

Construction CPM Conference News

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San Luis Resort, Galveston Island, Texas

JANUARY 17 – 20, 2021

Six meeting rooms over three full days

Two keynotes – Seventy-plus breakouts – Six networking events – One conference

Planning & Scheduling 2021 Dealing with Corona Virus and other Black Swan Events

From our host Fred Plotnick:

What suggestions can be made to our Attendees in this time of CoVid19? Some of our projects are essential and we are permitted to continue work. But what of our supply chains? Projects near a state line may need to draw subcontractors and workforce across the border. How is our supply of studs? Of paint? Of drywall? Of concrete, asphalt and gravel? Equipment of a multi-state contractor is maintained by a central maintenance department that usually travels from site to site. Specialty inspectors travel to the site (sometimes across the country by air) as and when needed.

Many of us continue to work with 2D drawings; some have embraced 3D CAD models. How many are working with full 5D BIM? Each building element – pipe – stud – section of guardrail – is tied to a database which may include the vendor – vendor location – and now new field CoVid19 impact. And so we can now light up the 3D model with elements available in green and unavailable in red.

If you represent an owner you should demand a CPM update NOW. You will need to know what was in place as of an entire or partial shutdown. You will need to know what areas may open up for a partial restart.

If you represent a contractor you also need that update NOW and you need to build NOW a “Recovery CPM Plan.” Once either an “ALL CLEAR” or even partial restart is possible, you need to know not only what work can be performed, but what work will advance the project.

In some few cases you can pick up where you left off and continue down the road of project progress to completion. More likely you will have been detoured so far you need a RESET and a new plan similar to when a replacement contractor takes over a stalled project. And the most important aspect is that we do not yet know when elements of the supply chain will become available, so we want to prepare our CPM logic plans to allow rapid automatic rebuilds when such information becomes known. Try adding an “activity” or “event” for each supplier or provider of goods or services, and then link to each Baseline activity which may need such.

Now you (contractor and owner) can see “what ifs” and bring back personnel when they can advance the project and not simply charge the budget. HEY BOY – stop moping and sheltering at home and get to work on an accurate record of where we are now – and a CPM model that will rebuild a schedule based upon then current availability of resources.

Oh – and Save the Date and Get Pre-Approval for Budget

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