

# REORIENTING OUR DECISION MAKING FRAMEWORK FOR PROJECT RISK

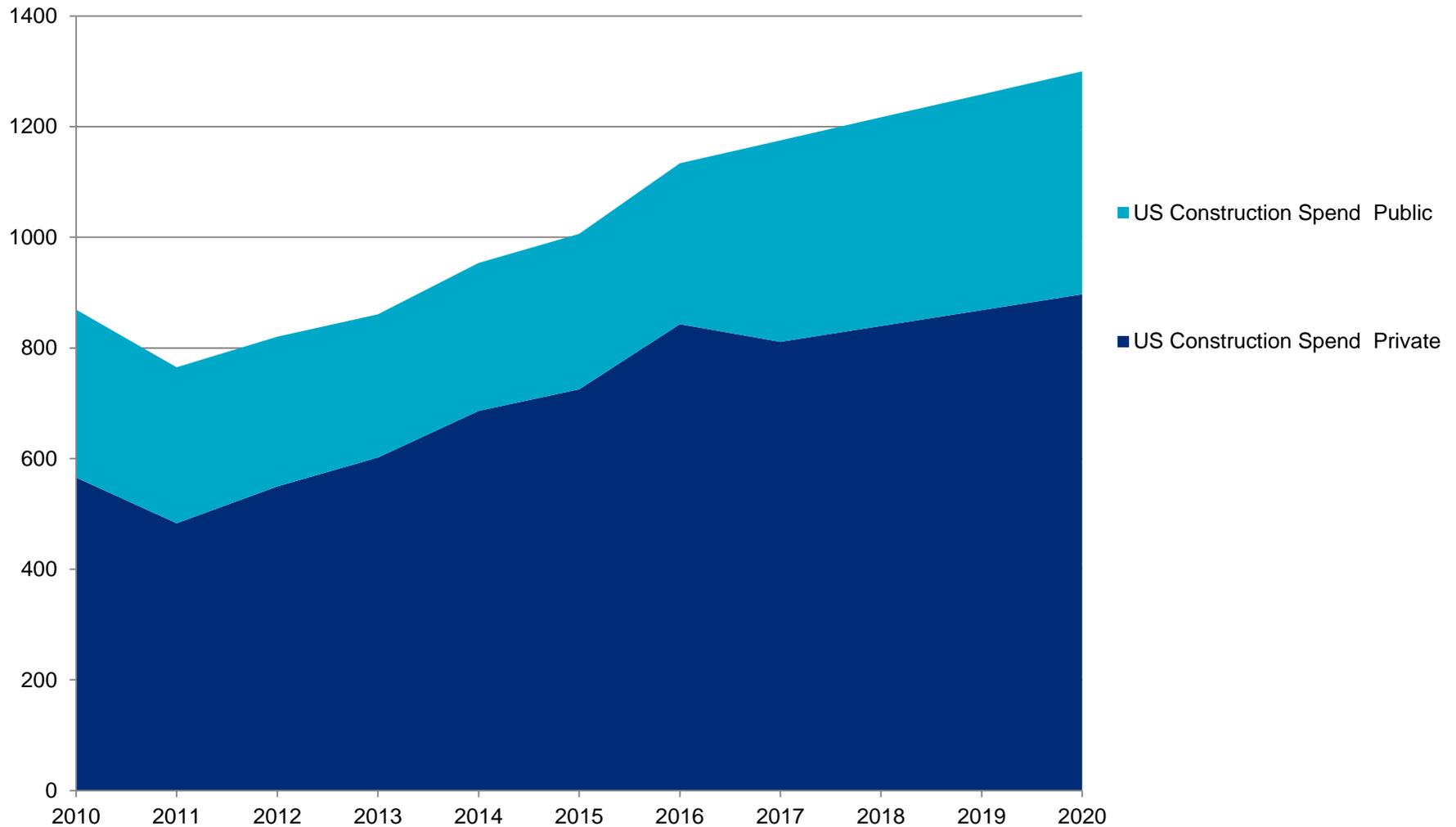
JULY 18, 2017  
JACKSONVILLE, FL  
CFMA

**Lori Flemming, Senior Vice President**  
**Colin Daigle, Managing Director**

## Discussion Overview

- Synopsis: this discussion will present current factors that are driving risk for contractors in today's market, examine how these risks can trigger or complicate a contract or insurance claim, and then present solutions.
- The objectives of the session include providing attendees with:
  - Research and opinion about what's driving risk in construction today.
  - Relatable approaches to minimize contract disputes and maximize recovery under a Subcontract Default Insurance or Builders Risk policy.
  - Tactical steps to manage contract risk during project execution.

