Digital Photos

Convert Photo Table to Vector Points

The TNTmips Database to Vector Conversion process allows you to convert the photo locations in a geotagged photo database table into an ordered set of vector points connected by a line. The records in the source table are also transferred to the vector point database and attached to the relevant points. Thus when you display the resulting vector object, you can set the DataTip for points to show the image thumbnail temporarily when you pause the mouse cursor over a point, or simultaneously display all of the photo thumbnails as point symbols. As one example, the map illustration below shows the general route (red line) of a tour of historic homes and other buildings, with each numbered stop showing the building’s photo thumbnail centered on its location (thumbnail as point symbol).

Line generation is optional in the Database to Vector Conversion process. You set the point order for generating the line connecting the photo points by choosing an appropriate numeric field in the photo database table. Choosing the Date and Time field orders the photo points by their acquisition date and time.

If you wanted to connect the photo points in some other particular order, you could use the Display or Database Editor process to add an integer field to the source table and manually assign the desired numeric order value to each record, then choose this field to order the points in the conversion process. In the historic tour example, the tour photos were acquired in the desired order along the tour route, so the Date and Time field was chosen to order the line points.

To use the photo thumbnails as point symbols, choose Image Thumbnail from the Style menu on the Points panel of the Vector Layer Controls window.

Vector object with photo points and connecting red line created using the Database to Vector Conversion process, in layout including a reference map layer, stop number labels, and other annotation.