



CASE STUDY



Stay on the right track

BIM Level 2 compliant design for traffic signs and lines

By Martin Quigley, Transoft Solutions

About the client

Alister Storey has been in the road traffic management business for 27 years. He is the director of Storey Design Ltd., which carries out traffic engineering projects like signing, lining or safety schemes. Their clients include local authorities and consultancy firms. One of Alister's recent projects was designing safety schemes in the Midlands for Highways England.

The challenges

Alister designs everything from simple 'No Entry' signs, through to complex gantry and direction signs. His company also designs road markings like white and yellow road markings and T.R.O. restrictions. As he frequently designs complicated road marking schemes involving spiral road markings on motorway junctions, he was looking for specialised software to help him deliver these projects more efficiently.

The other big challenge for him was the need for traffic designs to be compliant with the UK government's new Building Information Modeling (BIM) level 2 standards for the construction and asset management industries. Underpinned by digital technologies, BIM is a collaborative way of working with the aim of designing, delivering and maintaining buildings and roads more efficiently.

BIM level 2 enables designers and contractors to work collaboratively to produce the best possible designs and to test them in the virtual environment before they are built. Although the industry should now be up to BIM level 2 standards Alister often finds that some clients still don't seem to be concerned about their designs complying with the standard. "You think, hang on! It's for your own good, for your own asset management".

At the heart of BIM level 2 are data rich 3D models, which can help with the assessment of impact changes at all stages of a road construction lifecycle, so Alister was searching for a design software that could help him design in 3D.

The solution

Alister has recently bought the software Sign Design Pro UK and Line Design Pro UK by Transoft Solutions. "The experience with it so far has been good; it's up there with competitors definitely", he says.

As well as working on simple 2D design drawings, the software enables Alister to work on major large-scale 3D BIM highway corridor projects.

"Seeing what we need to do with Building Information Modeling compliance now made me buy it over buying a competitor's software. It's definitely the idea of where we're going with BIM and BIM level 2", says Alister.

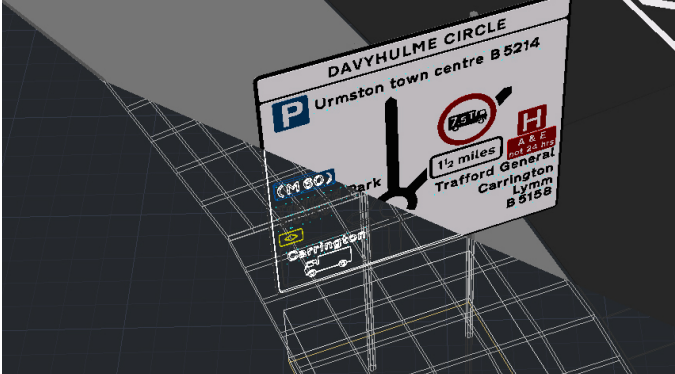
Transoft solutions BIM capabilities are outlined by its features such as 3D and data attached to each individual asset. As a global company, we believe the production of assets is only the first step, the data attached to each asset is of the upmost importance to help maintain a safe and sustainable network through maintenance. This is achieved through the tracking of assets we assist customers in creating using specialist functionality such as the ability to export to GIS and IFC format.

"It's about the only one on the market that's available to do it (BIM Level 2 compliance) right now."

Alister Storey, Storey Design Ltd.

The outcome

The benefits of using Sign Design Pro UK and Line Design Pro UK have been immediate as they are CAD-based and very easy to use, using basic CAD commands. "I've used CAD-based signing and lining programs for the last 20 odd years. It's pretty simple." This meant Alister lost no time having to learn the software, enabling him to turn projects around fast: "If somebody calls me up to deliver a scheme for Monday, I'll do it over a weekend for them."



Alister is using the software on several projects at the same time. While some companies he works with are still using other software, Alister has found that the software can be easily linked with other programs such as Navisworks, enabling him to collaborate effortlessly with his clients.

Using Sign Design Pro UK and Line Design Pro UK, Storey Design are currently working on an extensive spiral road marking scheme on the M40 at Junction 15, which is going to go to be delivered on site towards the end of this year.

Alister has also started using BIM layers for his design work. While he is mainly delivering 2D designs at the moment, he has found the programs capabilities to link with Navisworks and their 3D and BIM compliance features are giving him an advantage when developing new business opportunities, "Because BIM compliancy is mandated by all public companies now".

When he pitches to prospective clients reminding them of these requirements, he can demonstrate that he is capable of delivering designs compliant with BIM level 2 thanks to the software of Transoft Solutions: "It's about the only one on the market that's available to do it right now."

Why Transoft Solutions?

"The service you get with the company is definitely one of the things that attracted me", says Alister. The personal service made him choose them at Transoft Solutions over the products of competitors: "If I want something changed or adjusted in the software I can literally email them and say, 'can you have a look at this?'"

When Alister spotted a missing feature on the sign package which he thought would be handy to have, he simply rang up Transoft Solutions. The result: the software was updated within a week. "That just doesn't happen with the other companies; you're just not going to get that personal service in the upgrade, so that's really good for me." ■