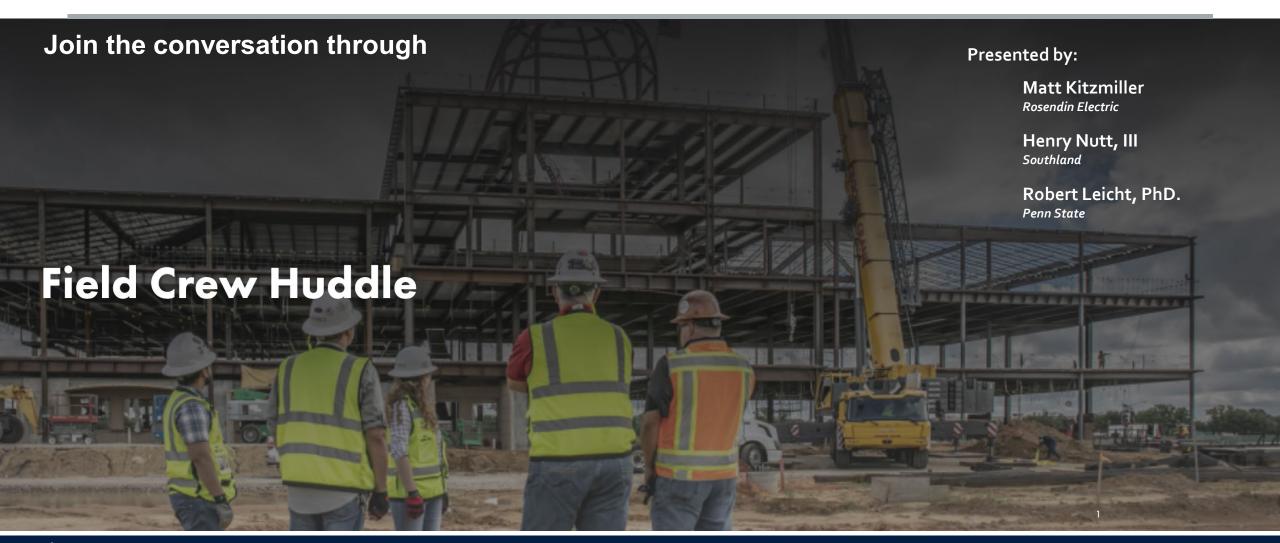
# Trade Partner Handbook of Lean Construction Methods







# **Presentation Team**



Henry Nutt, III

Preconstruction Executive Southland



Robert Leicht, PhD

Professor Penn State University



**Matt Kitzmiller** 

Lean Trainer Rosendin Electric

October 24, 2024



# Objectives









01.

Participants will understand the benefits of lean adoption specific to trade partners

02.

Participants will learn about the process and resources in the Trade Partner Handbook of Lean Methods 03

Participants will learn through a case study how to incorporate best practices for adoption of lean methods. 04.

Participants will walk away with ideas and methods they can apply immediately in their work as trade partners.

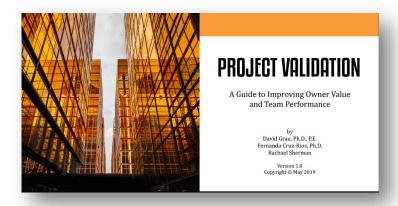
# Trade Handbook is part of LCI's Research Portfolio



https://leanconstruction.org/resources/guides/





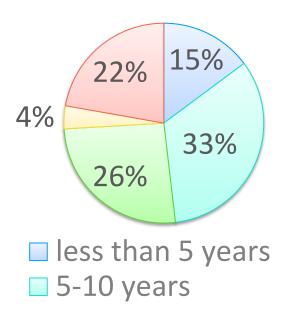


# Background – Lean methods for Trade Partners



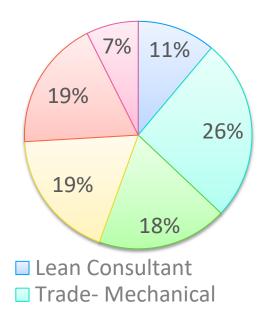
# Diverse pool of interview participants

## **Years of Lean Engagement**



Years of lean engagement	Number	Percentage
less than 5 years	4	15%
5-10 years	9	33%
11-15 years	7	26%
16-20 years	1	4%
more than 20 years	6	22%
Total	27	100%