# CAPEX on the Rise



# Florida P3

- New Projects Under Consideration:
  - Tampa Bay Next
  - I-4 Beyond the Ultimate
- Under Construction:
  - I-4 Ultimate in Orange & Seminole Counties
  - SR 79
- In Operations:
  - Port Miami Tunnel
  - I-595 Improvements
- Construction Complete:
  - US 19
  - SR 9B
  - I-95 South of SR 406 to North of SR 44
- Contract Complete:
  - Palmetto Section 5
  - I-4 Connector
  - I-75 in Lee and Collier Counties
  - Palmetto Expressway Widening and Interchange Improvements Section 2
  - I-95 Widening/Pineda Causeway Interchange
  - I-95 Express Lanes Phase I
  - US 1 Improvements in the “18-Mile Stretch”
  - I-75 North of SR 80 to South of SR78

Source FDOT's P3 website. <http://www.fdot.gov/comptroller/PFO/p3.shtm>

# Behind the Numbers



**Fortune 500**  
balance sheet  
strength



overseas capital  
**10%** of  
U.S. CAPEX



**88%+** domestic  
capital is  
“alternative capital”

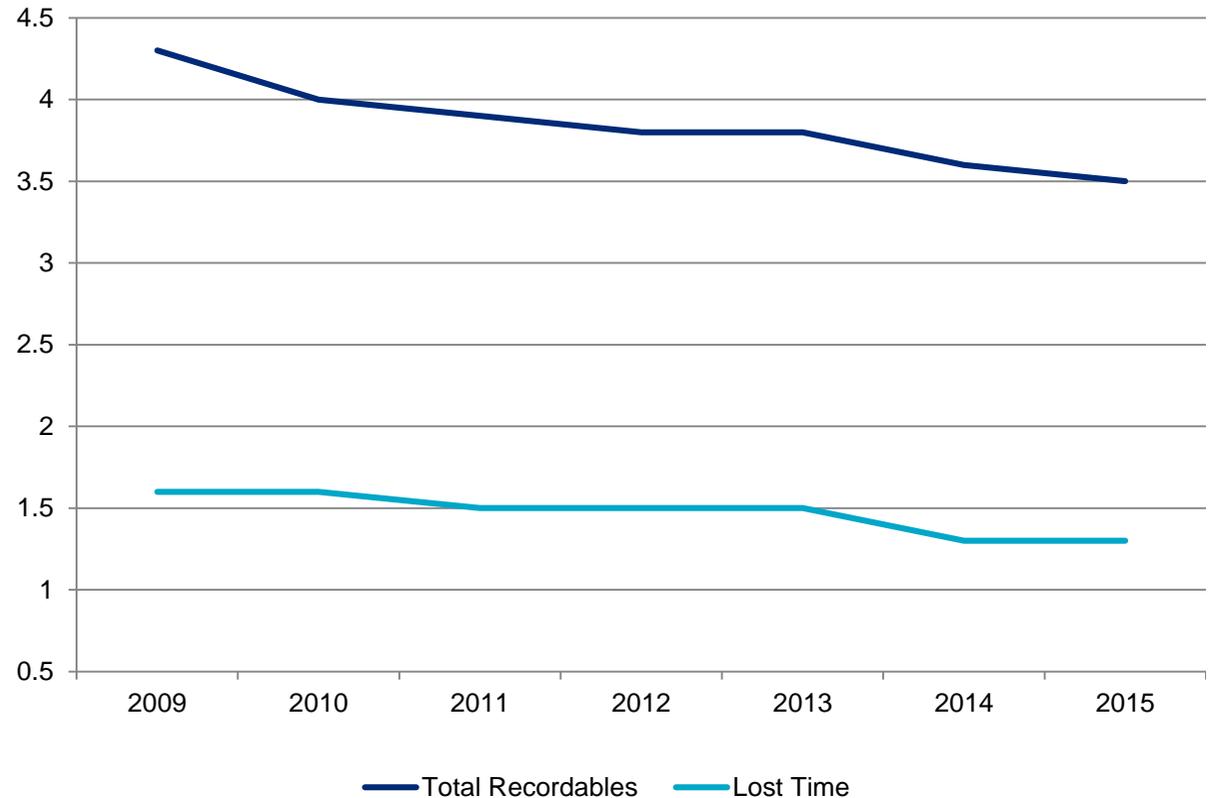


Avg. project size  
**21%** in excess  
of **\$1 billion**

## Increasing Complexities

## Complicating Factors

- Labor productivity stuck at **1%** annual growth.
- Incident rates **flat**.
- No marginal improvement in TCOR.



## Behind the Risk

- Contractor fragmentation has meant inconsistency persists.
  - Top 20 construction firms have only **8%** market share.
- Suboptimal procurement focused primarily on reducing price and offloading risk.
- Inexperienced yet risk-averse owners.
- Mismatched contractual risk allocations/rewards.
- Capacity stretched thin.
- Labor pool volatility.

