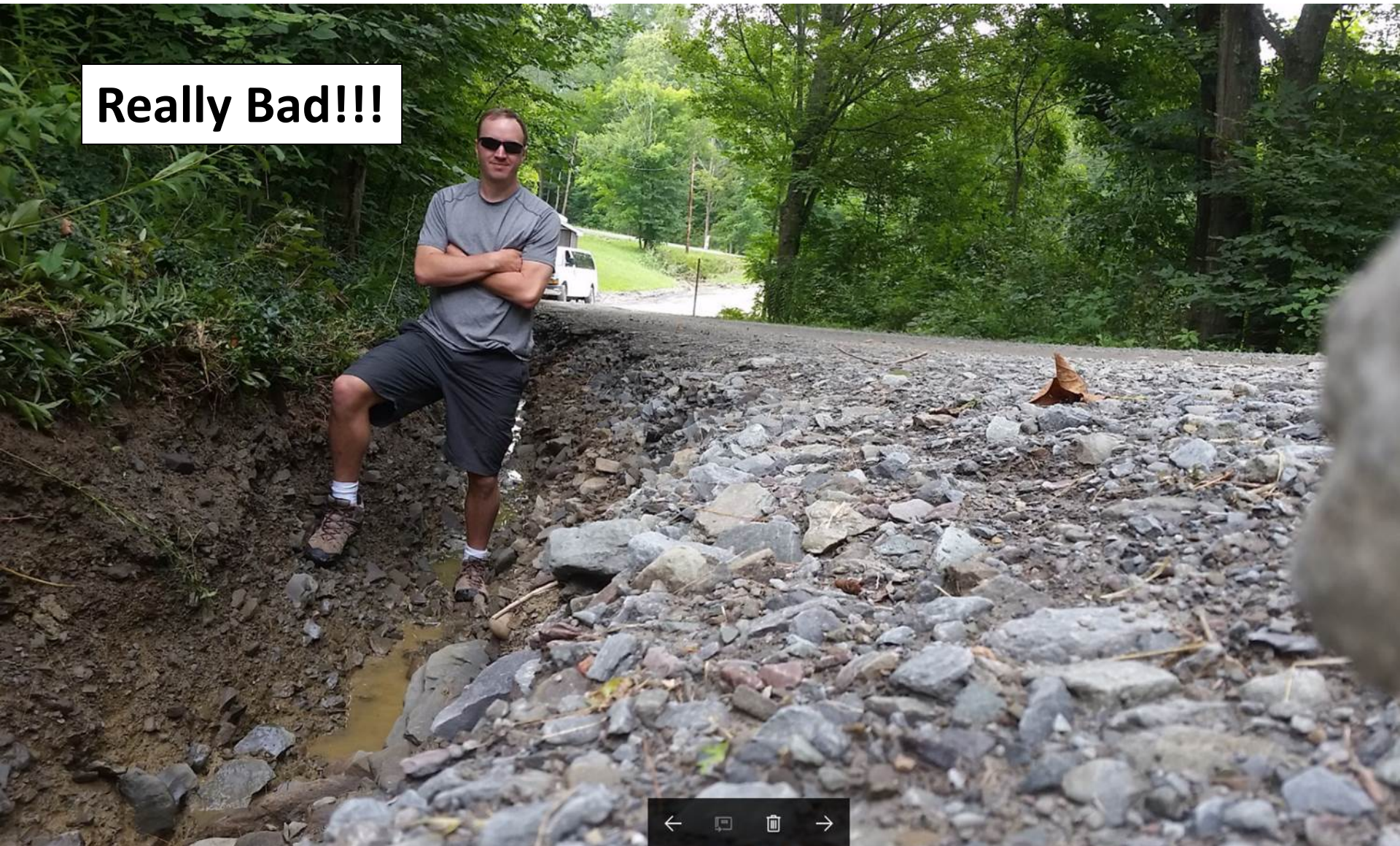
Use Props for Scale When Alone

Use Props for Scale When Alone

How bad is that ditch?

Use Props for Scale When Alone

Use Props for Scale When Alone



Crawford CD

- Photo Composition
- **Consistency**
- Equipment/Storage

First of all:

TAKE SOME @#$@#% BEFORE PICTURES!!!!

Common # of pictures taken for a project:

- 60 during
- 20 after
- 4 before…that don't match any of the after.

Landmarks

- Use anything that will not move

Landmarks

- **Use anything that will not move**

Nice project, but is it even the same road?

- Zoom out for context
- Take from same location
- Include:
  - People/Vehicles for scale
  - Landmarks

Please note, we are evaluating photo effectiveness, not project effectiveness!

Landmarks

- **Use anything that will not move**

This is the same section of road, but how do you tell if pictures are in slightly different location or looking opposite way?

