

Creating A Connected Project Lifecycle Using Construction Project Management Software



Overcoming Reworks and Low Profitability

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Introduction

Construction companies have dealt with numerous challenges while working towards customer satisfaction and business success. Most of these hurdles include reduced productivity, labor shortage and poor material supply. Above that, the use of traditional work practices and outdated technology causes extensive rework and reduced profitability.

However, to overcome such challenges, it becomes crucial for construction contractors to have a productive approach. But this approach needs to be planned and executed with complete precision throughout the phases of the project lifecycle. Since many traditional work practices do not offer the accuracy required to manage resources, it becomes necessary to switch to construction project management software that can integrate well with business needs.

This eBook will help you to relate the process of project lifecycle management with the use of integrated construction project management software to keep projects on schedule. Also, we will discuss the essential features of the project management software defining the stages of the project lifecycle that how they can be combined to improve efficiency while reducing loss and ensuring better opportunities.



Defining Success

Before we start with the process of understanding the project lifecycle, it is necessary to explore ways in which construction contractors could meet project management goals. Therefore, we will be discussing some of the most essential points that can be used to connect with project lifecycle development and add to the business objectives of the organization. Such information will not only help us to understand the purpose of construction project management software but it will also help with improving the entire construction process from start to finish, in order to reduce rework.

The Role of Project Managers

Working on construction projects demands extensive coordination between the labor, material, and other resources which are the most significant aspects of the construction business. However, running a construction business demands maximum effort from the construction project managers who have to ensure that project is completed within the defined time and budget.

But completing such tasks needs project managers to hold an account for labor costs, resource utilization, activity scheduling, coordination between teams, and overcoming chances of delays. In other words, project managers have a significant role to play as they need to ensure that both business and project requirements are met.

In comparison to construction managers, construction project managers have a wider role to play since they need to ensure timeliness and profitability while construction managers are only responsible for handling project requirements.

Project managers must strategize from the planning phase to the execution process, incorporating all activities related to cost management, quality management, risk mitigation, procurement, human resources, etc. In addition, project managers work on connecting the project lifecycle with their input and leadership that can be driven in a more precise manner, with the adoption of advanced construction accounting and project management software and other innovative technology solutions.

Features of the Construction Project Management Software

To ensure consistent and effective coordination between both field and office locations, construction contractors and project managers need well-defined construction project management software such as ProjectPro. This software allows construction firms to analyze all aspects of project management while improving workflow and ensure full transparency and open communication between the stakeholders. Some of the basic features associated with construction project management software include:

Accounting features to keep track of all the expenses made on payroll, material purchases, job procurement, and other project-related activities.

Resource management features can be used to keep a watch on available and required resources including material, labor, etc.

Cloud-based storage on construction software allows project managers and other field staff to access important project documents for improved accuracy. These may include contracts, change orders, drawings, and other data related to projects.

Payroll Management feature comes with TimeSheets options which allows real-time tracking of the project status and labor response through productivity and job site attendance reports.

Centralized Communication to help project managers, project owners, contractors, subcontractors, and other site staff to communicate throughout the development process.

Field Work Application feature that allows contractors to process change orders, submittals, and other responses related to job/project status.

Also, construction project management software can help users to have an oversight of the project while aiming for better outcomes.

Understanding Project Lifecycle

Construction project lifecycle can be defined as the steps of construction project management which help to execute a project. However, most of the construction projects are based on a five-stage model which consists of:

- 1. Project Initiation**
- 2. Project Planning**
- 3. Project Execution**
- 4. Project Closing**
- 5. Liability Phase**

Though other construction project management models follow a four-step model, it is essential to understand the liability phase of the project to avoid any liabilities or legal violations. Also, working on the liability phase helps you to prepare for any unexpected circumstances such as failure of the structure that may happen when the validity of the structure expires.

It can help contractors to keep their business protected and ensure a legal responsibility once the project is delivered. Moreover, achieving each of the above five phases of the project lifecycle helps to avoid loss and ensure maximum profits.

Project Initiation

The project initiation phase can be defined as the primary step to project and business development. During this stage, project managers check on the availability of resources and funds to complete the project. A project manager at the initiation phase also needs to determine the feasibility of the project. Bidding, contract planning, and estimation are some common practices involved in the initiation phase.

Project Planning

Once the project owners accept the bid proposal shared by a construction firm, project managers need to take command over the planning phase. This stage begins with the idea of defining the scope of the work, followed by project scheduling, creating labor contracts, and securing the submittals shared by the subcontractors.

In addition to this, the planning phase involves project costing, job procurement, making a task delivery schedule, etc. When done with defining the process for project development, project managers need to work on a communication plan that can be used to achieve maximum transparency and timeliness.

Project Execution

Once the planning phase of a construction project is completed, the immediate step for which project managers and contractors need to prepare is execution or actual construction.

The execution phase requires project managers and field teams to work on the operations while preventing any delays. Moreover, the execution phase of the project even involves monitoring of the project anticipating any error work that might impact the defined schedule and profitability.

Project Closing

Once the project execution phase is completed, the closing or delivery stage of the project needs to be achieved. Under this, Project managers need to work on the final deliverables with detail to project documents. Moreover, the closing phase involves the closing of contracts and agreements made with labor and suppliers.

