LSA Uncontrolled Intersection Report

Instructions for updating intersections

By October 1, 2014, the county engineer of each county shall provide a report to the Department of Transportation identifying all locations in the county where two different roads or highways having speed limits of 55 miles per hour or greater intersect but are not controlled by an official traffic-control signal or by official traffic-control devices that direct traffic approaching from every direction to stop or yield before entering the intersection. On or before December 31, 2014, the DOT shall file a report with the legislative services agency detailing the number and locations of the intersections identified in the county engineers' reports.

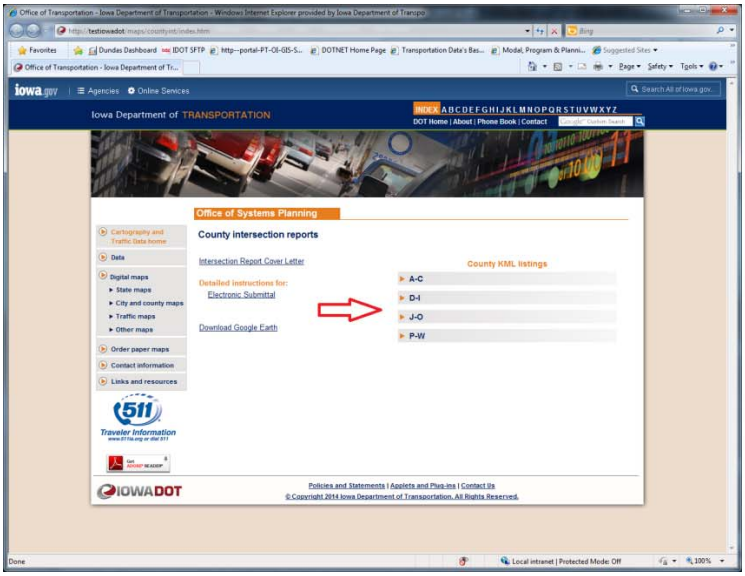
DOT Information

In preparation for the report, the Iowa DOT has done extensive research into these types of intersections. Out of 56,508 intersections, the DOT has identified 22,224 which are uncontrolled and 4,342 which are unknown. **We will need your assistance in completing these unknown intersections.** If you are interested in seeing the entire data set for your county which includes those intersections defined as uncontrolled, please let us know and we would be happy to provide it to you.

