

How Marion Reduced Road Assessment Time From Three Months to Three Weeks With vialytics

Faced with staff reductions, manual PASER scoring, and a time-consuming paper-based assessment process, the City of Marion needed a faster way to evaluate its streets.

With vialytics, Marion turned existing fleet vehicles into daily road assessment tools, helping the city save more than \$40,000 annually, simplify grant reporting, and support the largest street repaving initiative in the city's history.

About Marion

Located in north central Indiana, Marion maintains a large network of city streets while balancing limited staff time and growing infrastructure demands.

Before vialytics, roadway assessments relied on a manual PASER scoring process completed by staff using paper documentation. The process consumed months of work each year and made it difficult to efficiently prioritize repairs and long-term paving projects.

Looking for a more sustainable approach, Marion adopted vialytics to modernize road assessments, improve planning, and make better use of staff resources without disrupting daily operations.



The Challenge: Manual Scoring and Limited Staff Time

Before adopting vialytics, Marion's Engineering Department relied on two employees to manually assess roads using the PASER method. The process required staff to drive city streets, grade pavement conditions by hand, and document results on paper.

As staffing resources became more limited, the city needed a more efficient way to complete road assessments without pulling employees away from other responsibilities.

Mayor Ronald Morrell described the process as "time-consuming, costly, and not the best use of our resources."

Smarter Road Assessments with vialytics

Marion implemented vialytics using fleet vehicles that were already driving through the city each day. After a short onboarding process, the system was quickly up and running.

Installation was simple, and staff were able to begin collecting road condition data during normal daily routes. Instead of setting aside months for manual grading, Marion could collect consistent, AI-supported pavement data as vehicles traveled the city.

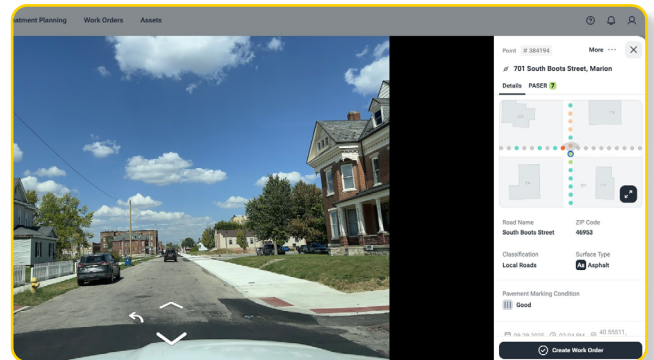
The system's ease of use also helped staff adopt the technology quickly. According to the city, employees had no hesitation and were excited to use it.

Implementation: Existing Fleet Vehicles, One Simple Workflows

The rollout was designed to fit directly into Marion's existing operations. Once the system was installed, daily use became simple: as the vehicle drove around the city, staff could start collection and let the system capture roadway data.

This approach helped Marion reduce the burden of manual assessments while creating a more consistent view of street conditions across the city. As Mike Graft, City of Marion Administrative and

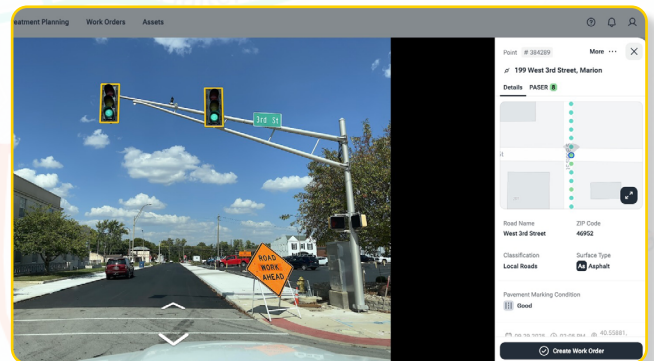
Project Manager shared, "Because the vehicle we use is driven daily, we push the button and away we go."



Better Data for Planning, Paving, and Grants

With vialytics, Marion gained a clearer, more objective way to review pavement conditions and prioritize repairs. The city no longer had to rely as heavily on manual judgment or paper records when making paving decisions. This helped city leaders evaluate road needs more confidently and use data to support long-term planning.

The data also played a role in Marion's Community Crossings Grant process. The city noted that vialytics grading results were easier to review and helped simplify entry into the grant system.



Time Savings, Cost Savings, and Greater Flexibility

The results were significant. Marion reduced road assessment time from three months to just three weeks and saved more than \$40,000 annually.

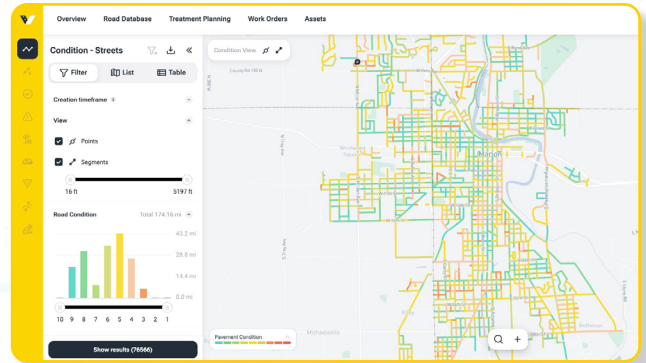
For the city, those savings created practical benefits across the department:

- **More funding for paving:**
Dollars saved can be redirected toward additional roadway improvements.
- **More staff flexibility:**
Time recovered from manual assessments allows the team to focus on other priorities.
- **More objective decisions:**
AI-supported data helps remove subjectivity from road prioritization.
- **Simpler grant reporting:**
Organized grading results support easier entry into Community Crossings Grant applications.

A Model For Other Cities

Marion's experience shows how cities can modernize road assessments without overcomplicating daily operations. By using vehicles already traveling local streets, the city was able to replace a months-long manual process with a faster, more consistent workflow.

For other municipalities considering vialytics, Marion's advice is clear: "Don't be afraid of the annual costs as they will save you time and money later."



Conclusion

Marion's story demonstrates how AI-powered road management can help local governments save time, reduce costs, and make stronger infrastructure decisions. With vialytics, the city moved from paper-based PASER scoring to a more efficient, data-driven process that supports planning, grants, and better use of public resources.

By spending less time collecting data and more time acting on it, Marion is better equipped to improve streets for residents and continue investing in the future of its road network.