# The use of **Drones for** Bridge Projects Matt Dondanville - GISP, sUAS Pilot

#### Hanson's Drone History

- Hanson started using drones in 2014 under section 333 authorizations
- Hanson has 15 pilots who support projects across the United States
- Hanson has completed UAV projects in 13 States

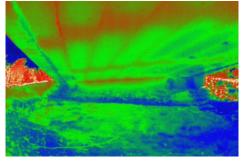












#### **Drones we Own**













#### Drone Rental Partnerships



#### How we pick our UAV's

- What are we used too
- Hardware vs. Software
- Support
- Ease of Use
- Reliability
- Payload Options
- Time of Flight
- = What's your standard mission?



## **Blended Technology!!!**

- Drones / UAV
  - Unmanned Aircraft Systems with multiple camera options using photogrammetry and LiDAR
- Drone Boat Hydrographic Surveys
- LIDAR and Traditional Survey
- Virtual Reality
  - VR presentations to display proposed alternatives for client's benefit or future bids.

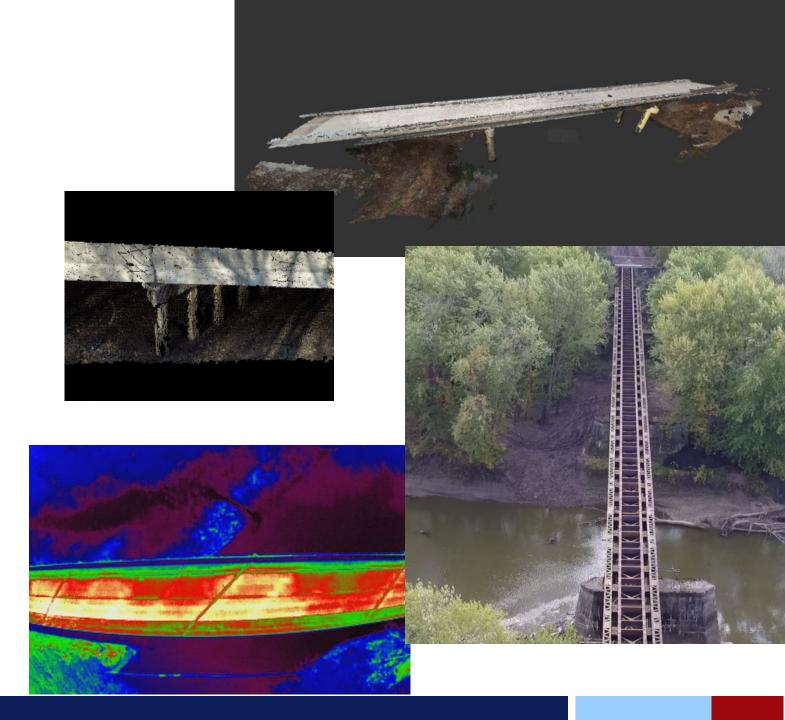




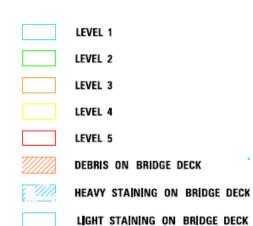
# **Bridge Inspections**

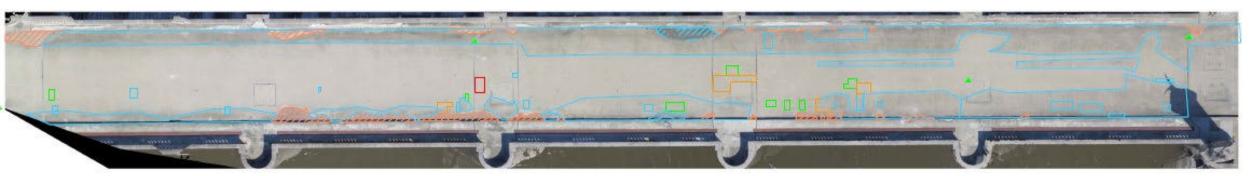
- Deck Assessment
- Paint Assessment
- Culvert / Box Girder
  Inspection
- Deck Survey w/ Camera
- Hydraulic Survey / Scour
- GPS Free Inspections
  - Indoor





