FRESH LOOK
PERSPECTIVES FROM NEWER PROJECT MANAGERS
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Objectives

• Share perspectives of project management from Client and Consultant views
• Introduce the basics of project management
• Share personal lessons learned in our first few years of managing projects
Outline

• Backgrounds
• What is Project Management?
  – What did we expect
  – What is reality
• Triple Constraints
• Communication
• Level of Service
• Interacting with Stakeholders
• Lessons Learned
Backgrounds

- **Kyanna**
  - IUS – Bachelor’s of Science Degree in Business Management and Marketing, 2015
  - INDOT Maintenance Summer Seasonal position (3 summers)
  - Project Manager at INDOT Vincennes District for 1.5 years
  - Currently manages 85 projects

- **Karl**
  - Purdue – B.S. Degree in Civil Engineering, 2010
  - 3 Summer internships (2x Woolpert; 1x Parsons Brinckerhoff)
  - Bridge Engineer at WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff for 6.5 years
  - Started managing projects July 2014 at WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff
  - Currently at American Structurepoint as a PM in the bridge group

(Indiana, 2017)  
(Marketing & Media, 2016)
What is Project Management?

- What we expected prior to starting
- Reality
  - Impression of PM from Maintenance
  - Plans/monitors big picture
    - Project Charter, Risk, PDP
  - Motivates others
  - Delegates
  - Satisfaction from group accomplishment
  - Department heads vs PM control

("Memes," n.d.)
Triple Constraints

- Scope
- Schedule
- Budget
Communication

• Adapt style to needs
• Keep everyone in the loop
• More is typically better than less
• Bi-Weekly Updates
• Monthly coordination calls

Q: What are some of the best communication practices you have used that were not mentioned?

(“Change management and communication services,” 2014)
Level of Service

• Learn your client/consultant
• How to address communication issues
• Owner/Client/Consultant relationships determine success of project
  – Consultant Fair
  – Create an environment of cohesiveness
Interacting with Stakeholders

- Stakeholders
  - Construction
  - Environmental
  - Geotechnical
  - Maintenance
  - Pavement
  - Political
  - Public
  - Railroad
  - R/W
  - Signals
  - Technical Services
  - Traffic
  - Utilities

- Mechanisms for Interaction
  - Kick Off Meetings
  - Scoping Meeting
  - Constructability Review
  - Field Checks

Q: What are some best practices for interacting with different stakeholders?
Lessons Learned

• Always be ready for change and learn to adapt quickly
  – Funding increases/decreases
  – Politics
  – Scope Changes
• Be forgiving
• Earn influence by people skills and your efforts, not by your position
• We’re all on the same team, so let’s cooperate

("5 myths and realities of good teamwork," 2013)
Citations


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