

Infrasense Maps Conditions of Silliman Evans Bridge Decks in Nashville, Tennessee Using Ground Penetrating Radar

Infrasense, Inc., a national leader in infrastructure nondestructive evaluations, recently carried out subsurface condition investigations for 8 bridge decks in Nashville, Tennessee. Ground penetrating radar (GPR) data was collected at driving speeds and then analyzed to quantify and map deterioration in each deck.

Boston, MA ([PRWEB](#)) July 29, 2016 -- Infrasense, Inc., a national leader in infrastructure nondestructive evaluations, recently completed deterioration mapping for two mainline bridge decks and six adjacent ramp decks, representing over 100,000 square feet. The Silliman Evans Bridges carry Interstate 24 over the Cumberland River, just north of the I-24/I-40 interchange. The deterioration mapping was performed using vehicle-mounted high-speed ground penetrating radar (GPR) to scan each bridge deck without requiring lane closures and with no disruption to traffic flow, and data collection was completed in a single night. The GPR data was used to produce concrete deterioration maps, as well as rebar depth and asphalt overlay contour maps. These results will be used to plan future rehabilitation efforts.

Ground penetrating radar (GPR) data is collected at highway speeds to estimate rebar depth, corrosion conditions and deteriorated concrete. The GPR data is collected in a series of lines spaced 3 feet transversely across the width of the deck, with each line representing a cross sectional slice of the deck at a particular offset. Decks in good condition consist of strong and uniform radar reflections from the rebar. GPR data with weak and inconsistent reflections indicate rebar-level deterioration in the bridge deck. Infrasense uses its own proprietary software to analyze and map this data to provide comprehensive results for its clients.

Infrasense has previously performed bridge deck condition evaluations using high-speed GPR on other complex bridges and interchanges. In early 2015, Infrasense performed bridge deck condition evaluations on the [Sisson Avenue interchange](#) on I-84 outside of Hartford using high-speed GPR. In 2014, Infrasense scanned the [complex "Waterbury Stacks"](#), including numerous ramps connecting I-84 and Route 8, without any disruption to normal traffic flow.

Ground penetrating radar surveys provide transportation agencies with accurate and comprehensive bridge deck condition information, enabling effective preservation, rehabilitation, and replacement decisions. With large bridge deck inventories, highway agencies have primarily relied on visual inspection at the network level. Since the mechanisms of deterioration occur below the surface, their manifestations are not readily seen in the visual inspections. As a result, visual deck assessments are often inaccurate, and do not provide a sound basis for planning repair and rehabilitation.

Traditionally, highway agencies have employed sounding (chain or hammer) to identify delaminated areas for project-level rehab. Although sounding has proven reliable, the labor and closures required for a sounding survey makes it prohibitive for obtaining data of a large number of decks. Also, sounding is not effective when there is an asphalt overlay. In response to these limitations, a number of highway agencies have utilized alternative methods such as ground penetrating radar.

About Infrasense, Inc.

Since 1987, Infrasense, Inc. has applied state-of-the-art technologies to address the most difficult challenges in subsurface scanning. Infrasense's engineers are able to nondestructively extract critical information from a



diverse range of structures. In addition to providing ongoing subsurface evaluation services to clients across the country, the firm has also conducted numerous research programs to advance the field of subsurface detection and non-destructive evaluation.



Contact Information

Lori McCormick

Infrasense, Inc.

<http://www.infrasense.com>

+1 (781) 281-1686

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