





The Challenge

The city of Salem, known as "Virginia's Championship City," has approximately 10,600 properties. With a new CAMA system and the desire to revisit properties on a more frequent basis, Salem recognized the need to implement a mobile data collection solution.

Benefits



Eliminated redundant data entry



Improved field data collection resulting in greater data accuracy



Increased efficiency resulting in more frequent property inspections



Leveraged oblique and ortho photography and GIS layers while in the field



Rephotographed all properties within three months

Working with Woolpert

Salem began working with DCS in 2018. Salem quickly learned that DCS was a partner who prioritized the success of its clients. Kuzmich stated, "It's been great. I feel as if the DCS team has taken a personal interest in our success with using the product. They have always been just a phone call or email away and willing to provide insight, training or just listen to our suggestions for enhancements."

The Solution

Data Cloud Solutions, a Woolpert Company, presented the CAMACloud™ suite, an open data platform, as a simple solution to bring Salem to the 21st century of appraisal technology. Within the suite is MobileAssessor™, which synchronizes and streamlines field and office tasks in real time. By modernizing its data collection workflows, the city can now visit more properties to ensure property data accuracy.

"[Salem] is really impressed with how well the MobileAssessor product incorporates all the things that the appraiser needed in the field from the real estate characteristics to the photo taking capabilities to building permit information to sales, GIS, routing, the list goes on. It really was designed with the mass appraiser in mind, and it nearly eliminates any work that needs to be done back in the office," stated Salem's Real Estate Director Justin Kuzmich.

"Having our GIS data and layers available to us in the field is extremely useful and a feature that we have never had in the past except with having to carry around paper maps. Being able to view our latest and prior year imagery data as well as turn on and off necessary GIS layers while in the field really gives you everything that you need in the field to complete your inspection."

Justin Kuzmich, Real Estate Director City of Salem, VA

