



Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

It was a busy week last week. Nine of our 11 Board Members met in Chicago with Greg Howell and me and charted an interesting and ambitious course for the future.

We were able to really consider what being a Catalyst to Industry Transformation through implementation of lean principles and thinking means. For us, it means no less than establishing a lean delivery paradigm throughout the industry—taking as our model what the U. S. Green Building Council has done for sustainability through LEED accreditation. We are working on developing a “score” sheet that can rate how well a project team does in meeting critical lean criteria. To begin this process, a committee headed by Dan Fauchier is developing a Lean Assessment tool to use on projects. This should be helpful both to the project as well as to LCI for tracking real-time metrics on project improvement.

Meanwhile, George Zettel’s committee on Last Planner® coaching registration is moving forward which will enable us to respond to the great demand in the marketplace for competent instruction in the Last Planner System. George is looking at the costs and resources necessary to make the plan workable. Thanks again to the work of Eric Ahlstrom (AmGen), Ted Angelo (Grunau), John Brock (Burt Hill/Stantec), Will Lichtig (Boldt), Hal Macomber (LPC), Cathy Meyers (CH2M Hill), and Bill Seed (UHS) in putting together an effective program.

We’re committed to more communication with the Communities of Practice. Starting after Labor Day, I’m going to schedule a weekly call-in number for Core Group leaders of the CoPs to ensure that they have the necessary feedback from Central. In addition, we want to increase the “cross-pollination” between chapters that we think will make the message sharing most effective.

We’re also working on convening an Industry Association meeting in Washington soon to consider our working relationship with all Associations. Almost all Associations have an advocacy role—one that can be compromised if we challenge their “sovereignty.” We believe we are advocates for the project—for better, safer, more efficient and less costly delivery of design and construction. That advocacy role cuts across almost all other associations in our industry. By bringing all of the “advocates” into the lean tent, we believe this meeting can play a large role in our efforts to transform industry.

This ambitious agenda was driven in large part by the almost 80 responses we received to the survey. We found out some interesting things about the organization and generated a great number of terrific ideas. We confirmed





Lean Construction Institute

Building Knowledge in Design and Construction

fortunate to have a national cast of presenters. Victor Sanvido (Southland), who mentored many of the PhD's out there in the lean community while he was at Penn State, will report on how TVD was and is being used at the UHS Temecula Hospital project in order to drive 10% out of the costs of traditional California hospital work. Todd Henderson from Boulder Associates will help us understand how TVD can be used both in project and after project design, using a Sutter project as an example. Bernita Beikmann (HKS) will discuss the trials and triumphs of using TVD on an Indianapolis Hospital renovation—one that stopped completely because of budget issues. And Tariq Abdelhamid will talk about TVD on the Michigan State University campus in the construction of a new dining facility. I'm going to be in attendance for this terrific program. Space is limited so please sign up now (see details below).

I could certainly wax on about all of the programs coming up (Congress signups are going as we speak, Australia is sponsoring Lean in the Public Sector this year focusing on infrastructure, etc.) but the survey told me to keep it shorter. I'll try that next week.