



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits at Messer Construction

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# Messer Construction Company History

- **Regional/Family-Owned Builder  
Founded in 1932**
- **ESOP 1990 (1 Office - \$100M/yr  
Revenue)**
- **2002 \$400M/yr with 5 Offices**
- **2009 \$700M/yr with 8 Offices**



# Messer Construction Company Lean Conversion

- 2002 Lean Construction Institute & Last Planner System (LPS)
- Employee Ownership Mentality Drove Change (Not an owner request or mandate)
- Lean & LPS Fit Messer Personality
  - Decentralized Planning
  - Flexibility
  - Leadership Driven & Supported



# Messer Construction Company Lean Conversion – 1<sup>st</sup> Steps

- **Create Roadmap for Change**
- **Pilot Project Successes**
- **Company-Wide Training Program**



# Messer Construction Company Lean Conversion – 1<sup>st</sup> Steps

## Messer Advanced Planning Process (MAPP) Implementation Matrix

	TEAM READY	1 <sup>ST</sup> SUCCESS	TEAM ENTRENCHED	CHANGE COMPANY BEHAVIOR
<b>COMPELLING NARRATIVE</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Communicate the need to implement (benefits, predictability)</li> <li>➤ Feedback from pilot projects – articulate value</li> <li>➤ Inform Sr. Management group – create informational program - get Sr. Management buy in</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Educate project team – get buy in</li> <li>➤ Sell possibilities and previous successes</li> <li>➤ Communicate with owners – benefits and incentives</li> <li>➤ Communicate to subcontractor executives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Bring champions (successful teams) to sell process to new teams</li> <li>➤ Communicate message – theory and possibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Define how “Lean” integrates with other initiatives</li> <li>➤ Customize Messer “MAPP” process</li> <li>➤ “MAPP” becomes normal</li> </ul>
<b>SHOW BEHAVIOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Understand the process (educate yourself)</li> <li>➤ Consistency / reliability must be in the process (inherent)</li> <li>➤ Be an example (walk the talk)</li> <li>➤ Observe other projects</li> <li>➤ Develop a mind set</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Be involved in contractors meetings</li> <li>➤ Critique the process</li> <li>➤ Set time lines for meetings</li> <li>➤ Observe other projects</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Ask subs for feed back (+/Δ)</li> <li>➤ Make strategic adjustments to process or schedule</li> <li>➤ Other teams observe / critique us</li> <li>➤ Team displays positive attitude</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Sell it to subs</li> <li>➤ Celebrate successes</li> <li>➤ Advertise as a “Lean” project in bid documents</li> <li>➤ Testimonials from subs</li> <li>➤ Document lessons learned</li> </ul>
<b>COACH BEHAVIOR</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Share successes of pilot projects</li> <li>➤ Identify what we are trying to accomplish (goals)</li> <li>➤ Identify time commitments / identify what time it saves</li> <li>➤ Train management (top/down)</li> <li>➤ Identify a champion who can help train</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide consistent management support (clear path re: who to ask for help with process)</li> <li>➤ Reinforce successes</li> <li>➤ Identify individual responsibilities</li> <li>➤ Executive level personal involvement to get participants involved and prepared</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Step back to review successes and failures</li> <li>➤ Timely meetings and information reporting</li> <li>➤ Review goals</li> <li>➤ Have tough discussions with non-participants (subs or Messer) demonstrate success</li> <li>➤ Look to optimize/customize forms</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Support the success of decentralized decision making</li> <li>➤ Demo success and provide support</li> <li>➤ Bring groups together – “Best Practices” meetings</li> <li>➤ Have champions at all levels (officer to foreman)</li> </ul>
<b>PRODUCE ALIGNMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Additional company training required (SPE’s)</li> <li>➤ Executive level commitment statement</li> <li>➤ SPE guidance at beginning of project</li> <li>➤ SPE’s review successes / failures</li> <li>➤ Team members must share and be open to change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Independent audit at early stages of project</li> <li>➤ Market VP to implement review</li> <li>➤ Notify subcontractors of Messer’s intent to implement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Measure results and compare to other jobs</li> <li>➤ On site project leader in charge of meetings</li> <li>➤ Independent audits</li> <li>➤ Market interim meetings to discuss process and share status report</li> <li>➤ Determine why our jobs are different</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Completed team trains a beginning team</li> <li>➤ Rewards / penalties</li> <li>➤ Debrief at completion with all team members</li> <li>➤ Compile summaries for all to read</li> <li>➤ Interim company meetings to discuss process</li> </ul>
<b>CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Share past successes (pilot projects) with PM’s and SPE’s</li> <li>➤ Define criteria to measure – benchmarks established</li> <li>➤ Set team incentives</li> <li>➤ Share challenges and failures</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Provide executive level support where process is struggling</li> <li>➤ Revisit criteria and adjust benchmarks (teams)</li> <li>➤ Roundtable communication between groups (Prof. Dev.) to identify successes</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Revisit criteria and drop steps that add no value (definition of “Lean”)</li> <li>➤ Adjust commitments and schedule to reflect all parties working at maximum efficiency of team</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Rewards and recognition of team and subs as a group &amp; individually</li> <li>➤ Round table to share learnings</li> <li>➤ Make part of annual review of employees</li> </ul>



