

How Teichert uses PlanGrid to get work done faster

Heavy Civil | Teichert Construction | Case Study



Teichert Construction builds the infrastructure people use everyday, including roads and freeways, commercial and industrial sitework, parks, airports, and more. Its complete line of construction services include mass grading, asphalt paving, concrete paving, curbs and sidewalks and underground pipelines. To improve document control and communication on the jobsite, Teichert has used PlanGrid on a variety of projects, including Zettie Miller's Haven, the Dollar Tree distribution center in Stockton, CA, and the Norcal Logistics Center.

Challenges on the jobsite: communication and information access

Although sharing the latest plans, tracking and resolving issues in real-time, and getting new team member up to speed is critical, Teichert acknowledges that communication is one of its primary job site challenges.

Working on projects where plans change constantly — sometimes multiple times per week — makes it difficult to ensure that everyone is working from the most up-to-date plans. Brad Haygood, project manager at Teichert, explains that, “the amount of time I spent driving back to the trailer just to pick up new plans or send an email was painful, it adds up.”

Communicating updates or issues quickly was also problematic for Teichert. When owners need to be consulted about an issue or RFI, or new foreman comes on a job, they need to have access to the latest information and be able to take action immediately.

While the company uses a project management system to track scheduling and processes in the office, they found that it wasn't addressing these issues. The team needed a solution that was purpose-built to foster collaboration between the field and the office.

Solution: Mobile software that speeds up work and distributes project information

Travis Whipple, a project engineer at Teichert, first used PlanGrid five years ago at another company, primarily for mobile access to project plans. Now at Teichert, he and dozens of others at the company use a wide range of PlanGrid features to share information and work more productively together.

With PlanGrid, the team at Teichert is able to not only share plan revisions immediately with anyone on the project, but also attach all other relevant project documents. Superintendents and foreman have specifications, RFIs, and other documentation available on their mobile devices at all times.

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– **Travis Whipple**, Project Engineer, Teichert Construction

When issues come up or a problem needs to be resolved, Teichert uses issue tracking in PlanGrid to document it immediately with details, photos, and location on a specific sheet, and quickly share or assign it to anyone else on the team. Whipple suggests that, “When revisions come out there are often cost implications. Using the sheet compare tool I can overlay an old sheet on the new one, and have a conversation with my estimator to pull quantities right there on site.” The measurement tool also allows the team to do quick takeoffs. When negotiating a change order, Haygood uses PlanGrid to quickly measure tonnage of rock or asphalt, or capture the distance between two points to identify where to put a water line.

When it comes to relationships with owners or government agencies, being able to quickly resolve issues or process RFIs on-the-go keeps the project moving and ensures that everyone is on the same page. Haygood explains, “When a problem comes up, I use PlanGrid to sketch up an idea for how to fix it, share it with the owner, and get a response in an hour. We not only communicate better, but the owner also has more transparency into what’s happening day to day — they love it.”



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ROI: Saving time, saving money

PlanGrid is used across Teichert’s regional offices on projects like Zettie Miller’s Haven - an affordable housing project; the \$4 million Dollar Tree Distribution Center in Stockton, CA; and the ongoing \$7.5 million Norcal Logistics Center project; each project with its own unique set of requirements and challenges.

The team values PlanGrid because it improves communication on projects and allows them to get things done faster, but equally important is the savings it provides. Haygood estimates Teichert saves thousands per week by not printing paper blueprints. And by saving an average of five hours of work per week per person by reducing trips and extra face to face meetings, Teichert saves over \$200,000 worth of labor per year, and growing.

The company recently created an internal technology committee to explore how to standardize every employee and project on tools like PlanGrid. Haygood explains, “PlanGrid’s been hugely valuable to us as a smaller group and as individuals, but imagine if we had the entire company working and collaborating in it — the value would grow exponentially.”

“PlanGrid has fundamentally improved the speed and quality of our communication on the jobsite unlike any tool I’ve ever used,” Haygood concludes. “The time and cost savings that it provides are noticeable within minutes of picking it up.”