Landmarks

- Use anything that will not move

Landmarks

- **Use anything that will not move**

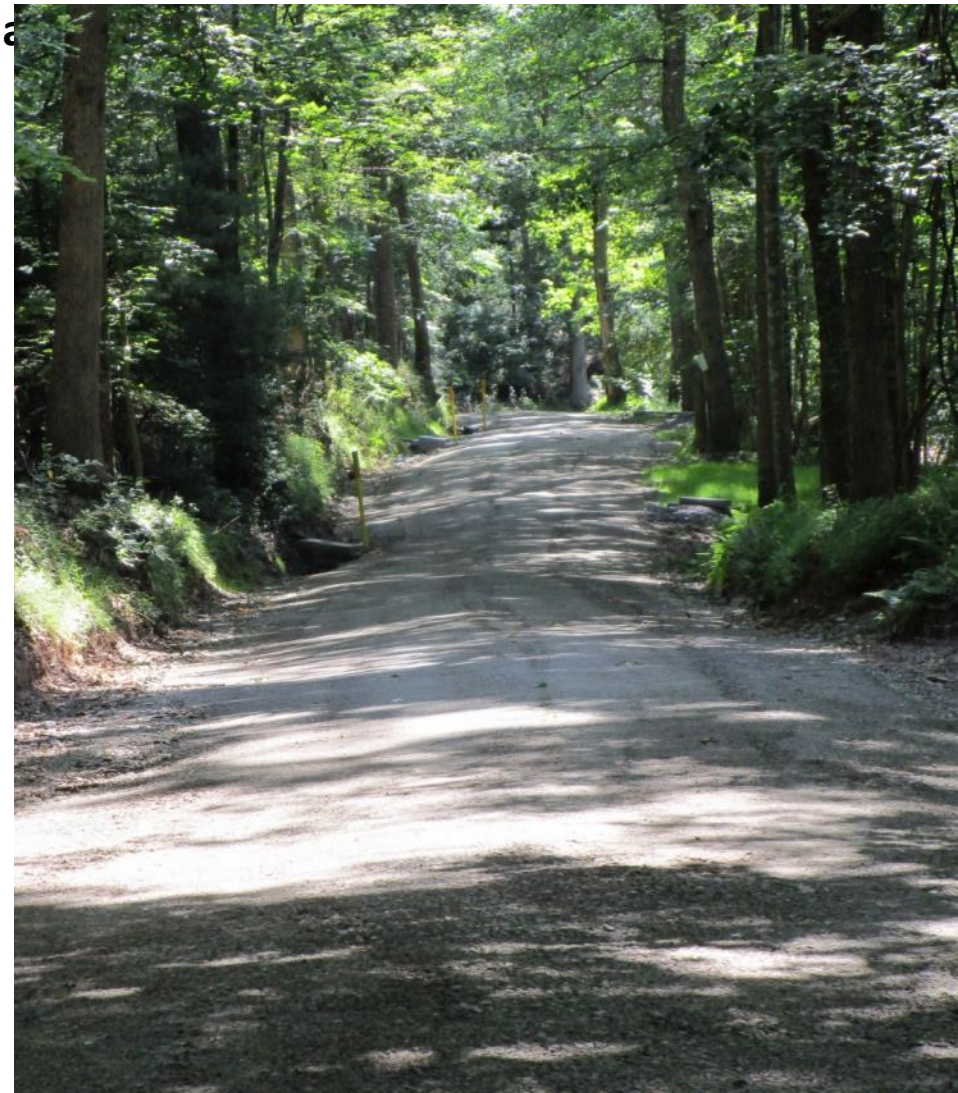
Take the pictures looking the same direction.

Photo Consistency

Looks like an awesome project, but I have to take your word for it that it's the same section of road.

Landmarks

- **Use anything that will not move**



Landmarks

- Use anything that will not move

Landmarks

- Use anything that will not move

Landmarks

- **Use anything that will not move**

Nice project, but is it even the same road?

- Zoom out before
- People for Scale
- Landmark

Before
After
Before
After

Before
After
Before
After

Photopoints

1. Buy a fencepost
2. Drive it into the ground
3. Set you camera on it and take pictures!

Photopoint placed high on bank out of way, aimed at proposed underdrain outlet
Example Photopoint
Underdrain Installation

Example Photopoint
Underdrain Installation

Example Photopoint
Underdrain Installation

Example Photopoint
Underdrain Installation

Example Photopoint
Underdrain Installation

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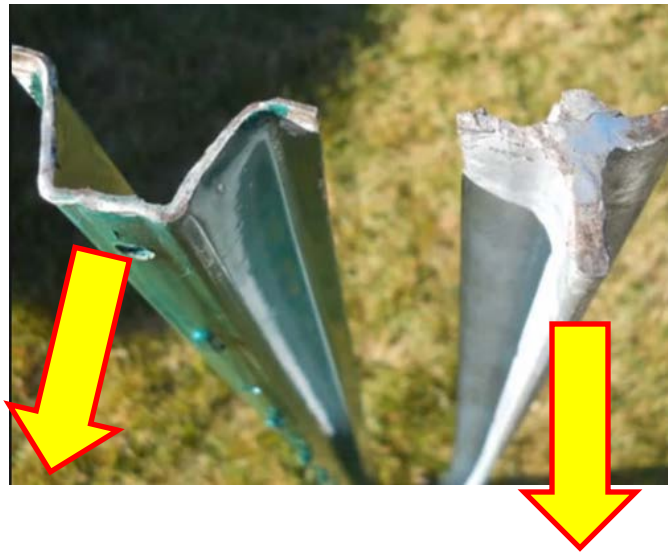
Example Photopoint
Underdrain Installation