# Messer Construction Company Lean Conversion – 1<sup>st</sup> Steps

- **3 Pilot Projects**
  - Teams that would succeed
  - Best Practices learned/shared
  - Create advocates within company (supported by leadership)
- **Key Learnings**
  - Schedules more reliable
  - Projects less congested (work where necessary)
  - Reduced manager stress



# Messer Construction Company Lean Conversion – 1<sup>st</sup> Steps

- **Messer Training Project**
  - Session 1 What is Lean Construction & why is it important to Messer?
  - Session 2 How do we do Last Planner?
  - Session 3 Continuous Improvement & new concepts
- **Format**
  - Messer Senior Managers as teachers
  - Messer created curriculum
  - Three ½ day sessions – 1 month between classes



# Messer Training

- **Session 1 What is Lean Construction & why is it important to Messer?**
  - Airplane Game
  - Review Pre-Reading Assignments
    - Center of Excellence – Intro to Lean Construction
    - Center of Excellence – Last Planner – Reliable Promises & Linguistics
  - Present Results of Pre-Reading Assignments
  - In-Class Reading Assignments
  - Context Discussion
  - Field Assignment # 1 and +/-△
    - Observing Commitments



# Messer Training

- **Session 2 How do we do Last Planner?**
  - Review Field Assignment # 1 Findings
  - Present Results to the Class
  - Video Presentation – Cincinnati PM Meetings
    - Last Planner – “Mock” Weekly Work Planning Meeting
  - Review Pre-Reading Assignments
    - Center of Excellence – Last Planner
      - LCI Paper – A Guide to the Last Planner
    - Center of Excellence
      - LCI Paper – Reverse Phase Scheduling
  - Present Results of Pre-Reading Assignments to Class
  - Review Forms and Examples
  - Field Assignment #2 and +/-
    - Observe Weekly Work Planning Meeting



# Messer Training

- **Session 3 Where do we go from here?**
  - Review Field Assignment # 2 Findings
  - Present Results to the Class
  - Review Pre-Reading Assignments
    - Center of Excellence – Uncertainty Theory
    - Center of Excellence – Contracting Guidelines
  - Present Results of Pre-Reading Assignments to Class
  - Mastery Presentation/Discussion
  - Advanced Lean Opportunities/Discussion
  - Field Assignment # 3 and +/-△



# Messer Construction Company

## Lean – Next Steps

- **Convert Lean Manufacturing Ideas to Construction**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Run Studies
  - 5s Project Sites
  - Increased Visualization
  - Daily Huddles
- **Building Information Modeling**
- **Integrated Project Delivery**
- **Pre-Fabrication & Modularization**



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits

- Site Leaders

- A repeatable process that provides site leaders a way to succeed – accountability
- Less workers on site, less conflicts to resolve, less stress
- More time for planning – less time required to solve problems
- Increased job satisfaction – less burnout