# Contract Disputes and Claims Pose Non-Trivial Risk to Projects

## High Level Views

- 75% of owners and contractors have experienced a claim or dispute in the last five years.
- Claims and disputes are still prevalent, causing disruption and cost increases for all stakeholders involved.
- Most common drivers of claims and disputes:
  - Construction defects ranked most frequent and expensive for owners.
  - Subcontractor default/termination top the list for GCs.
  - Warranty issues are the most common for trades; defects and warranty are most expensive.

*Source: Dodge. Data & Analytics. SmartMarket Report. Managing Risk in the Construction Industry. Stephen A. Jones and Donna Laquidara-Carr. 2017.*

“CONTRACTORS ARE THREE TIMES AS  
LIKELY TO FAIL IN A RECOVERY THAN  
IN A DOWNTURN.”

– Thomas Schleifer, PhD

Del E. Webb School of Construction at Arizona State University

# Cause for Failure

## Strategic

- Overexpansion.
- New markets.
- New types of work.

## Organizational

- Insufficient financial strength.
- Poor financial management.
- Poor field performance.

## Uncontrollable

- Outside economic issues.
- Banking/Surety changes.

# Cause for Failure – A Deeper Look

## Too Much Change

- Taking on too many new ventures simultaneously:
  - Geographic expansion.
  - Acquisitions/Mergers.
  - New products/services.

## Loss of Discipline

- Move outside core competencies.
- New hires that do not fit.
- Poor job costing focus.

## Inadequate Capitalization

- Cash flow on new projects exceeding expectations.
- Poor performing projects over stressing cash on hand.

# What is the Extra Strain During a Recovery?

## Cash Flow

Negative, especially in the early phases.

## Gross Margins

Low/Stagnant, especially in the early phases.

## Human Capital

Expensive to attract/retain.

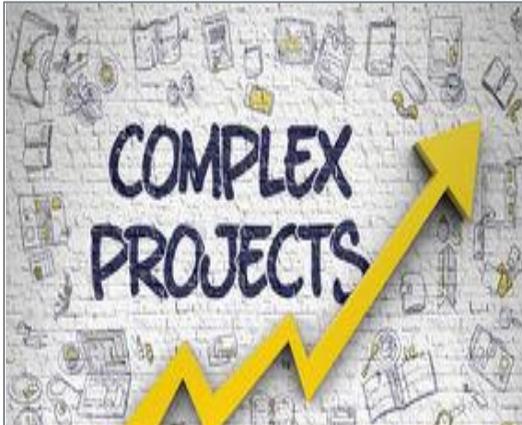
# Contract Disputes and Claims Pose Non-Trivial Risk to Projects

## Views Distilled

- Top risks vary for owners and contractors.
- Owners experienced most significant impacts from schedule changes, scope/planning, and cost escalation.
- GCs and trades most concerned with labor procurement, contract risks (risk allocation in contracts/i.e. – warranties, etc.).
- Differences in risk experiences/priorities result in different risk diagnosis and mitigation strategies.

*Source: Dodge. Data & Analytics. SmartMarket Report. Managing Risk in the Construction Industry. Stephen A. Jones and Donna Laquidara-Carr. 2017.*

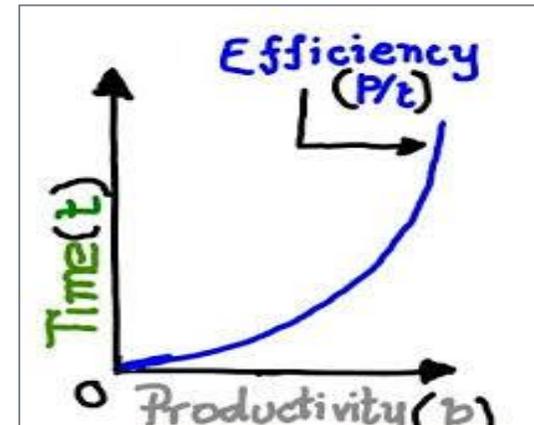
# What's the Point?



Bigger, more complex projects.



More dollars in play from more sources.



Project efficiency has not kept up.



Larger risks accruing to project stakeholders.