Example Photopoint
Underdrain Installation

Example Photopoint
Underdrain Installation

Photopoint Tips

1. **Visit site BEFORE project starts**
   - Don't forget the "before" pictures
2. **Choose 2-3 points that would be good vantage points**
   - Off of the road and slightly elevated
   - Out of the way of equipment
   - Consider all seasons for sun aspect, lighting, vegetation
   - **Visualize completed site and practices you want to show**
3. **Put stake in ground**
   - Use the shape of the post to aim Camera
   - GPS coordinates
4. **Put camera on stake to take picture**
5. **Repeat Pictures**
   - During same day for small practices
   - Every time you visit for larger practices



Photopoints

Close, but about 100’ apart

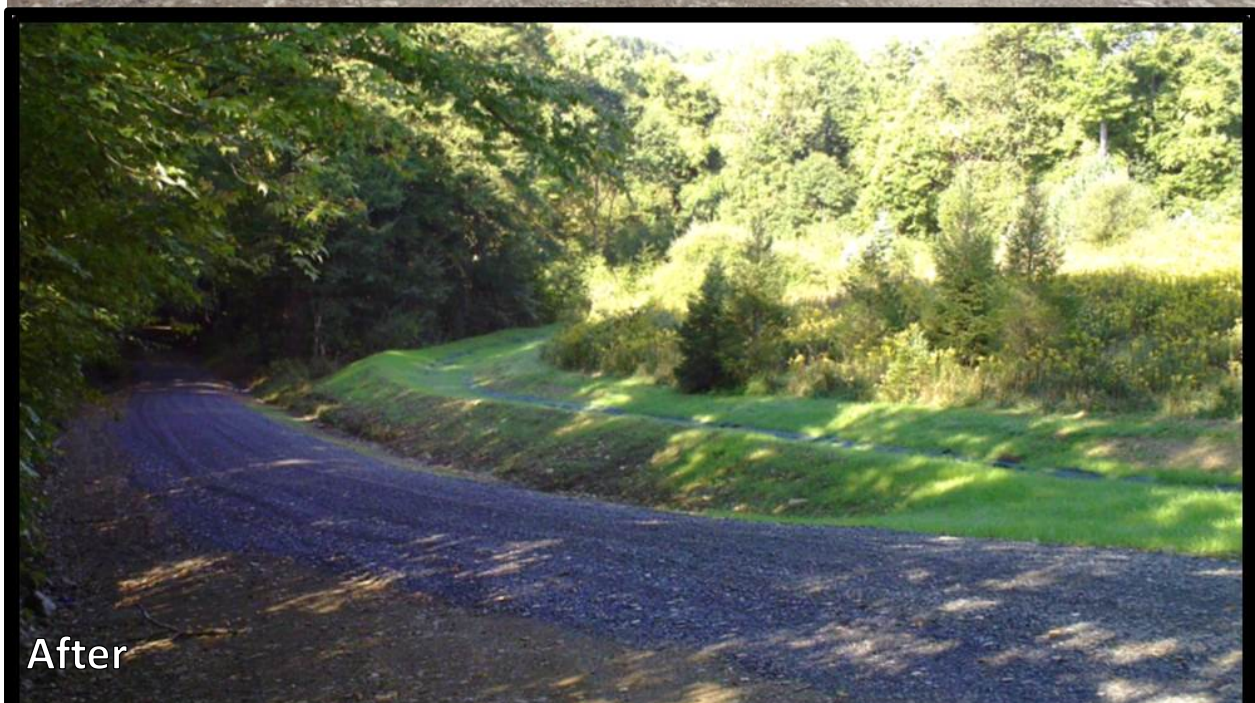
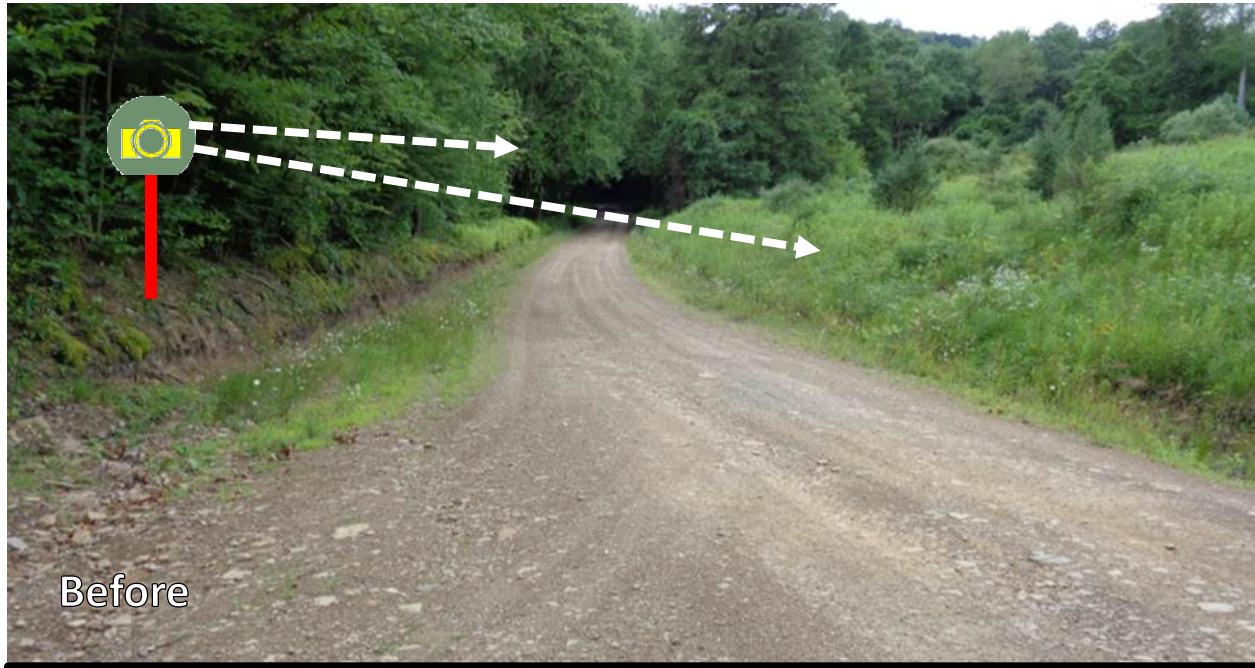
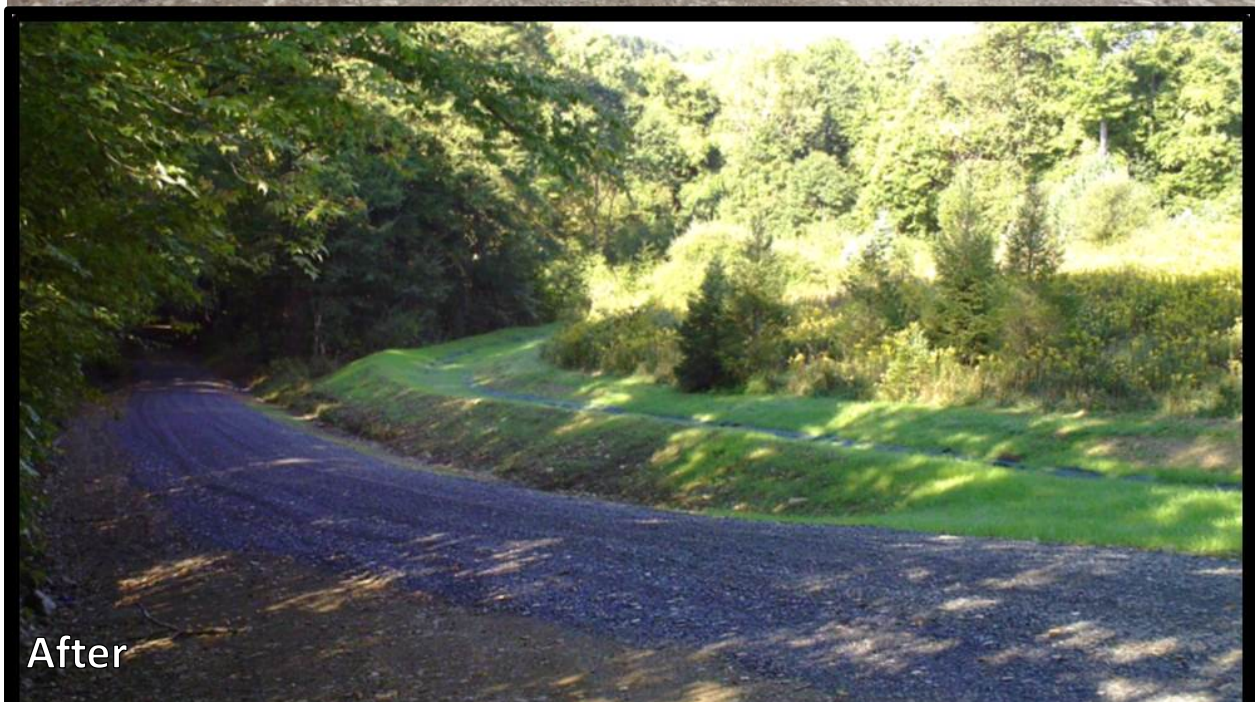


Photo Consistency

Photopoints





Photopoints

- **Can be used to create time lapse movies.**

"Through-the-Bank" Pipe Installation

Take before “proofs” into field

- Take your “before” pictures
- Print them out into “proofs”, maybe 4 per page?
- Put them in plastic sleeve
- Put the sleeve in your CD vehicle or project file?
- **Use the proofs in the field to line up image and take the same “after” photo.**