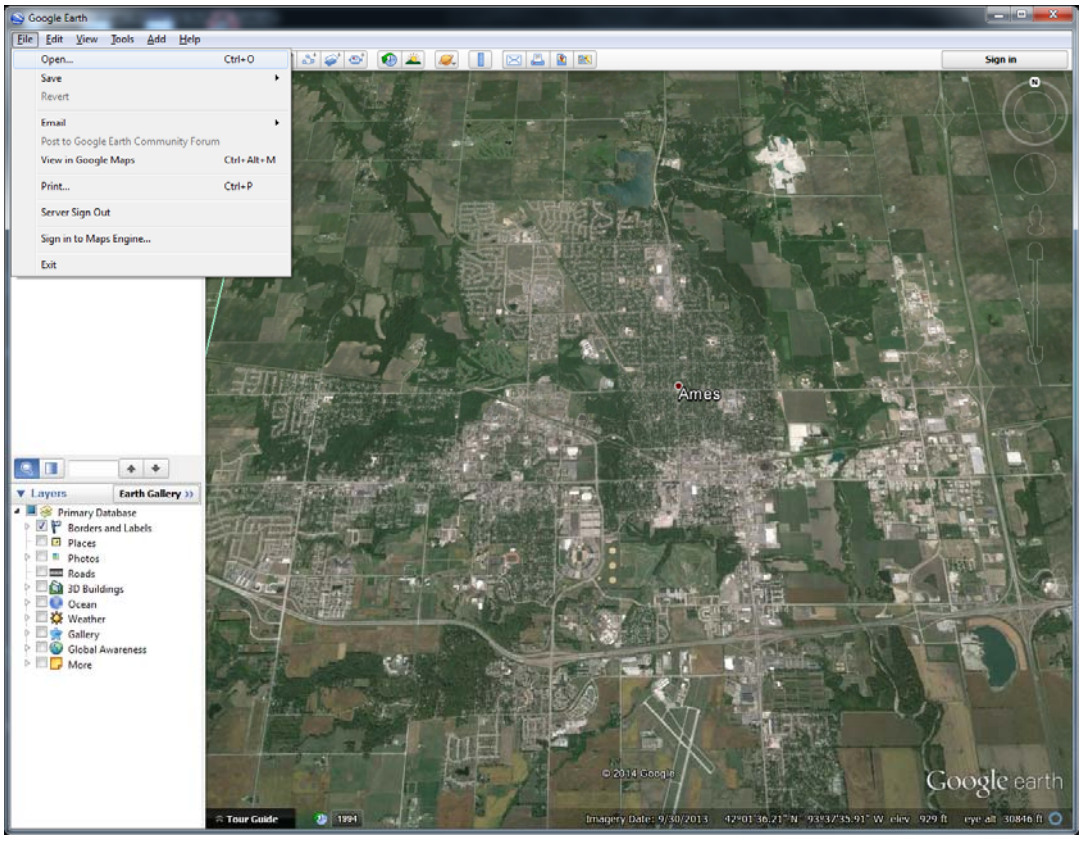
Making edits

First and foremost to be able to make the necessary edits to the intersections you need to have Google Earth on your machine. (If you do not have Google Earth installed, you can download the application here: https://www.google.com/earth/. When you first open the link, click on the "Download Google Earth" button in the upper right hand corner of the screen and follow the necessary steps to download it to your machine.)

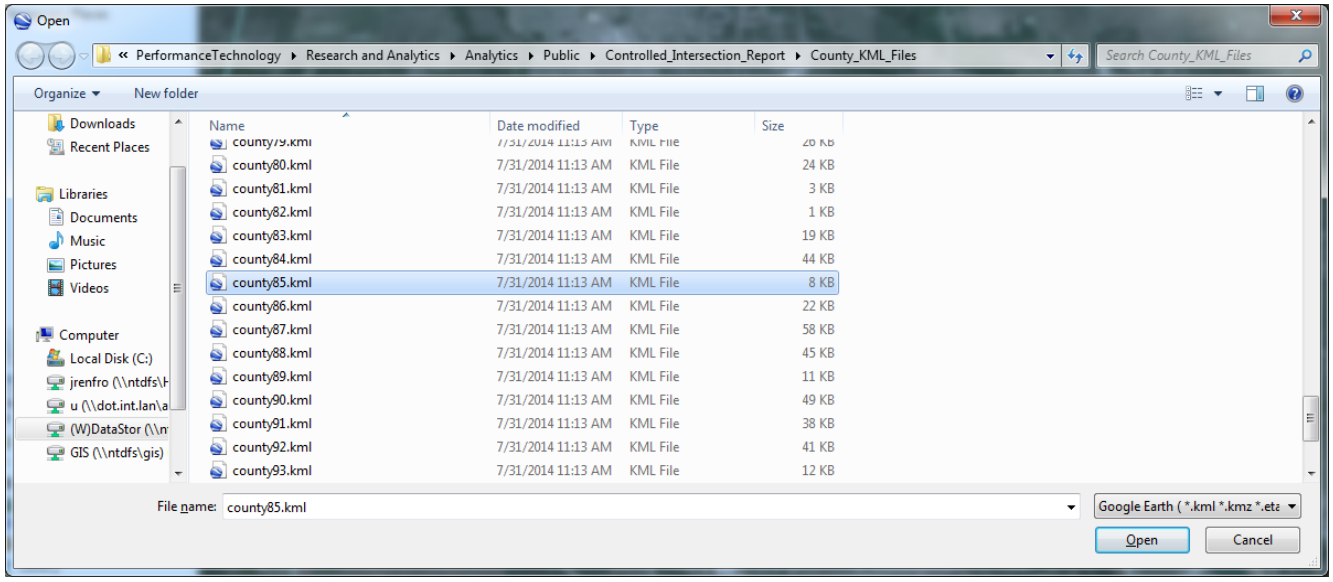
1. To access the KML file with the unknown intersections for your county you need to navigate out to this link (http://www.iowadot.gov/maps/countyint/index.htm). You will be taken to a screen that looks like the picture below. To find the KML file for your county click on the letter that corresponds with your county. Once you have found your county's KML file you simply click to download it and save it in a place where you can access it.