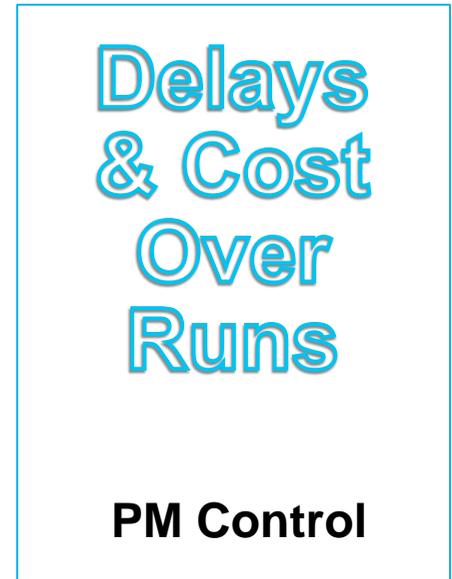
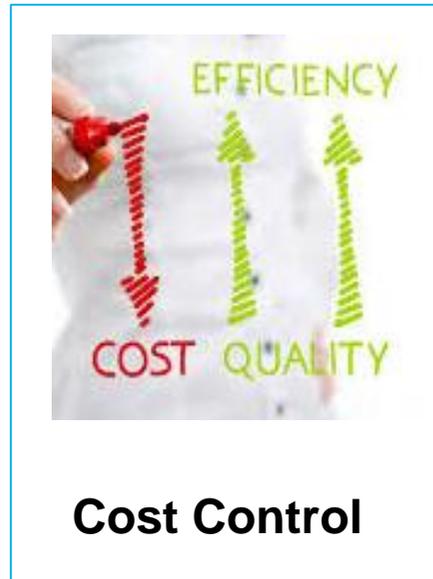
Larger single-project financial risk.



Default risk is ever prevalent.

You have an obligation  
to manage this.

# Aligning Risk and Construction Procurement



**Areas to be proactive**

# Balancing Risk and Spend – Leveraging Analytics

## Critical Steps

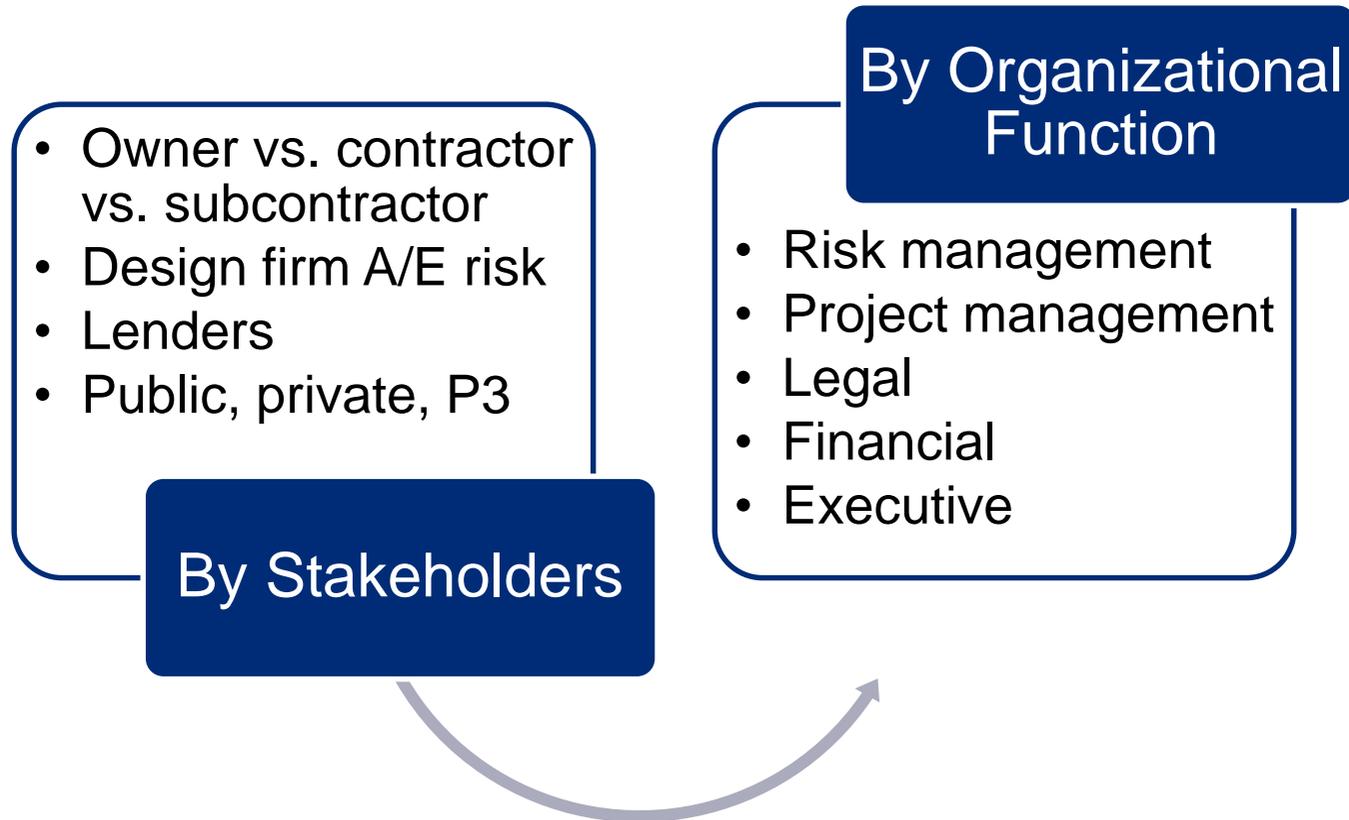
- Assess the risk.
- Prioritize critical risk issues.
- Quantify the exposure.
- Evaluate finance options.
- Compare to alternatives.
- Align stakeholders.
- Implement a plan.
- Measure the progress.
- Manage and adjust.
- Cost and schedule.
- Early dispute resolution.

