



Vermont's Bridge and Culvert Data FAQ

Author: VT Center for Geographic Information

Version 2a – 5/8/2007

Background

Vermont's statewide bridge and culvert database (TRANSTRUC – transportation structures) was developed in 2001 as a collaborative effort between the Vermont Agency of Transportation (VTrans), the Vermont Center for Geographic Information (VCGI), and Vermont's Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs). These organizations provided data and technical support services. Numerous municipal bridge and culvert inventories were integrated into TRANSTRUC between 2001 and the summer of 2006. There were ~80,000 state/town bridges and culverts in TRANSTRUC as of January, 2007. TRANSTRUC complies with the specifications outlined in the the [VGIS Bridge & Culvert Data Exchange Standard](#).

Data Management Overview

VTrans hosts the [Vermont Online Bridge & Culvert Inventory Tool](#) (VOBCIT), a web-based application that allows authorized users to update local bridge and culvert inventories. VOBCIT complies with the [VGIS Bridge & Culvert Data Exchange Standard](#), and provides an easy to use platform for data entry, update, and reporting. It also includes a robust distributed update option that allows authorized users to “check-out” data for update, then check the data back into VOBCIT for integration into the statewide database. Towns, RPCs and consultants supporting municipal bridge and culvert inventory efforts use VOBCIT (or they should be). Municipalities are generally responsible for inventorying and maintaining town short/ultra-short structures (those with a span < 20 feet).

ANR hosts the Stream Geomorphic Assessment Data Management System (SGA-DMS), web-based application that allows authorized users to enter geomorphic assessment information, including bridge and culvert information. RPCs and consultants enter their geomorphic assessment information into this system.

VCGI receives periodic extracts from these systems (VTrans BIS/VOBCIT and SGA-DMS). These extracts are combined into a single database product called TRANSTRUC. TRANSTRUC is an MS Access 2000 database that complies with the [VGIS Bridge & Culvert Data Exchange Standard](#). VCGI also offers TRANSTRUC in ArcGIS Personal Geodatabase (PGDB) and shapefile formats.

WARNING! DO NOT perform updates to TRANSTRUC data downloaded from VCGI! All local/municipal inventory updates performed by RPCs, towns, and consultants should be done by using the [Vermont Online Bridge & Culvert Inventory Tool](#) (VOBCIT). Refer to the URL below.

<http://apps.vtrans.vermont.gov/BridgeAndCulvert/>



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Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Q:** I need to create/update a bridge and culvert inventory for my Town. What should I do?

A: RPCs, municipalities (towns), and consultants contracted by RPCs/towns must use VOBCIT. Login to VOBCIT (you'll need to request a login/password from VTrans), and either enter the data online using the online forms, or "check-out" a copy of the town's existing data (at a minimum, all towns have existing information for "Town Short" structures). The data should then be "checked-back-into" VOBCIT so that it gets integrated into the statewide database. The data must comply with the "VGIS Bridge & Culvert Data Exchange Standard". DO NOT modify the structure of the data; doing so will cause VOBCIT to reject the data upon "check-in".

WARNING! DO NOT perform updates to TRANSTRUC data downloaded from VCGI! All local/municipal inventory updates performed by RPCs, towns, and consultants should be done by using the [Vermont Online Bridge & Culvert Inventory Tool](#) (VOBCIT). Refer to the URL below.

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2. **Q:** Does VCGI still accept new or updated bridge/culvert from RPCs and towns for integration into TRANSTRUC?

A: No. All new or updated inventories must be completed using VOBCIT. VCGI receives a periodic extract from VOBCIT for integration into TRANSTRUC.

3. **Q:** I downloaded a copy of TRANSTRUC from VCGI's website, but it doesn't match what is in VOBCIT. What is going on?

A: The TRANSTRUC data available from VCGI's website is a "merging" of two primary data sources (sources which are not maintained by VCGI); 1) local/municipal inventory data maintained in VOBCIT, and 2). VTrans BIS/GIS data. VCGI receives extracts from VOBCIT and VTrans BIS annually, and these are bundled into TRANSTRUC. Meanwhile, changes are made to VOBCIT and VTrans BIS/GIS data continuously throughout the year. Therefore TRANSTRUC data available from VCGI's website could be as much as 12 months old.

4. **Q:** Why have almost all of the STRUCT_NUMs (structure numbers) changed?

A: Over 50,000 STRUCT_NUMs changed when the local bridge and culvert inventories were loaded into VOBCIT. The majority of these were records that had



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“temporary” STRUCT_NUMs assigned by VCGI between 2001 and 2006 (STRUCT_NUMs which started with 70 and ended with X). VOBCIT automatically recalculated these. VOBCIT also recalculated many of the old Town Short STRUCT_NUMs (which start with 40) for those records which contained length/span information inconsistent with a Town Short designation. Refer to the *STRUCT_NUM_ChangeLog_LocalInventoryData* table in the TRANSTRUC.mdb MS Access database for a log of all the changes.