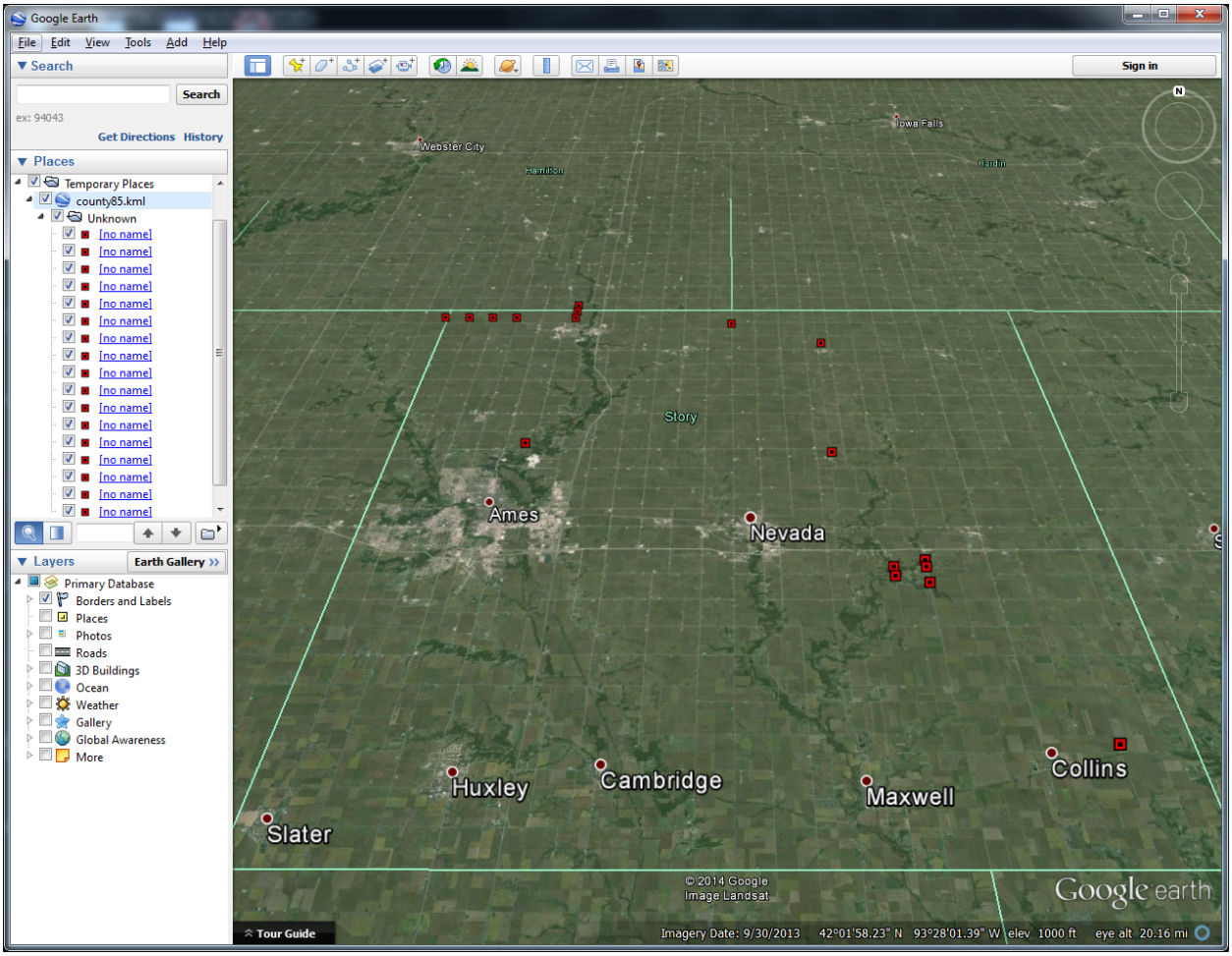
2. Open up Google Earth and go to **FILE** and then **OPEN.**