#### **Bridge Inspections**





#### McCluggage Bridge



#### **Emergency Drone Response**





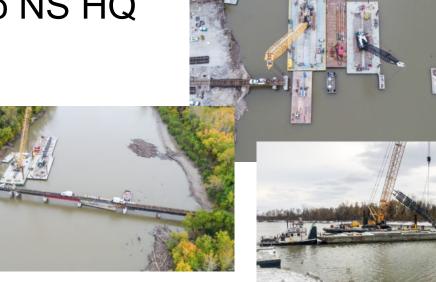


#### NS Bridge over the Grand River Brunswick, MO

- Collapsed October 1, 2019
- Rebuilt in 27 days
- Near Real time drone footage back to NS HQ







# NS identifies "second hand spans" around their system



# Construction Begins – Oct 3rd

#### **Secondary Bridge Design**

- New bridge going through actual design
- Real time engineering on both bridges
  from drone data
- Data fed to NS and Hanson Engineers
  in near real time
- Accurate 3D as built of bridge built in 27 days

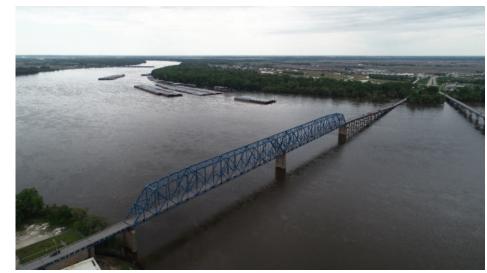


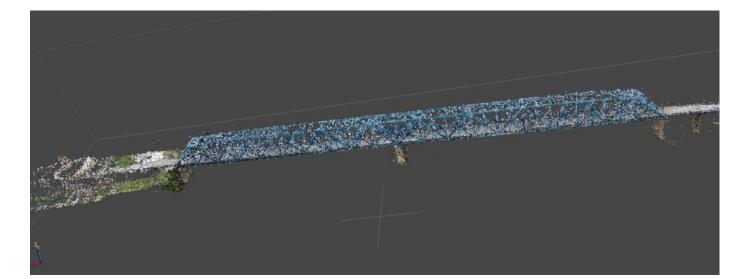


#### **Structural Gusset Analysis - Quincy**

- Lack of Plans
  - Damaged over time
  - Unreadable
- Bridge Open (Safety)
- 6000 Images
- Python Blur Script







#### **Difficulties in Bridge Modeling**

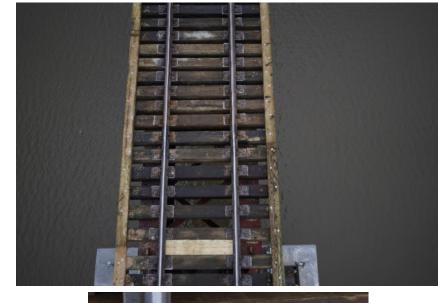
- Water
  - Shades of color
- Shadows
- Proximity to the bridge (Camera Dependent)
- Camera Overlap
- Getting Every Angle



## **Efficiency and Equipment**

- Sony A7R IV
  - 60 MP
  - Full Frame
  - Altitude for 1CM Accuracy (2xGSD)
    - 150' above ground
- DJI Phantom 4
  - 12.4 MP
  - 1/2.3" Sensor
  - Altitude for 1CM Accuracy (2xGSD)
    - 50' above ground

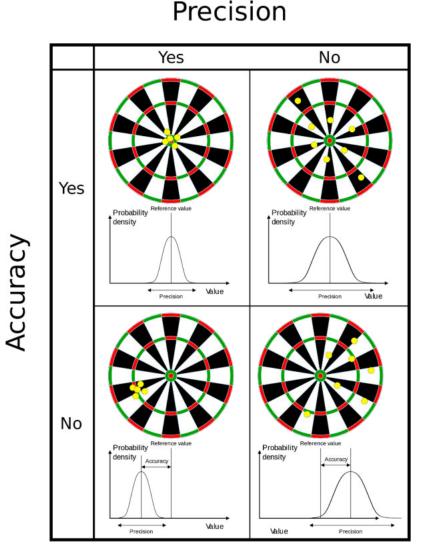






#### **Highest Map Accuracy**

- Good Camera
- Good Camera Calibration
- Imagery Overlap.... What is a good amount?
- UAV GPS Signal
  - PPK/RTK
  - RTK -> Photo
- Ground Control Points
  - How Many?
  - How was it captured?
- Software AT algorithm
- Software GPS drift corrections



#### **Checkpoints and Accuracy**

Will you ever get centimeter accuracy over a site

- Yes but only in perfect conditions.
- ASPRS
  - 25 Checkpoints
- NSSDA (National Standard of Spatial Data Accuracy
  - 20 Checkpoints
- What is the accuracy of the RTK GPS?
- Quick Estimate = 2xGSD