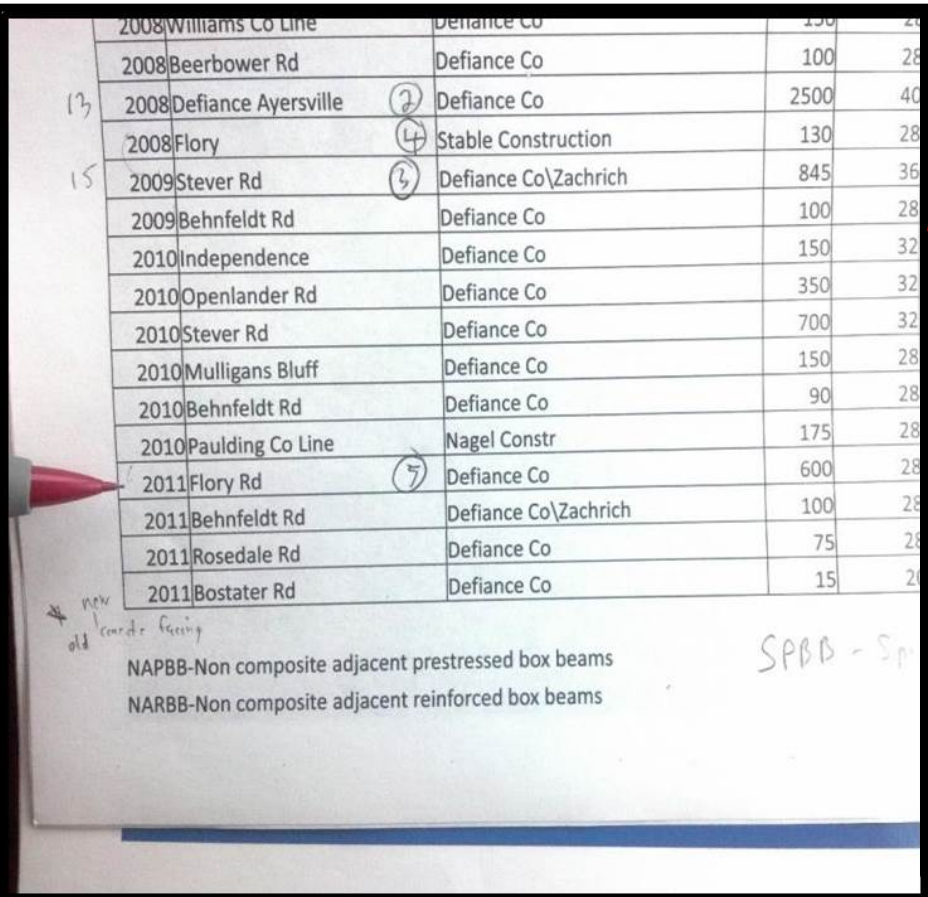
Take less, but better pictures

- Landmarks
- Photopoints
- Before “Proofs”

Reducing the number of “Random Shots”, will remove the clutter, make storing and finding images easier.

Quick Tip: If you are visiting many roads in a single day and taking pictures:

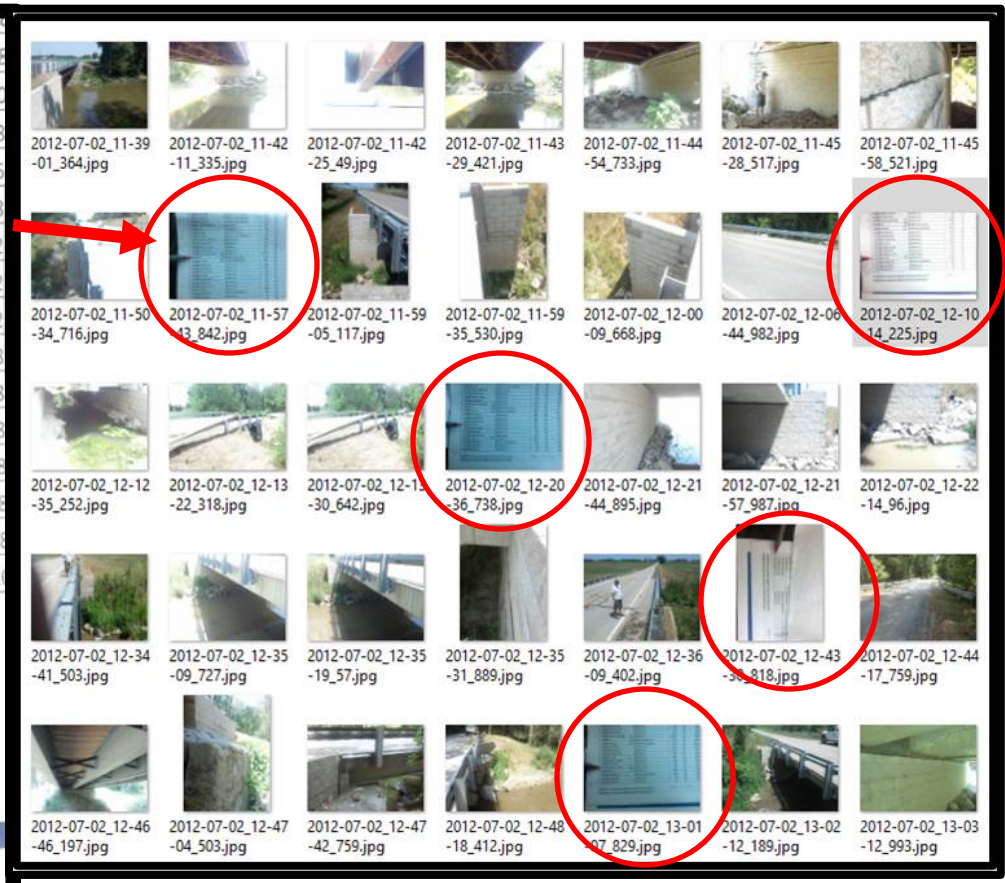
Take the first picture on each road either of the road sign, or the road name on a list.