## Your Tool Belt

- Risk assessment.
- Project proforma.
- Project loss cost modeling.
- Casualty PML/BR PML.
- Project risk finance optimization.
- Prequalification.
- Project/Claims management.

# How Risk Is Managed

## High Level Views



**Risk matters differently to different groups based on risk strategies.**

# Managing Performance Risk - Defaults

## Financial Risk

### **First understand the risk.**

- Key financial ratio review.

### **Then mitigate.**

- Bond.
- SDI.
- Self-insure.

## Operational Risk

### **Three key components.**

1. New contractor.
2. New type of work for the contractor.
3. New location.

**Tripping one needs to be watched.**

**Tripping two, watch out!**

# Example Pre-qualification Framework: Benchmark Analysis Tool Process



- Subcontractors' financial reports against standard financial reporting guidelines.

- Score subcontractor's:
  - Balance sheet.
  - Work in progress.
  - Income statement.
  - Cash flow.
  - Working capital.
  - Net worth.

- Compare to ratios commonly used by sureties in their underwriting reviews.

- Subcontractor credit report.
- Determine existence of any liens, judgments, or lawsuits outstanding.

- For each subcontractor analyzed.
- Measure of corporate financial distress and potential economic bankruptcy.

- Separates each subcontractor's risk score into four quartiles.
- Quarterly reports provided reflecting the overall quality of your subcontractor portfolio.

# Risks Overlap Stakeholders and Functions

## Examples of Risk Managers Working Across Divisions

- **Builders Risk Claims**

- Rebuild challenged as betterment by carrier requires risk management and project management to support “no other alternative.”
- Challenge T&M costs as inefficient or excessive requires risk management, legal and project management to align and demonstrate coverage.
- Delays affect time impact (direct and indirect) and span contract and policy.

- **Subcontractor Default Claim**

- Owner changes vs. GC performance vs. subcontractor defaults.
- Risk drivers and impacts are very different than property-related risk.

- **Owner or Lender Audits on GMP contracts**

- Align and reconcile areas that span legal, risk management, project management.
  - Cost of the Work, OCIP deducts, labor/equipment rates/burdens, estimate v. actual.

# Facts about Project Results

## Risk Management Will Mitigate Problems

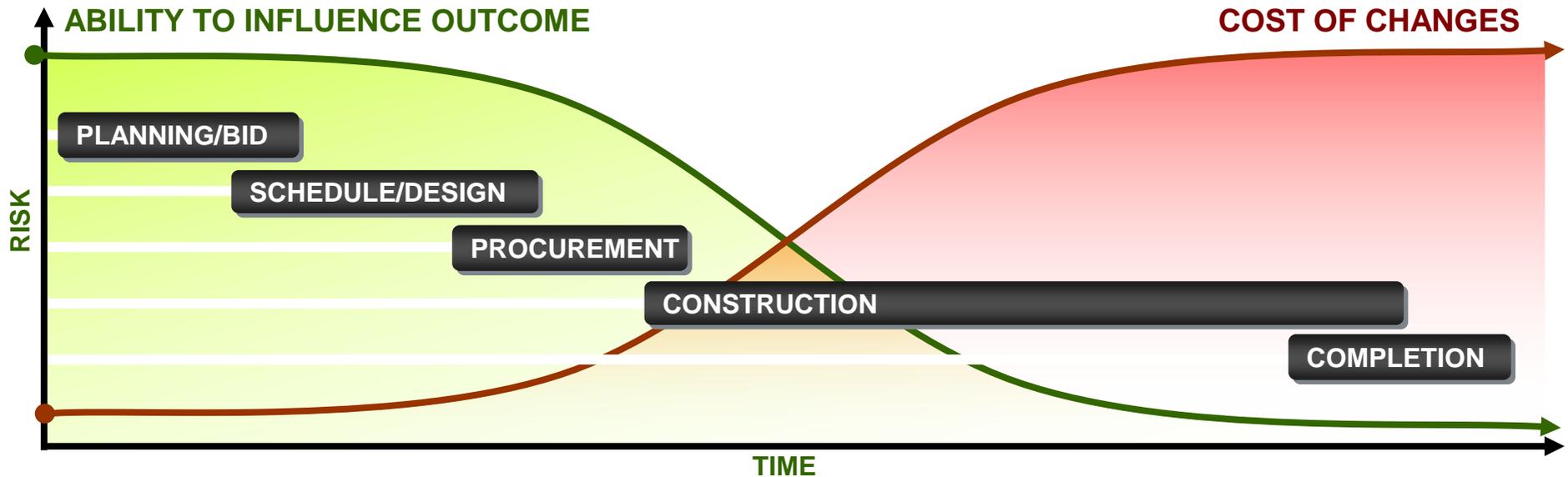
Projects that perform formal **Risk Assessment** have **9.4%** lower project cost and **10.1%** less schedule growth.<sup>1</sup>