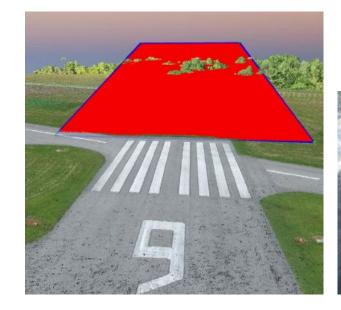




#### But do I really need that accuracy?

# **Categories of UAS projects for AEC**

- Non Referenced
  - Cool Pictures
  - Construction Observation / Documentation
  - Asset Inspections
  - Virtual Reality
- Referenced
  - Updated Ortho-Imagery
  - Full Survey
  - Cut/Fill analysis



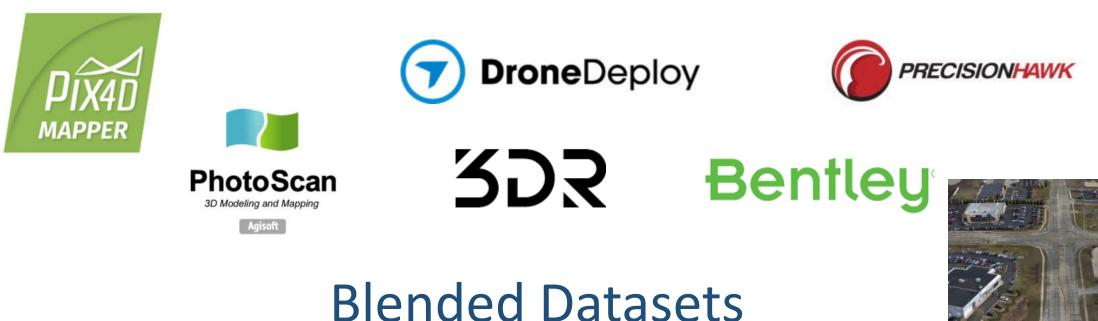


North

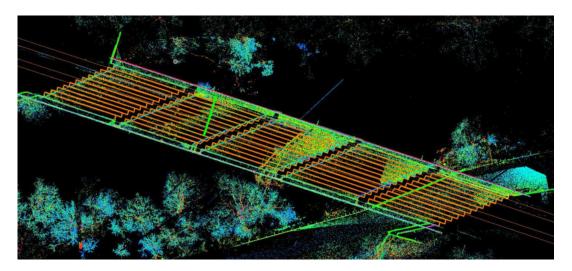
#### Software

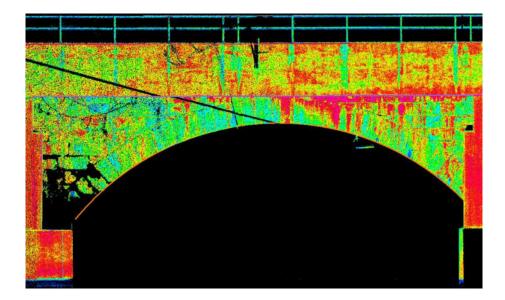
- Not all software is created equal
- Online vs. In Office
- LIDAR vs. Imagery