2008	Williams Co Line	Defiance Co		
2008	Beerbower Rd	Defiance Co	100	28
2008	Defiance Ayersville	Defiance Co	2500	40
2008	Flory	Stable Construction	130	28
2009	Stever Rd	Defiance Co\Zachrich	845	36
2009	Behnfeldt Rd	Defiance Co	100	28
2010	Independence	Defiance Co	150	32
2010	Openlander Rd	Defiance Co	350	32
2010	Stever Rd	Defiance Co	700	32
2010	Mulligans Bluff	Defiance Co	150	28
2010	Behnfeldt Rd	Defiance Co	90	28
2010	Paulding Co Line	Nagel Constr	175	28
2011	Flory Rd	Defiance Co	600	28
2011	Behnfeldt Rd	Defiance Co\Zachrich	100	28
2011	Rosedale Rd	Defiance Co	75	28
2011	Bostater Rd	Defiance Co	15	28

NAPBB-Non composite adjacent prestressed box beams

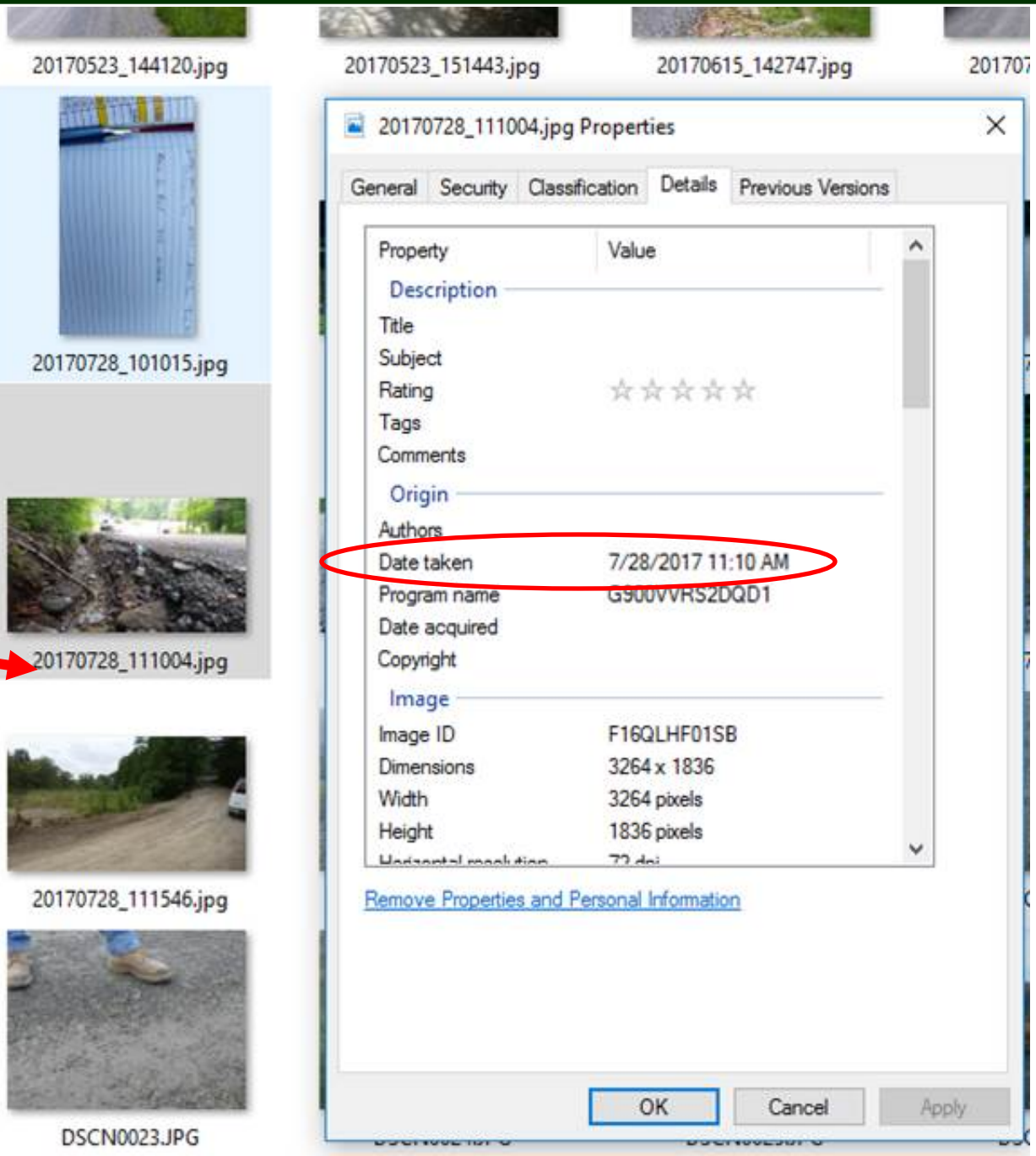
NARBB-Non composite adjacent reinforced box beams