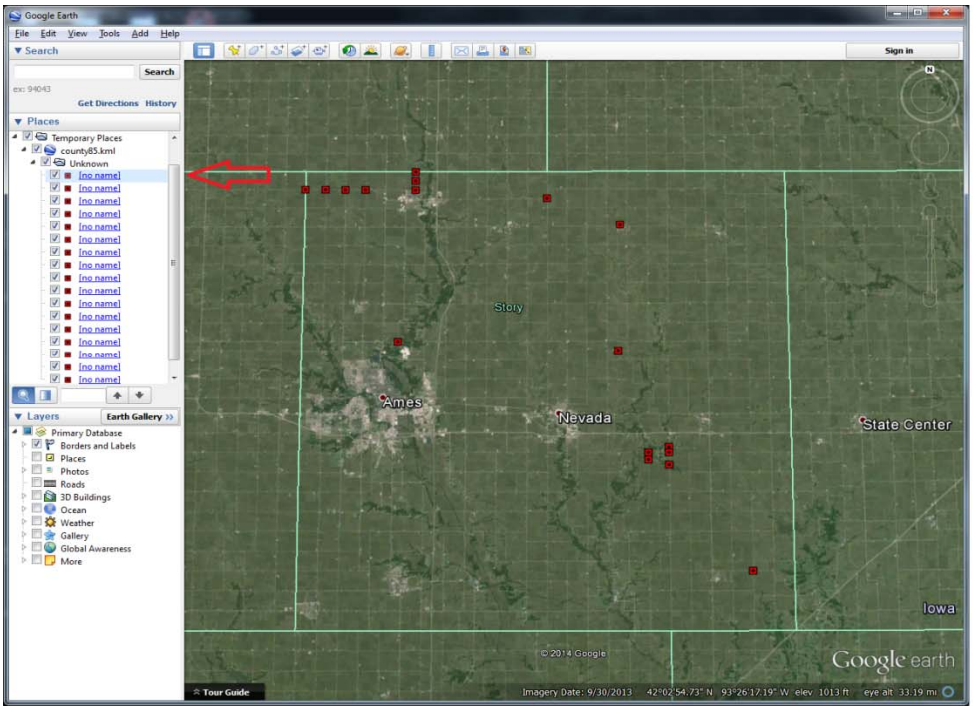
3. Browse to the folder where you saved the KML file. Click on the KML file and then click **OPEN.**

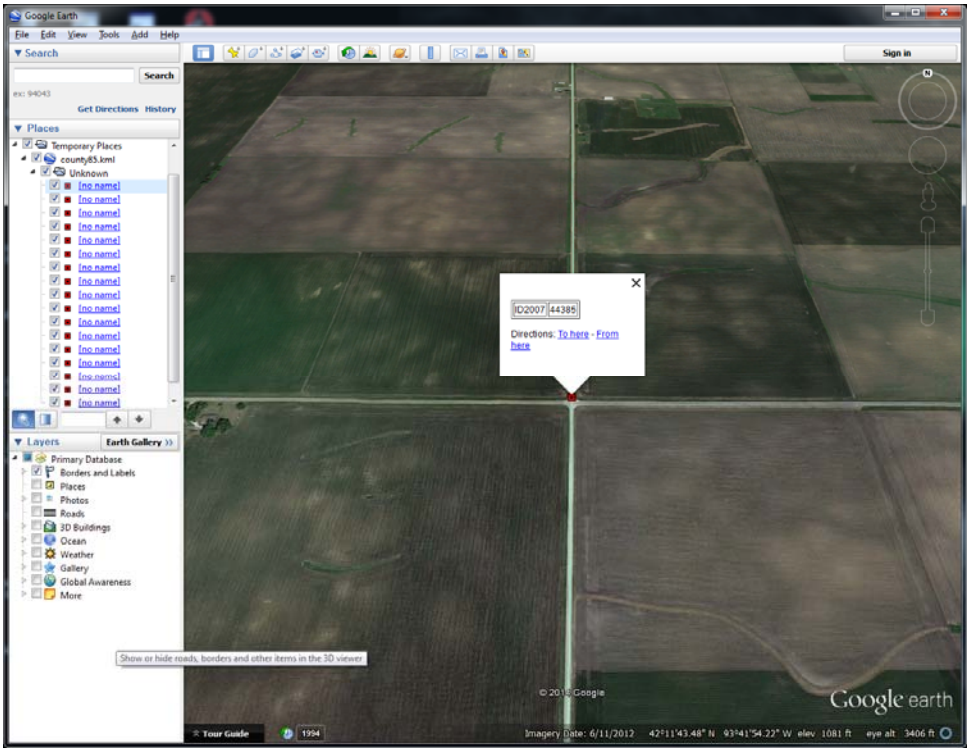


4. Once you have opened the file it should zoom into your county and you should see something like the picture below. On the left hand side of the screen under the heading “Places” you will see it has a check mark next to the unknown intersections and a string of labels that read “no name” with a red square that is visible in the map in the center of the screen. The red squares are the intersections marked as “Unknown”. These are the intersections that you will be making the necessary edits to.

