

SCHEDULE MASTERS, INC

TMSwebStopEditor

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TMSwebStopEditor

INTRODUCTION

The TMSwebStopEditor is an administrator tool that enables you to validate the stops in your public transit network.

At a high level, TMSwebStopEditor is part of an overall solution:

The Master Scheduler™ (TMS). As the foundation of the system, TMS models stops, running times and frequencies for trips across all routes and services. TMS ensures the integrity of all the data, and also provides features for vehicle blocking, runcutting, rostering and daily operations. All of the transit data is managed by TMS.

The Web-Based Trip Planning Extract. After the data has been modeled in TMS, you automatically create a set of .txt files with an export function.

TMSwebStopEditor. After the data has been extracted, TMSwebBusPathEditor allows you to view and make changes to the stop locations. Because it works with the extracted files, you can run the TMSwebBusPathEditor on a machine that does not have TMS installed. It creates a file indicating all the changes that must be made in TMS to fix the stop locations. As it uses Google Maps, it is possible to view the satellite photos – sometimes you can see the actual bus shelter and put the stop right on it.

TMSwebBusPathEditor. After the stops have been validated and corrected, TMSwebBusPathEditor allows you to configure the bus paths. Because it works with the extracted files, you can run the TMSwebBusPathEditor on a machine that does not have TMS installed. It creates a special *BusPaths.shv file containing the “lat/lng polylines” that connect the stops together.

TMSwebBusPatternsEditor. Similar to the TMSwebBusPathEditor, the TMSwebBusPatternsEditor allows you to edit the bus paths by Service, Route, Direction and Pattern. This can be helpful if vehicles follow different streets for different stop patterns. The TMSwebBusPatternsEditor also has the ability to make MapInfo-compatible files of the bus patterns. These files can be used for your printed guides, etc.

TMS2GT. After extracting the data and (optionally) creating the bus paths, TMS2GT converts the TMS .txt extract files, and the .shv (bus path) file into a Google Transit Feed ready for upload.

TMSweb. After extracting the data and (optionally) creating the bus paths with TMSwebBusPathEditor, the TMSweb trip planning engine and scripts can use the .shv (bus path) file directly to show bus paths over the internet.

Google Transit. After extracting the data, (optionally) creating the bus paths and running TMS2GT, Google Transit can create trip plans from the Google Transit website.

This document describes how to use the TMSwebStopEditor.

INSTALLATION

The TMSwebStopEditor runs requires 32-bit Microsoft Windows, XP or higher.

Run the “setup_TMSwebStopEditor.exe” installer.

There is one more thing you need to configure.

In the TMSwebStopEditor folder (usually in “C:\Program Files\Schedule Masters, Inc\TMSwebStopEditor”), there need to be a file called “cities.txt”. This file is used to configure the cities used for geocoding (more on this later). If you wish to use the geocoding feature, you need to use a text editor (Notepad or Wordpad) to create/configure this file with the city and state/province code as recognized by Google. For example, in the US, all the states are by the 2-character state code. In Canada, the provinces are by the 2-character province code. The contents of this file will appear in the drop-down next to the “Geocode” button.

The simplest way to fill in this file is on with line with:

<your city name>, <your 2-digit state/province code>

LAUNCHING TMSwebStopEditor

Run TMSwebStopEditor.exe.

A dialog will open prompting for the folder containing the TMS Web-Based Trip Planner Data Files. This is the folder generated by TMS when you run the extract.

If you do not have this folder, you will have to run the extract from TMS, and can be found under the “Import/Export” tab. If it is not there, go to “File|Options” and enable it.

Browse to the folder containing the TMS Web-Based Trip Planner Data Files in the dialog, and press OK. This folder will contain a number of .txt files. It is not the same folder as the TMS database, nor is it the same folder as any Google Transit files. The TMSwebStopEditor will remember this folder the next time it runs.

There is an option to initialize the TMSwebStopEditor cache. Internally, the TMSwebStopEditor make an internal copy of its information from TMS. Reinitializing the cache will refresh its internal copy from new data from TMS. However, it will also overwrite any stop location changes that you have made. **Make sure you update TMS with any changes before reinitializing the cache (more on that later).**

Wait a few more moments while a page opens up in your browser. Sometimes the web page will get “stuck” and remain blank. If this happens, press the “Refresh” button on your browser.

You should see a Google map with the stops from a service and route, with lines connecting the stops.

USING THE TMSwebStopEditor

The TMSwebStopEditor (SE) uses the internet intensively. Before using the SE, make sure you are connected to the internet with the fastest connection you can find. Although any connection can be slow, be especially mindful of wireless connections. If you can, try to get to a good physical connection (i.e. cable), as they tend to be faster.

When you select a route, the SE shows you all the stops along that route for all patterns. The stops are connected together with straight lines. For the moment, do not worry about the straight lines – we will fix them to follow the roads with the TMSwebBusPathEditor later. They are just there to show you how the stops are connected.

The idea is that you take a look at every route and see if there are stops that appear incorrect. You can correct a stop right from the TMSwebStopEditor.

First, familiarize yourself with the features of the Google Map. For example, double-clicking on the map will zoom in – this is a critical feature that you will use often.

Clicking and dragging will scroll the map – another critical feature.

Clicking on a stop will select it for editing (will turn red). Clicking on the stop again will show its details in a pop-up window.

The upper-right of the Google Map has buttons to show the Map, Satellite and Hybrid displays. The Satellite view can be particularly useful for positioning a stop (sometimes you can see the actual bus shelter in the satellite photo).

All the stops in the route are shown in the table on the lower left. Clicking on a stop in the table will zoom to that position and make it available for editing.

Click on a stop. Double-click on the map to zoom in around it. Click-and-drag on the map to follow the stops along the route.

To Move/Edit a Stop: Select the stop. Click and Drag the Red stop indicator and release it where the stop should be. If you want to cancel the change, press the “Cancel” button. Alternatively, you can type in the Lat/Lng if you know it. You can also change the description of a stop. You cannot change the Stop’s ID.

To Geocode a Stop: Select the stop. Select the correct city that the stop is in (remember the “cities.txt” file you configure above?). Press the “Geocode” button. The TMSwebStopEditor will attempt to geocode the stop based on its description. If successful, it will move the stop indicator to the new location. If you like where it is, press “Save”, or if you don’t, press “Cancel” and the stop will not be moved. This only works if the description is a valid address.

To Copy a Stop’s Information to another Stop: Select the first stop. Press Copy. Select the second stop. Press Paste.

To Create a Changes file for updating in TMS: Press “Create Changes File”. This will create a file called NodeChanges.txt in the TMSwebStopEditor folder. You can open this file with any text editor. Upload this file into TMS. This button will also create a new browser window containing the changes made.

WATCHITS AND GOTCHAS

Reminder: after making changes in the TMSwebStopEditor, you need to update TMS (run the upload) for those changes to take effect. You also need to re-run the extracts from TMS back to the TMSwebStopEditor to see them.

Reminder: make sure you are satisfied with your stops and their locations on the routes before using the TMSwebBusPathEditor.

Reminder: after you are finished, close the TMSwebStopEditor CMD window and the web page.

Important Note: If you reinitialize the cache without updating your changes in TMS, your changes will be lost.