Implementing **Risk Assessment** best practices can **reduce the cost of changes and rework.**<sup>1</sup>

Using an **external risk management consultant** results in a **more effective and thorough** assessment process.<sup>2</sup>

Investment in Risk Management is often **less than 1%** of overall project cost, but results in return of **more than 20% in savings.**<sup>2</sup>

# Risk Management Through the Project Construction Lifecycle



*“The ability of the stakeholders to influence [the finished project] is **highest at the start and gets progressively lower as the project continues.**”*

*A major contributor to this phenomenon is that the cost of changes and correcting errors generally increases as the project continues.”*

*A Guide to the Project Management Body of Knowledge (PMBOK® Guide)  
by Project Management Institute*

# Claim Prevention / Management

## Project Management as Part of Risk Management

### Recurring Key Claim Issues – Stemming from Lack of Project Management Basics



- Proceeding with work without written instruction.
- Failure to recognize or track changes—time/cost impacts.
- Recognizing/communicating critical path delay.
- Failure to up-date progress accurately.
- Cost coding for added scope.
- Failure to give notice/proper, reserve rights.
  - Documentation: poor contract records.

# Claim Prevention/Management

## Schedule, Schedule, Schedule!

### **Schedule Control and Risks: Back to the Basics**

- Scheduling is project control, not just a contract requirement.
  - As a planning tool.
  - Input from project team (disciplines, subcontractors, etc.).
  - Realistic progress.
- Schedule risks must be effectively managed to mitigate impact.
  - Early identification of the sources of risk.
  - Early recognition of the timing of potential impact.
  - Address the time impact in the schedule **when it occurs**.

# Claim Prevention/Management

## Schedule Management

### Baseline Schedule Development

- Allocating labor resources does not have to be resource loading.
- Linking work breakdown structure (“WBS”), estimate, and schedule activities.
- Check the BASICS — critical path, logical sequence through completion, crew allocation.

### Schedule Updates/Impacted Schedules

- Awareness of contract requirements.
- Address impacts as they occur.
  - Reasonable durations.
  - Confirm criticality.
  - Review for concurrency.
- Allocation of resources for scheduling.

# Claim Avoidance Within Risk Management

## Compare and Relate to Traditional Risk Management Focus and Collaborate

### **Project control is embedded in risk management.**

- Risk triggers should be within project controls system.
- Failure to recognize or track changes — time/cost impacts.
- Recognizing/Communicating critical path risks.
- Contemporaneous schedules.
- Failure to update progress accurately will affect triggers.
- From baseline schedule through monthly updates.
- Cost coding for added scope.
- Schedule dates consistent with job cost reports, daily reports.
- EACs/ETCs updated regularly; Cold-eyes review for larger projects with noted changes.