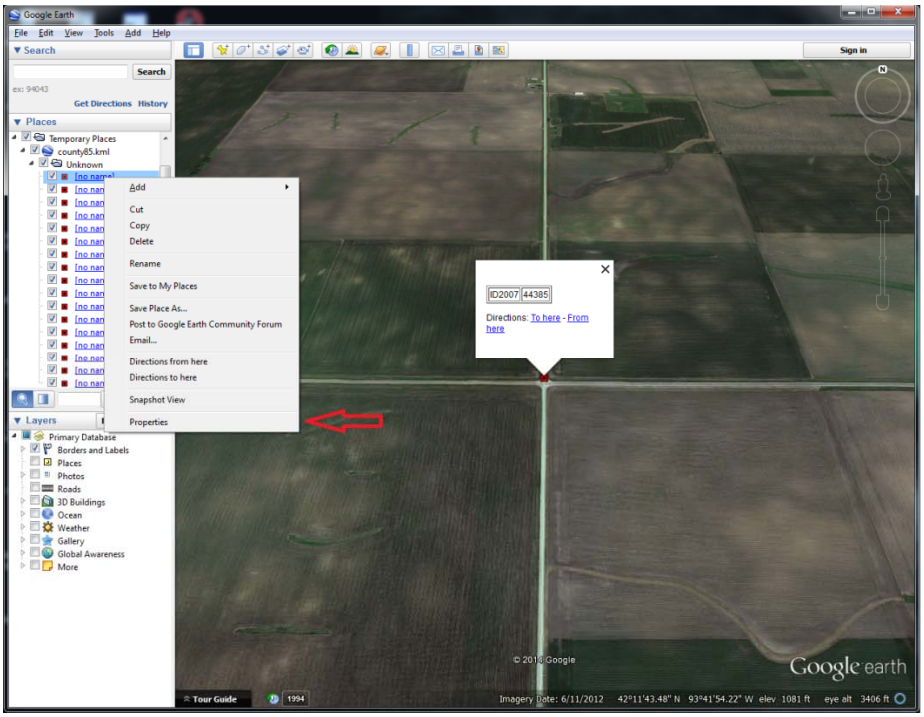


5. Now that your county file is loaded in Google Earth you can start making edits to the data. Start by **double clicking** the first record on the left hand of the screen under "places" marked as "no name". By double clicking, it should fly you to the intersection as shown in the images below.

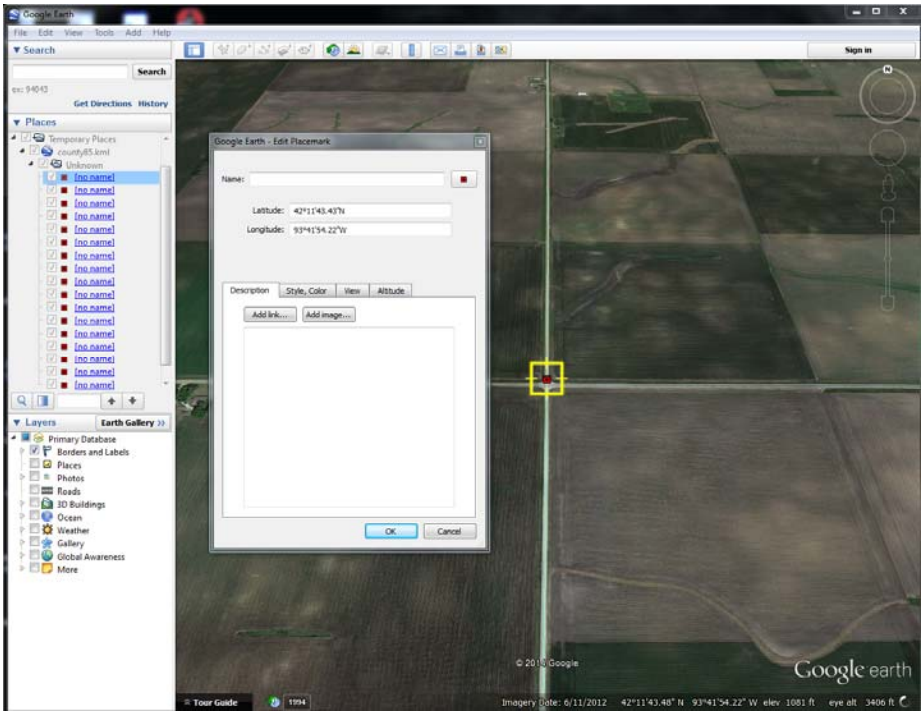




6. Once you have identified the intersection, you need to fill in the missing data. To do this you need to **right click** on the same intersection in the left hand column that you clicked on in the previous step and go to **Properties.**