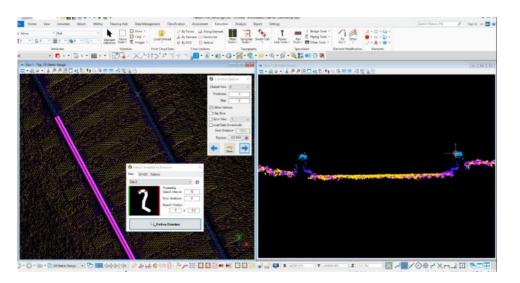


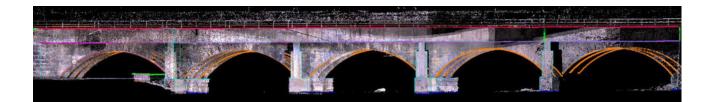


#### TopoDOT



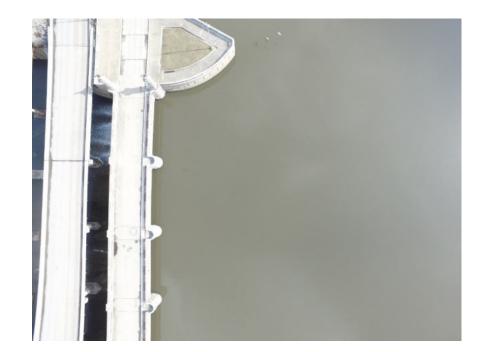






#### Water Resources

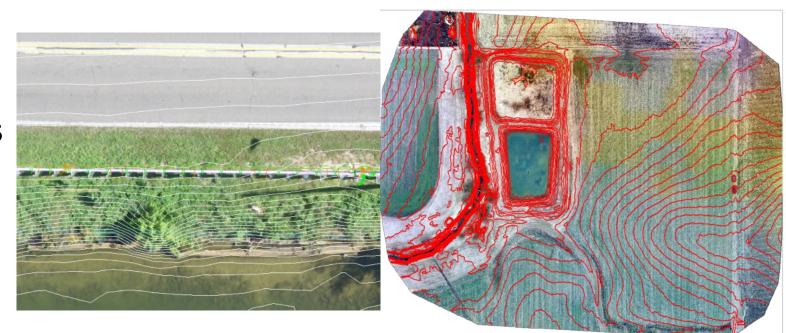
- Dam/Levee Inspections
- Drainage Studies
- Volume analysis
- HEC models
- Impervious surface analysis





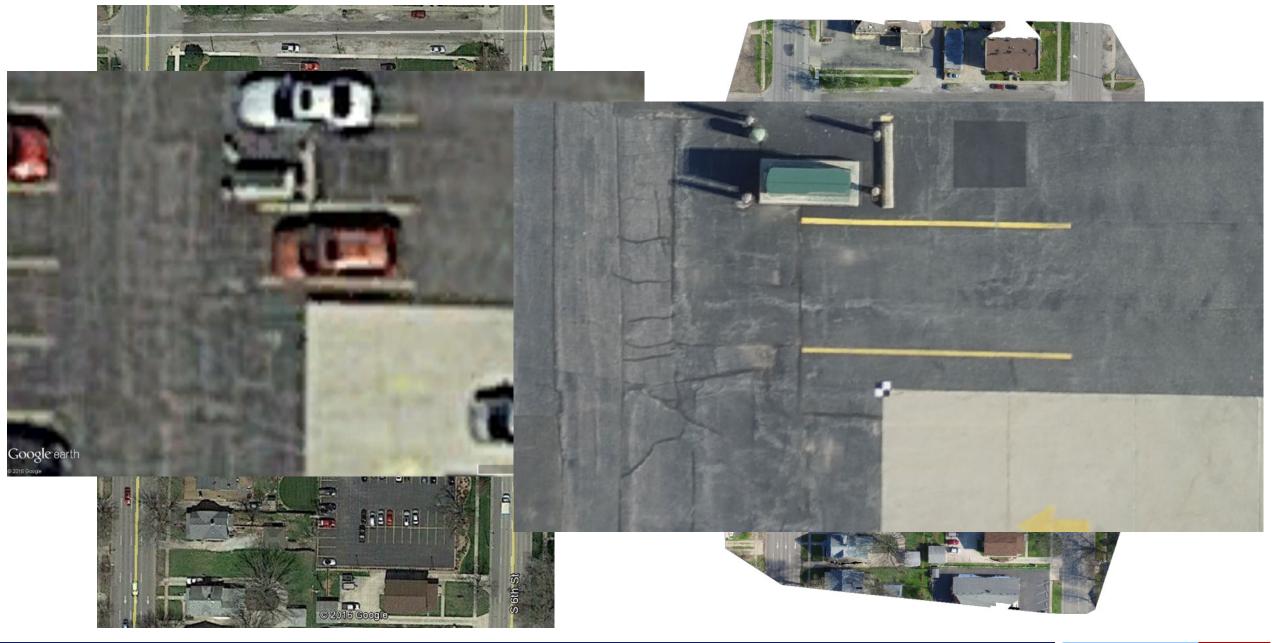
# **Topographic Survey**

- Profiles and Cross Sections
- Georeferenced 3D Models
- Volume Calculations
- Planimetric information
- 80 Acres +/-
  - 1 hour on site
  - 4 hours processing
  - DTM, ortho's