Quick Tip:

date and time stamps in win explorer

2017
07
28
11:11:04am



Better Photos:

- Will take additional planning
- Will take additional time
- May actually save you time in the end, and lead to better education and outreach material
- PLEASE SHARE WITH US!

Project Photos

Crawford CD

- Photo Composition
- Photopoints
- **Equipment/Storage**

Equipment

- **Single Shot Camera**
  - **Cell Phone**
    - Always on hand
    - Lenses getting much better, but not as good as standalones
    - Will do for most projects
    - Automatic date and time stamp
  - **Standard/DSLR Camera**
    - Better low and mixed-lighting photo quality
    - Better quality at same MP size

Note some cameras now are 40+MP. You often don't need the highest resolution setting. Will limit storage, increase transfer times, and make images to large for e-mail.

Equipment

- **Time Lapse?**
  - **Standard Options:**
    - **Go-pro:** meant for short term time lapse (action sports)
    - **DSLR:** expensive, cumbersome, don't want to leave out
    - **Phone:** who wants to leave phone set up?
  - **Time Lapse Camera**
    - Set multiple time intervals (seconds, minutes, hours, days)
    - Can automatically create movie
    - Good battery life based on time intervals
    - Can be reasonably priced (Brinno kit is $200 – Camera, Case, Bag, Tri-pod, 16 GB SD Card, USB Cable, AC adapter)
    - Be sure to purchase a weather resistant case!
    - Eligible education expense

Equipment

- **Time Lapse Camera**
  - Brinno kit is ~$200 – Camera, Case, Bag, Tri-pod, 16 GB SD Card, USB Cable, AC adapter)

Brinno

Brinno TLC200PRO HDR Time Lapse Video Camera + Weather R

21 customer reviews | 14 answered questions

Price: $179.95 & **FREE Shipping**. Details

Get $50 off instantly: Pay $129.95 upon approval for the Amazon Rewards Visa Card.

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Want it Saturday, Sept. 16? Order within **8 hrs 18 mins** and choose **Two-Day Shipping** at checkout. De

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- Bundle Includes:
- TLC200 Pro High Dynamic Time Lapse Camera
- ATH120 Weather Resistant Housing

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Brinno kit is $200 – Camera, Case, Bag, Tri-pod, 16 GB SD Card, USB Cable, AC adapter)