## **Specialty**



Specialty	Number	Percentage
Lean Consultant	3	11%
Trade- Mechanical	7	26%
Trade- Electrical	5	19%
Trade- Finishing	5	19%
CM/GC	5	19%
Industry Representative	2	7%
Total	27	100%

17 trade respondents

## **Geographic Distribution**



(The dots are representative of that state not the location of interviewees)

Total # of Interviewees = 27 Trade Partners = 64%

# Benefits of Lean specific to Trade Contractors

# **Most cited benefits (by Trades):**

- 1. Happier people/employees
- 2. Improved collaboration
- 3. Enhance safety

- 4. Increased productivity
- 5. Worker empowerment
- 6. Deliver project on time



# Barriers to trade adoption of lean

# BARRIERS (TRADE PARTNERS PERSPECTIVE)



# Good to Great



Focus on People - Training extended into mentoring and coaching



Focus on process - using standards and visual communication to make work easier



Focus on Continuous Improvement -Empowering people toward CI through the alignment of values, goals, and methods













# Case Studies – Industry Leaders



ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING

## A Case Study in Lean Construction: Rosendin Electric

By Robert M. Leicht John I. Messner Finaz Asadian

Sponsored by

Lean Construction Institute, ELECTRI International, New Horizons Foundation, and John R. Gentile Foundation

Case Study No. 01 September 2021

@Copyrigh

The Pennsylvania State University Architectural Engineering University Park, PA 16802 workers do cut down their need to handle and carry heavy materials. The carts can be easily shifted between areas to keep them close at hand, and they are wheeled and easily movable – so if they happen to be in the way of another trade or group, it does not take much time or effort to move them.

### Organization of material storage and visual management

They organize and store typical or prefabricated parts, such as Unistrut cut to typical lengths. This helps the materials to be sorted at their shop facility in a more organized manner and ease the delivery process to the sites.

Their job boxes are usually organized, which are combined with visual management technique. Different parts are sorted under categories, making the finding process much easier for the installer. They also establish a "Grab and Go" kits for the installation process on the job site. Under this strategy,

They also establish a "Grab and Go" kits for the installation process on the job site. Under this strategy, all necessary tools and small parts for a specific electrical task, such as running %" conduit, will be sorted in a kit so that workers on a given task can grab the corresponding kit and have all the necessary items.



Trello as a virtual Kanban board: The shop uses the Trello board to manage the day-to-day production. The prefab shop receives orders through email and posts them to the Trello board so that the people engaged in the process can see what parts have been done, what parts are currently being assembled with specific dates. They also include pictures, drawings, and any other data related to each prefabricated part in the Trello platform to have complete info on each part. The board further serves as institutional memory with past examples of prefab requests, examples, and scopes.



Leicht, R. M., Messner, J. I., and Asadian, E. (2021). A case study in lean construction: Rosendin Electric. Case Study No. 01, Architectural Engineering, The Pennsylvania State University, Univ. Park, PA.

9







**Shop Facility** 



Office



Personnel Interviews



Capture Short Videos



# Results

# **Implementation Status**

Status	Mark	Explanation
Not Observed	0	Evidence of adoption was not noted or directly observed during the case study.
Partially Implemented		Evidence of the approaches was noted in some interviews or partially observed – suggesting some use but not standard across operations.
Fully Implemented		The approaches were commonly noted in interviews and/or observed as standard elements in company operations.











# Culture and Organizational Values — it starts at the top

# **Common Approaches in Culture and Organizational Values**

Approaches	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G
Align continuous improvement principles with organizational values	0	0	0	0	D	D	D
Adopt continuous improvement approaches in long-term goals	0	0	0	0	0	0	D
Create an <b>organizational environment</b> that enables continuous improvement	0	0	0	D	0	D	D
Empowering everyone to pursue continuous improvement	0	D	D	0	D	D	D
Develop a continuous improvement culture in all divisions/ departments	0	0	0	0	0	D	0
Consider employees as internal customers	0	0	0	D	D	0	0

# Our Core Values

We Care • We Listen • We Share • We Innovate • We Excel

Image courtesy of Rosendin Electric

- Embedding lean principles with company core values allows methods to be easily grounded in how each firm operates.
- Empowering their employees to engage in the CI process.







