



AUTODESK **CONSTRUCTION CLOUD™**



## How Whitman, Requardt & Associates Closes Jobs Faster with Construction Data Management

Massive projects generate massive amounts of data. But that doesn't mean they have to result in massive close-out timelines.

The right cloud-based construction management system can improve your close-out times by months, while simultaneously improving field collaboration and communication.





### Customer Snapshot

FIRM SIZE: 500-1,000  
FIRM TYPE: GENERAL CONTRACTOR  
REVENUE: 97 MILLION  
FOCUS AREA: INFRASTRUCTURE  
HQ: BALTIMORE, MD, US

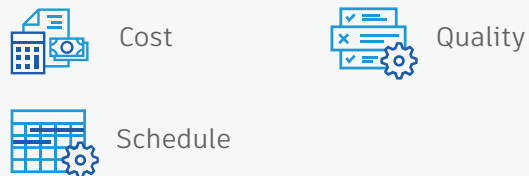
### PHASE:



### PRODUCTS:



### VALUE DRIVERS:



## Choose the Right Document Management System To Improve Early Collaboration

Whitman, Requardt and Associates, LLP (WRA) is an engineering, architectural, construction management and environmental firm that handles massive infrastructure projects from bridges to railways, as well as wastewater facilities.

With such massive projects and large clients - like The Virginia Department of Transportation - collaboration and communication are key from the start. Leonard Coleman, Associate for Construction Management Services with WRA, says that they use PlanGrid within Autodesk Construction Cloud™ to help everyone on the team interface effectively from preconstruction on.

"I'll say one of the unique challenges in heavy civil, and primarily also in construction management is that we interface with everybody," says Coleman. "We interface with the engineer, the owner, the contractor, and the inspection team. Striking the balance between resolving everyone's issues and delivering a project is one of the challenges that we deal with on a daily basis. We deliver quality so that when we're building a roadway that's designed to last 100 years, it will last for 100 years."

With so much coordination, it is essential for everyone to work from the same set of plans and for the client to have visibility into the project. Teams must ensure they have the right plans, and that they're referencing the right information.

"Before PlanGrid, on several of our projects, we noticed that we may have a set of plans as the inspection



team, and the contractor has another set, and then all the while, the designer and the owner has another one,” says Coleman.

To ensure everyone was working off the same information, WRA chose PlanGrid as its cloud-based construction management system.

## **Cloud-based Construction Management Drives New Preconstruction and Inspection Workflows**

“One of the neat things about PlanGrid is how we’ve improved our coordination effort from end to end,” says Coleman. “We invite the owner into all our PlanGrid projects so the owner has instantaneous access into what we’re seeing in the field.”

WRA uses PlanGrid during preconstruction to get the design team on board with each other and the rest of the stakeholders.

“We show them that they can overlay drawings in PlanGrid and find conflicts,” says Coleman. “Then we have them use it throughout the project lifecycle to improve field collaboration and communication.”

## **In Turn, Field Collaboration and Communication Saves Time and Money**

Having designers interact more closely with construction managers in the field makes for a better client experience, and saves time and money.

“We recently did a bidability and constructability review for an owner and used PlanGrid to show the existing conditions in the field,” says Coleman. “We uploaded photos using PlanGrid in the field and identified issues that were not in the plans. Before shovels even hit the ground, we saved the client money.”

Before PlanGrid, WRA would receive calls from their clients requesting photos and updates on the contractor or issues. Now clients have access to the same PlanGrid project where they have instant access to the project information. Additionally, contractors can quickly access the issues and begin work right away.

“The contractors that we work with often say, ‘Hey I’m working off the same sheet as you guys. What are the issues out there, where’s the punch list?’ We just show them the punch list in PlanGrid and they start working on it,” says Coleman.

“We took one project with over 300 punch list items and closed it out in 30 days. A previous contract without



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**-Leonard Coleman**

Associate for Construction Management Services,  
WRA





PlanGrid had over 600 items, it took us almost six months. The proof is in the numbers. We're just able to turn things around very quickly by using PlanGrid," says Coleman.

Because everyone's on the same page, PlanGrid has cut down on negative interactions between all parties, sped up the projects, and assured quality work.

### **PlanGrid Makes On-Site Inspections Easier and Projects Safer**

Even in the harsh conditions of highway construction, WRA uses PlanGrid to make inspections easier and jobs safer.

"We can explain the plans with five inches of rain pouring down on an encased iPad," says Coleman. "We make markups with the owner right in the field and send them to the designer to get answers very quickly. That savings alone continues to keep our project on time and within budget."

But beyond ease and convenience, there's one aspect of construction that outweighs everything: Safety. Coleman says his company measures success on the job by making sure everybody goes home safely. PlanGrid helps with that, as well.

As he drives through his jobsite on his way home, Coleman conducts his own inspection using PlanGrid,

"I'm looking at everything under the moon, not only including the road, but around the job site. If anything looks unsafe, whether for my folks, the contractor, or the traveling public, I stop on the side of the road and I get the contractors' attention immediately."

### **Cloud-based Construction Management Helps WRA Save Money - And Win Work**

Because WRA saves their large government agency clients money, they have developed a reputation for on-time, within-budget projects - and that helps them win more work.

"That was something that they really took a liking to," says Coleman. "I can assure you that when the time comes around for new contracts to get a bid, they look at products that can save them time and money and choose firms like ours."

WRA uses PlanGrid for construction management across the construction lifecycle and it has become a necessary tool for managing client and contractor relationships. As a proven solution that speeds up projects, saves money, and ensures safety on the jobsite, WRA relies on PlanGrid to impress clients and win more work.