# Claim Avoidance Within Risk Management

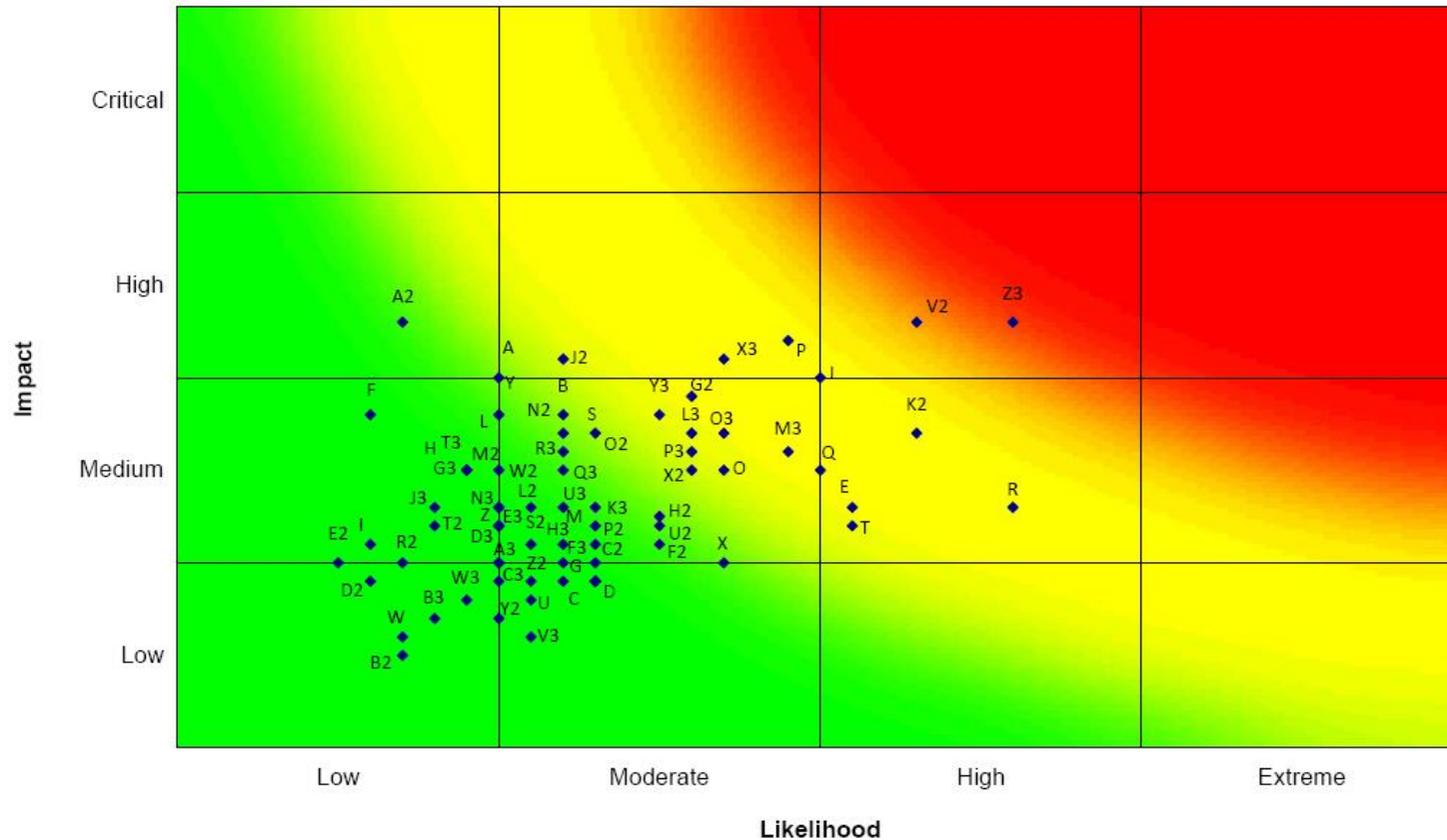
## Compare and Relate to Traditional Risk Management Focus and Collaborate