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits

- Subcontractors
  - More “say” in the plan
  - Peer pressure of subs causes performance, better commitment, better coordination
  - Better results (asking for LPS on other projects)



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits

- Owners (Cost Plus Projects)  
&
- Contractors (Lump Sum Projects)
  - Impacts to Cost/Quality/Safety & Schedule
    - Schedule Reliability
    - Safety Results through Accountability & Daily Huddles
    - Quality through Exterior Commissioning
    - Cost Performance
      - Specific Examples



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits

- Last Planner System

## Cincinnati Financial Center Cost Savings

<i>Column Construction:</i>	<i>Tower # 1</i>	<i>Tower # 2</i>	<i>Tower # 3</i>	<i>Total Savings</i>
Total Cost of Round Cols. Form/Pour with Inflation Adjustment	N/A	\$222,385	\$266,135	
Number of Round Cols.	496	494	654	
Cost Per Round Cols.	N/A	\$450.17/Column	\$406.93/Column	<b>\$28,280</b>
<i>Wall Construction:</i>				
Total Cost of 8'-16' (15") Conc. Wall - Form/Pour with Inflation Adjustment	N/A	\$356,781	\$713,399	
Total lineal footage of 8'-16' (15") Concrete Wall	N/A	1,499lf	5,075lf	
Cost Per lf (15") wall	N/A	\$238.01/lf	\$140.57/lf	<b>\$494,500</b>

**Total**

**\$522,780**



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits

- Last Planner System

## Cincinnati Financial Center Schedule Savings

Frame Production	Tower # 1	Tower # 2	Tower # 3	Total Savings
Square Feet of Frame	357,450sf	361,920sf	485,350sf	
Days to Finish	151 days	156 days	161 days	
Square Feet Per Day	2,367sf/day	2,371sf/day	3,015sf/day	44 work days



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits

- Last Planner System

## Cincinnati Financial Center

### Schedule Related Cost Savings

Tower Crane Rental	\$22,500	Buck Hoist Rental (2 months)	\$12,500
Tower Crane Operator	\$12,000	Buck Hoist Operator (2 months)	\$8,500
Winter Heat	\$51,000	Winter Heat (sys on before winter '07)	\$40,000
Concrete Additives/Hot Water Charges	\$2,000	Temp Electric Saved (Perm Systems on)	\$12,000
Messer Direct Work Equipment Rental	\$20,000	Messer Direct Work Equipment Rental	\$15,000
Admin. (Layout Eng. Released Early)	\$11,000	Trailer related GC's	\$25,000
		Admin. (Released Staff Early)	\$125,000
<b>Total Estimated Cost Savings:</b>	<b>\$118,500</b>		<b>\$238,000</b>

**Total Cost Savings \$356,500**



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits

- First Run Studies

## Xavier University – Learning Commons

### Meva formwork, 32' high walls

- Initial wall pour – 69 sf/hr
- Wall pours after implementing improvements – avg 98 sf/hr
- 42% Improvement

### Gates formwork , 14' high walls

- Initial wall pour – 69 sf/hr
- Wall pours after implementing improvements – avg 80.5 sf/hr
- 17% Improvement



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits

- **First Run Studies**

**Xavier University – College of Business**

**Gates formwork, 15' high walls**

- Initial wall pour – 75 sf/hr
- Wall pours after implementing improvements – avg 87.5 sf/hr
- 16% Improvement

**Norton Brownsboro Hospital**

**Total Accessory Installation**

- Initial installation – 18 rooms/week
- After implementing improvements Week 2 – 23 rooms/week
- After implementing improvements Week 3 – 27 rooms/week
- 28% Improvement Week 1-2
- 17% Improvement Week 2-3



# Lean Construction Results & Benefits

- **First Run Studies**

**Xavier University – Central Utility Plant**

**Meva formwork, 21' high walls**

- Initial wall pour – 13.23 sf/mh
- Wall pours after implementing improvements – avg 14.07 sf/mh
- 6% Improvement

**IU Incubator Building**

**Door Frame Installation**

- Initial installation – 1 Door Frame every 13 minutes
- After implementing improvements – 1 Door Frame every 10 minutes
- 30% Improvement