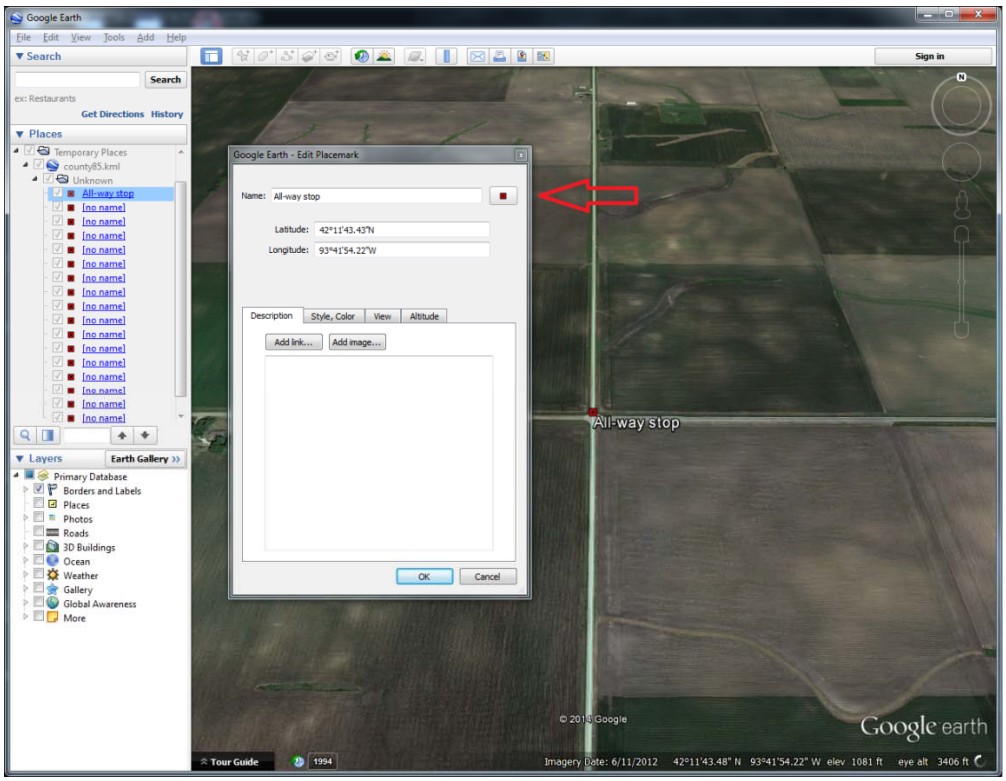
Once you have selected **Properties** a box should pop up like the picture below.