#### Hanson Corporate Office Google Earth Comparison



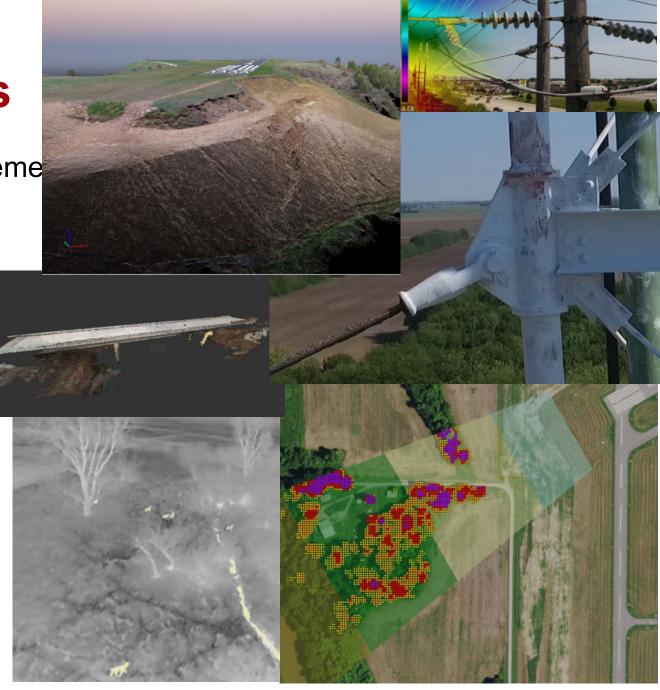


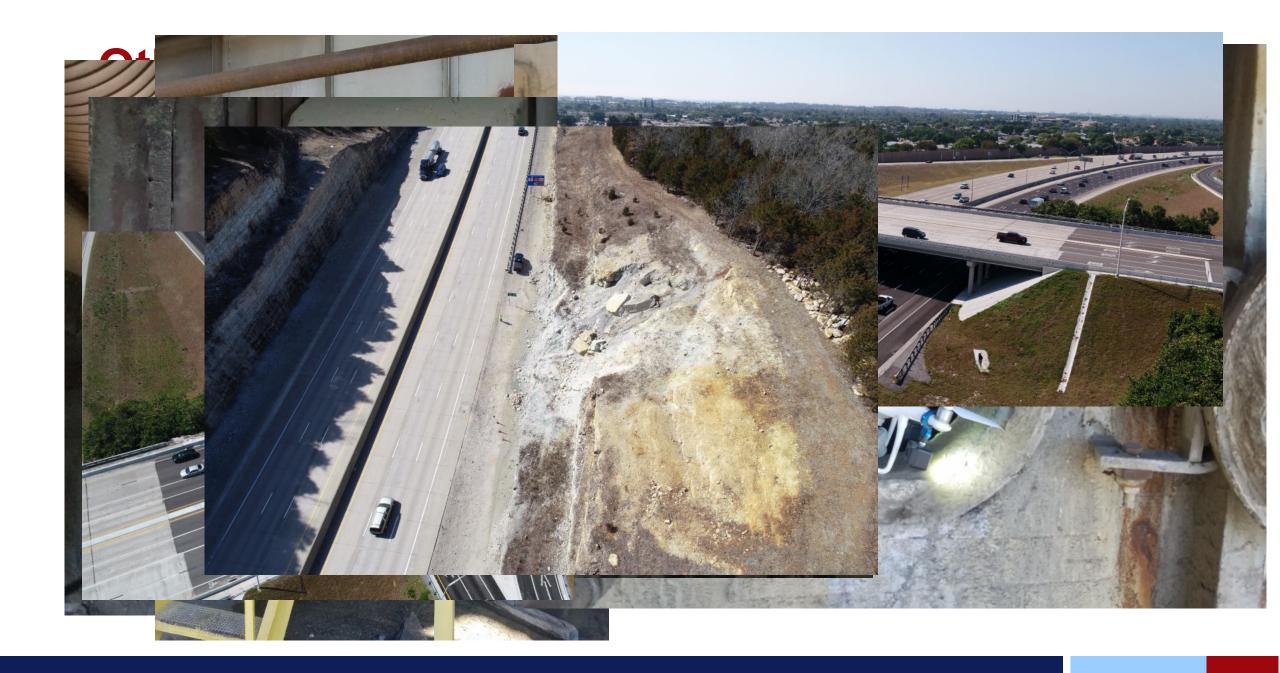
#### **UAV data for VR**



#### **1 Million Other UAS Uses**

- Obstruction Surveys/Vegetation Manageme
- Pavement Condition Surveys
- Drainage Studies
- Topographic Surveys
- Asset Management
- Structure Surveys
- Environmental Surveys
- Cooling Tower Inspection
- Boiler Inspections
- Virtual Reality
- Rail Monitoring
- Disaster Response





#### The Future of Drones in AEC

- Automation
- New/Better Sensors
  - GPR, Camera's
- Machine Learning
  - Inspections
- BVLOS
  - BNSF



#### **Questions?**