The project closing stage also involves a detailed analysis of the project lifecycle journey to identify any significant aspects of the projects that could have been better. On successful completion and distribution of the reports, the construction firm and the project managers could move to the next project.

Liability Phase

Last but not least, the legal or liability phase is another important part of the project lifecycle that bounds construction firms liable for the delivered project, due to the dissatisfaction against the given terms and conditions mentioned in the contract. For instance, if a problem occurs with the final deliverables during the next 10 or 15 years, the original contractor can then be considered liable for breaching contract terms as well as the damage to the structure.

However, construction firms could avoid such scenarios by working on the industry integrity standards and documenting the entire construction process to justify that work done meets quality benchmarks.



How Construction Project Management Software Can Help?

So far, we have only described the role of project managers, features of construction project management software, and the stages of the project lifecycle. Now, we will quickly align them to give you an overview on how these things work together to ensure timely and productive project completion. In this section, we will have a deeper insight into the process of how technology is used by project managers to connect all the five stages of the project lifecycle. Let us quickly jump to each of the project lifecycle phases and learn how construction project management software helps to achieve them.



Stage 1: Project Initiation

The primary stage of the project lifecycle involves both project owners and construction firms where project owners aim to secure bids with the most competitive prices while construction firms aim to demonstrate their skills for successful project completion. On the other hand, project managers working on the project ensure to check the feasibility of the bid marking desirable profits within the competitive market rates.

To meet all such goals, construction project management software comes in handy. They are designed to estimate material requirements, job costing, plan resource allocation, and consider the economic analysis of the project.

Stage 2: Project Planning

Since project planning is the second stage of the project lifecycle, the planning stage involves the recruitment of contractors and subcontractors locate suppliers, procuring materials, and defining the schedule. Using construction ERP software, project managers can easily store all the documents and contract data into the system to ensure easy access to the information within the team and to the project owner.

Stage 3: Project Execution

Construction firms that are using advanced and integrated construction project management software to work on the process of project execution always have the advantage of more accurately and efficiently meeting deliverables. Some of these could be listed as timesheets to keep track of the labor as well as keeping the site teams connected to the offices. Also, the software allows subcontractors to share important information related to change orders, project documents, and RFIs. In addition, project managers can track expenses and analyze over/under billings for jobs.

Stage 4: Project Closing

When it comes to project closing, contractors and project managers have to ensure readiness with all the essential documentation related to the project. However, the process becomes much easy and smooth for contractors who use construction project management software throughout the project lifecycle.

Since the software contains all data related to project schedule, maintenance, material, and activities, processing accurate billings becomes easier with detail to every expense made on RFIs and change orders.

Stage 5: The Liability Phase

On the successful delivery of the project, the construction firm is left with no ongoing responsibilities. However, any kind of maintenance and operational issues associated with the project may bring liability challenges to the contractors. But using construction project management software can be of great help in preventing the legal issues with access to all the project documents justifying accuracy and standardization of the work. Also, users at any moment could access the documents related to the strength and quality of material used in the construction to resist any failures.



How Project Management Software could Save Rework and Profits

When it comes to the construction business, rework due to change orders or construction errors are the most significant reason for loss. Also, rework often involves excessive consumption of resources such as material, labor costs, etc. to ensure the work done satisfies the defined specification. In other words, rework calls for the waste of time, material, and finances with massive loss of productivity.

Also, the project estimates tend to vary as the project proceeds from initiation to closing phase. Though there are so many reasons for the rework, most of the time they are traced to be human errors including lack of instructions, insufficiency of the workers, poor project scheduling, and quality control issues.

For all such possible reasons for errors and rework, construction contractors can simply switch to a construction accounting and project management software such as ProjectPro. The advanced features, like Power BI and cloud support, allow project managers and field teams to stay coordinated throughout the project lifecycle.

This helps to improve the execution of the plans with respect to time, resources, schedule, and finances. Also, easy access to the change orders and RFIs on the system makes it easier for field teams to have a reference for change in the plan and work the corrections quickly.

With all such capabilities offered within a single solution, contractors using construction management software can process billings more accurately adding to the overall profitability of the project. Above that, the constant record-keeping made through the software allows construction firms to avoid audit liabilities after the project delivery.

All in all, if you are having a hard time sticking to the project lifecycle and are trying to regain lost productivity, the most important thing to do is research and find an effective construction accounting and project management software for your unique needs.



ProjectPro is a cloud-based **Construction Accounting Software** Solution based on Microsoft Dynamics NAV/Business Central. It is designed to help construction firms work on construction project requirements related to Project Accounting, Resource Management, and Customer Relationship Management.

Streamlining the business processes for construction firms, real estate developers, and contractors, ProjectPro can be used to work on Integrating Data, Transaction Processing and robust reporting. Moreover, the features like Cloud and Power BI helps construction companies with improved Business Decision Making.

Some of the other features include Project Management, Project Billing, Account Tracking, Material Planning, etc. ProjectPro includes Contract Management, RFQs, integrated TimeSheets, and keeps a user updated with real-time Notifications and Alerts. ProjectPro also offers a dedicated mobile technician app that can help with field service operations.


At ProjectPro, we help construction firms with customized software solutions to make their construction business sustain and grow in this digitally growing world. We help you turn your vision into a value with promising services and a positive customer experience.

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Take Care! Stay Safe!