Thanks to Armstrong CCD – Soil stabilization

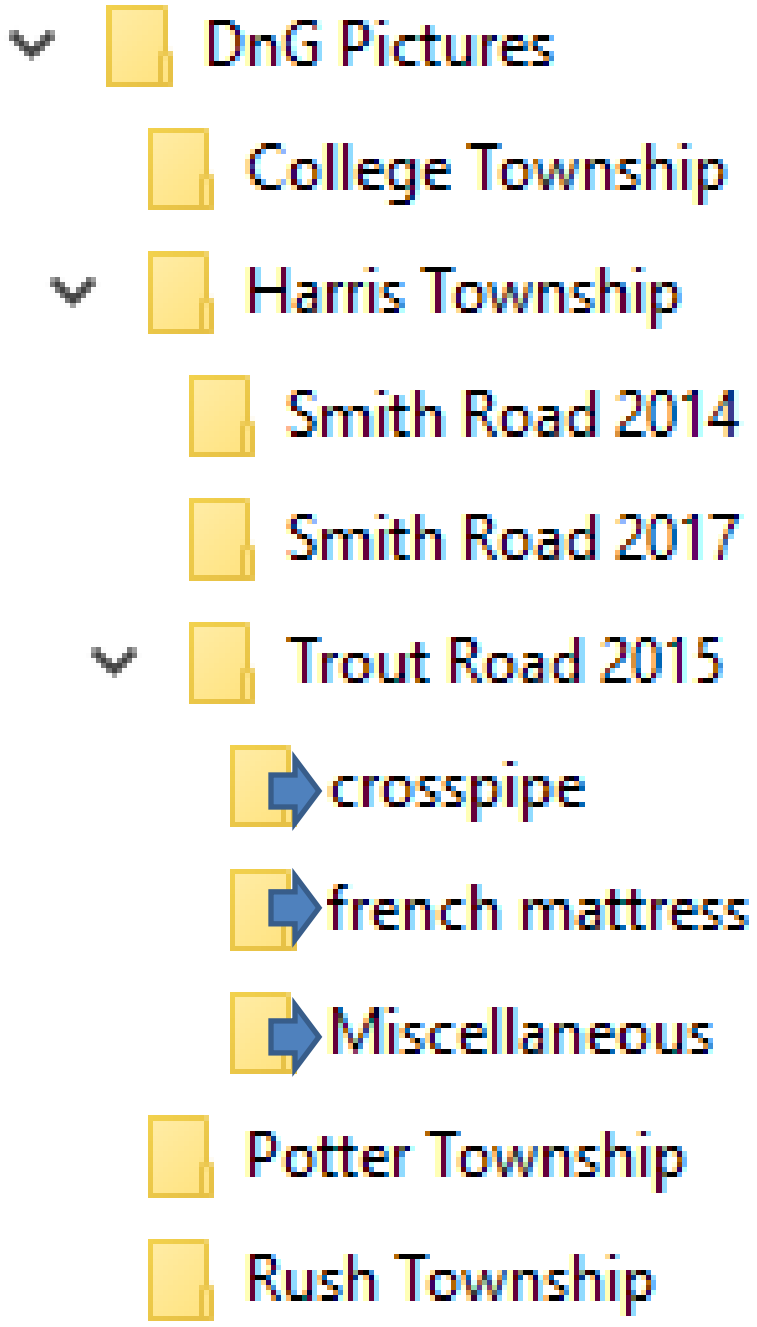
Storage

- **Use a simple folder system**
  - Allows for fast searching
  - Eliminates need to rename individual pictures
  - Allows other or future employees to find pictures

Storage

- **One Recommendation:**
  - **1) Municipality Name**
    - **2) Road Name - Year**
      - **3) Photopoint**

  - Separate DnG and LVR folders
  - Store relevant pictures only in photopoint folders
  - Create a “Miscellaneous” folder to store random pictures



Better Pictures Summary:

- **ZOOM OUT!**
- Include people or objects for scale
- **Shoot for Consistency** (Landmarks, before proofs)
- Establish Photopoints
- Take less but better pictures
- Keep things organized

Better Pictures Summary:

- **ZOOM OUT!**
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- **Shoot for Consistency** (Landmarks, before proofs)
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Photo Tips Bulletin Available

Photo Tips

Summary

PennState
Center for Dirt and Gravel Road Studies

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- ROAD WORK
- ESM FIELD GUIDE

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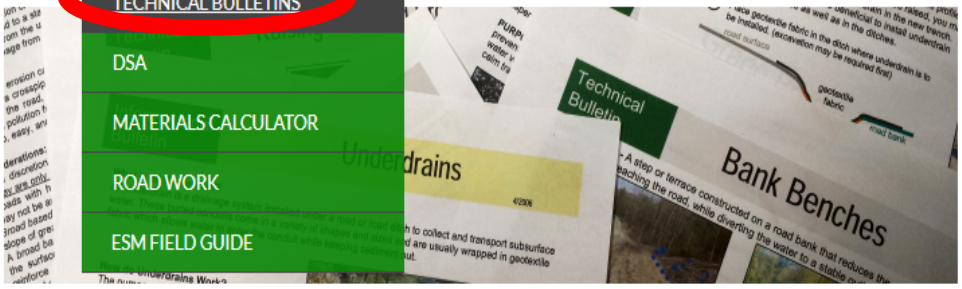

Informational and Technical Bulletins

Library of Center publications detailing specific "Environmentally Sensitive Road Maintenance" Practices. Each bulletin is grouped by topic area and is specific to one practice.

Pipes

Dust Monitoring

- Real-time Dust Monitoring (615 KB): Informational bulletin about dust monitoring with a vehicle-mounted monitoring system. (2/16)

Photo Tips

- DGLVR Photo Tips (488 KB): Informational bulletin for taking more effective project photos for use in education and outreach efforts for the Program. (9/17)

Other Upcoming Events

ESM Trainings begin in March: dates and locations available at:
https://www.dirtandgravel.psu.edu/education-and-training/esm-course

April TBD	**WEBINAR: GIS and Quarterly Reporting**
May 30th	**Stream Crossing Training: Warren** *******registrations now open******
June 12th	**Stream Crossing Training: Cambria**
July 31st	**Stream Crossing Training: Snyder**
Aug 7th	**Stream Crossing Training: York**
July 10-12	**ESM Boot Camp for CDs** *(dates tentative, registration available soon)*
July 24-26	**ESM Boot Camp for CDs** *(dates tentative, registration available soon)*

TBD:

- **Admin Trainings**
- **GIS Beginner Training**
- **4-5 Quarterly Report Trainings**