### **Integrating project management with risk management:**

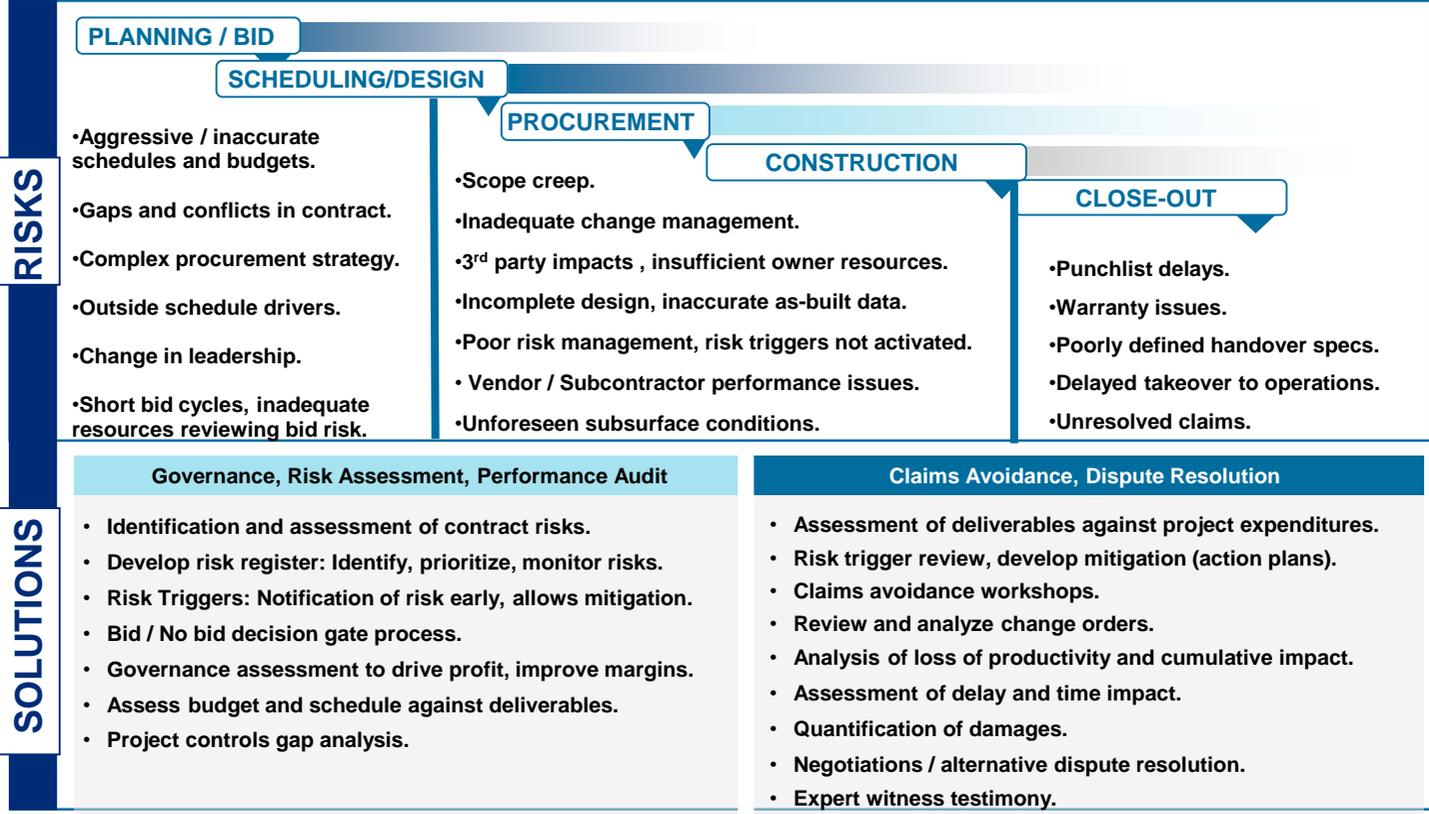
- Progress tracking (actual vs. planned).
  - Long lead procurement check (prioritized risks).
  - Milestone review (approvals/permitting).
- Daily reports, time sheets, and extra work order support.
- Meeting minutes, key decisions documented.
- Subcontractor payment records, progress reporting.
- Cost coding reflects work breakdown structure.
  - Extra work (change orders).

# Claim Avoidance Within Risk Management

## Risk Register Heat Maps Allow Identification and Prioritization of Project Risks



# Risk Management During the Project Lifecycle Is Largely Project Management



## Contact Us

- **Lori Flemming**  
Senior Vice President  
Marsh USA Inc.  
+1 704 953 9780  
[lori.flemming@marsh.com](mailto:lori.flemming@marsh.com)
- **Colin Daigle**  
Managing Director  
Marsh Risk Consulting  
+1 202 263 7892  
[colin.a.daigle@marsh.com](mailto:colin.a.daigle@marsh.com)

# MARSH RISK CONSULTING

Marsh is one of the Marsh & McLennan Companies, together with Guy Carpenter, Mercer, and Oliver Wyman.

This document and any recommendations, analysis, or advice provided by Marsh (collectively, the “Marsh Analysis”) are not intended to be taken as advice regarding any individual situation and should not be relied upon as such. The information contained herein is based on sources we believe reliable, but we make no representation or warranty as to its accuracy. Marsh shall have no obligation to update the Marsh Analysis and shall have no liability to you or any other party arising out of this publication or any matter contained herein. Any statements concerning actuarial, tax, accounting, or legal matters are based solely on our experience as insurance brokers and risk consultants and are not to be relied upon as actuarial, tax, accounting, or legal advice, for which you should consult your own professional advisors. Any modeling, analytics, or projections are subject to inherent uncertainty, and the Marsh Analysis could be materially affected if any underlying assumptions, conditions, information, or factors are inaccurate or incomplete or should change. Marsh makes no representation or warranty concerning the application of policy wording or the financial condition or solvency of insurers or reinsurers. Marsh makes no assurances regarding the availability, cost, or terms of insurance coverage. Although Marsh may provide advice and recommendations, all decisions regarding the amount, type or terms of coverage are the ultimate responsibility of the insurance purchaser, who must decide on the specific coverage that is appropriate to its particular circumstances and financial position.

Copyright © 2017 Marsh LLC. All rights reserved.