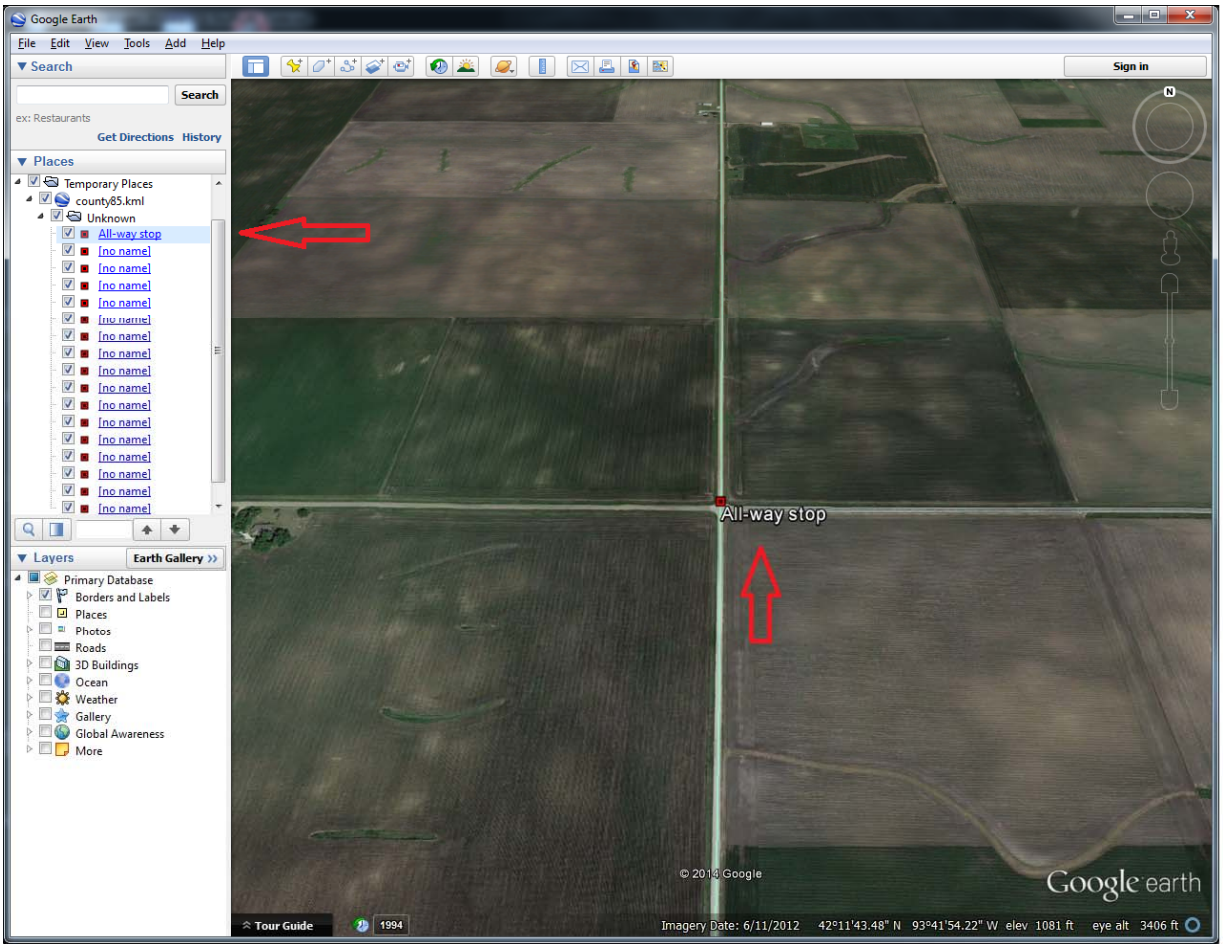
7. You are now ready to start making edits to the intersection. In the box next to the heading marked “Name” you will enter the necessary information for the intersection from the list below. It is important to have all spelling and punctuation as it is in the list

below. If the identified intersection is lower than 55 mph you should mark the intersection as “Not 55” in the heading marked “Name”. If the identified intersection is in fact not an intersection please mark the intersection as “Invalid” in the heading marked “Name”. Once you have entered the information you will click on **OK**.

All-way stop
One-way stop
One-way stop with Stop Sign in Median
One-way stop with Yield in Median
Other
Railroad crossing, crossbucks only
Railroad crossing, flashing lights only
Railroad crossing, gates and flashing lights
Railroad crossing, stop-sign controlled
Signalized (with ped signal)
Signalized (without ped signal)
Two-way stop
Two-way stop with Stop Sign in Median
Uncontrolled
Yield sign



8. Once you have clicked on OK, your map should be updated and will look similar to the picture below. You will see that the information that you entered for the intersection will be displayed in the map as well as in the column listing on the left hand side of the screen.



9. This will conclude all of the editing that is necessary for updating the unknown intersections. You will now repeat steps 5-7 for the remaining intersections in the list on the left hand side of the screen. Once you have completed all intersections you will need to highlight the folder titled Unknown and then go to **FILE** then **SAVE** and **SAVE PLACE AS**. If you do not highlight the folder first you may end up creating a file with ine intersection rather than all of them. The application will then ask you where you would like to save the completed KML file. After selecting your location and saving the file you will then attach the completed KML file in an email and send it to either Jared Renfro (jared.renfro@dot.iowa.gov) or Ryan Wyllie (ryan.wyllie@dot.iowa.gov). If you need any

help at all with any step in the process you can contact Jared (515-239-1758) or Ryan (515-239-1560). The deadline for updating these intersections is October 1st 2014. If you cannot complete this task by the date requested you can contact either one of the people above or Nicole Fox (nicole.fox@dot.iowa.gov) (515-239-1506).