FRESH LOOK

PERSPECTIVES FROM NEWER PROJECT MANAGERS

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Kyanna Moon, INDOT
Karl Krukenberg, American Structurepoint
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)


Questions & Contact Information

- Kyanna Moon: kmoon1@indot.IN.gov
- Karl Krukenberg: krukenberg@structurepoint.com