I-244 Multimodal Bridge | Tulsa, OK

SmartPM™

CASE STUDY

GARVER

SmartPM Technologies, Inc.

Garver Leverages SmartPM Schedule Analytics to Increase Efficiency Across Their Projects

Suite 200
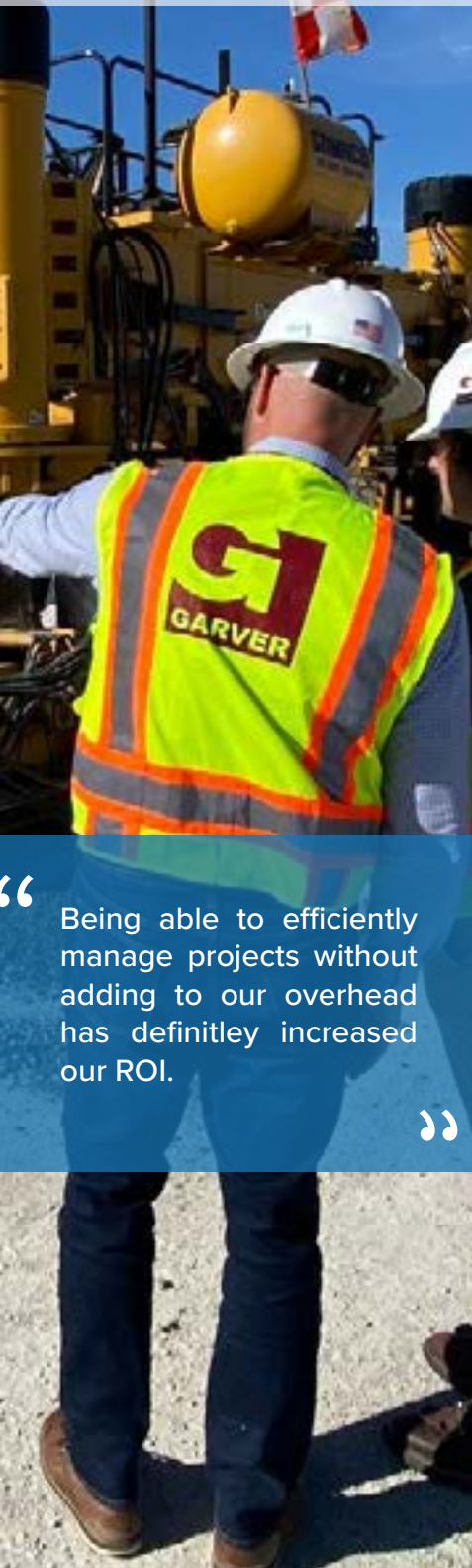53 Perimeter Center East
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" **We have completely changed our process. I'm spending less than half of my time on schedules and reviews.** "

Chris Taylor
Construction Scheduling Lead | Garver, LLC

200%
Increase
in dept productivity

CHALLENGE

The Construction Division in the Department of Transportation (DOT) has its own unique set of challenges that vary by state. One of the biggest challenges across the board is time. In the DOT world, change orders are the #1 cause of delays. Many of these projects span over five years, and determining whether a change order, from a year ago, caused the delay is a very time-consuming process.

Chris has had **"contractors go back and change actual dates in the schedule calendars from five or six updates prior just to make an impact look worse than it was."** This (bad) practice is a common occurrence in construction. It often takes weeks to pour over spreadsheets, run macros, print calendars, and compare them at each update cycle just to make sense of the information. Despite his painstaking, time-consuming efforts, there was always data that could not be accessed, at all. The delay in providing concrete evidence to contractors–proving causation–often leads to arguments and claims.

With more and more projects on the horizon, Chris began looking for alternatives to the manual process of analyzing schedules and changes.

SOLUTION

Chris first heard about SmartPM when he joined Garver. A couple of schedulers were using it to analyze time impacts (TIA), so Chris decided to check it out himself. He missed the initial onboarding but found that he navigated through the software relatively easily. He was also impressed that all the data he was missing was right there. The analytics that took him months to calculate were calculated instantly with every schedule update. SmartPM mathematically calculates metrics from schedule data to ensure all the results are unbiased.

Based on these initial results, Chris realized that SmartPM was underutilized. So, he reached out to SmartPM's customer success team and began meeting with them regularly to ask questions to learn more about the product. By doing so, he gained more insight into the very foundation of the Critical Path Method (CPM), from which all scheduling software programs derive.

RESULTS

Chris changed Garver's schedule management process due to the immediate results and time savings from using SmartPM. Previously, one scheduler was able to manage 3-4 projects, and now they're managing 7-8 projects at a time.

Proving which change order caused delays is always a struggle... until SmartPM. Armed with SmartPM's critical insights Garver can show their clients the huge impact their change management process is having on delays. Previously, this process took months of negotiations. Now, SmartPM's delay analysis shows the impact on their projects automatically through visual data and graphs. From that point forward, there were no more arguments – Garver's change order process became faster and more efficient.

Garver understands that the metrics and analyses generated through SmartPM provide value to all parties involved in their projects. According to Chris, most stakeholders don't have access to Microsoft Project or P6, and SmartPM allows everyone to see insightful data in one place. Seeing important project metrics on the Dashboard generates meaningful conversations between stakeholders because SmartPM transforms schedule data to make sense to everyone, not just the schedulers.

SmartPM has made such an impact at Garver that they now consider their competitive advantage. Chris recalls a phone call from his boss, Mark Schwartz, Program Controls Manager, after a presentation to a potential client. Mark was asked by the client what set Garver apart from its competition. His answer? SmartPM.

Gain Visibility into Your Schedule with SmartPM

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