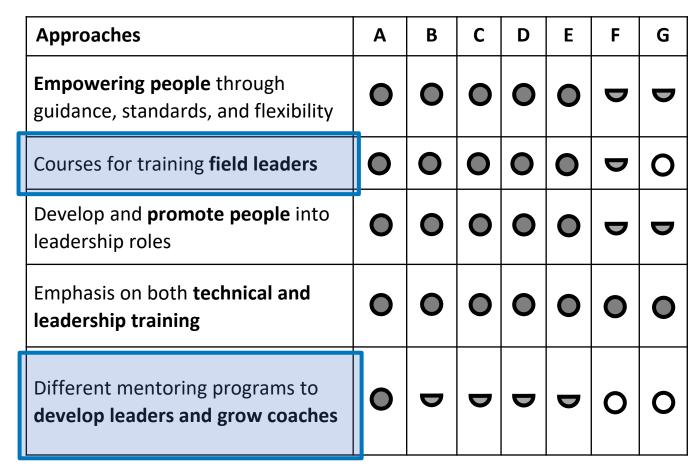




<sup>\*</sup>Note – company order changes for each table to re-order from highest to lowest observed adoption

# Mentor and Cultivate Field Leaders

# **Common Approaches in Mentoring and Cultivating Field Leaders**



<sup>\*</sup>Note – company order changes for each table to re-order from highest to lowest observed adoption

# Leadership coming from the field



Images courtesy of KHS&S

- Mentoring- companies' culture, processes, methods and standards
- Promote from within
- Inclusion of craft











# Better tools & equipment - Making the field tasks easier and safer

# **Common Approaches in Access to better tools/equipment**

Approaches	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G
Unbundling of complex methods to simple and easily understood concepts.	0	0	0	D	0	D	D
Use better tools or equipment to facilitate field operations	0	0	0	0	0	D	D
In parallel with standardization, they match their tools and equipment with their operations.	0	0	0	0	•	D	D
Allocate a specific budget for providing better tools, which is separated from the project costs	D	D	D	D	0	0	0

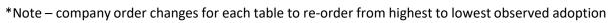




Image courtesy of Thompson Electric



Image courtesy of KHS&S

- Unbundling
- Better tools











# Visual Management – make information visual and easy to understand

# **Common Approaches in Visual Management**

Approaches	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G
Apply VM across operations to support simple, effective communication or tracking.	0	0	0	D	D	D	Q
VM is <b>built into the inventory management</b> system and processes.	0	D	0	0	0	D	D
Extensive use of color-coding	0	0	D	D	D	D	D
Use VM for information sharing, such as productivity reports and project standards	D	•	0	D	0	D	D
Use VM for communication and raising awareness	0	0	D	D	0	0	0

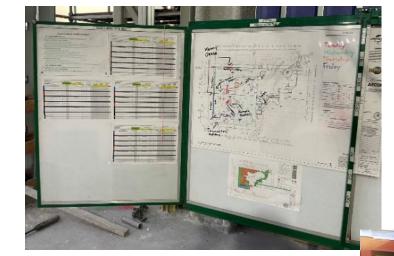


Image courtesy of KHS&S

- Raise awareness
- Information sharing
- Identify problems





\*Note – company order changes for each table to re-order from highest to lowest observed adoption







Image courtesy of Rosendin Electric

# Standardize the easy stuff, so the craft can focus on the complex work

# **Common Approaches in Standardization**

Approaches	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G
The standardization of work processes	0	0	0	0	D	D	D
<b>Reduce variation</b> whenever possible	0	0	0	0	D	D	D
Track, share, and display key metrics that result from production standards and common work practices	0	•	D	D	•	D	D
Tactics for standardization embody the <b>nature of the work</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	D

# Balancing autonomy and standardization



Image courtesy of Thompson Electri

- Use standard to make work easier
- Transparency

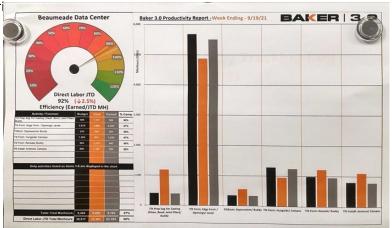


Image courtesy of Baker Concrete

<sup>\*</sup>Note – company order changes for each table to re-order from highest to lowest observed adoption











# Cultivate problem-solving mentality – encourage continuous improvement

# Common Approaches in Systematic Processes (Empowering problem-solving mentality)

Approaches	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G
Sustaining improvements to processes through frequent reviews and coaching to ensure they are being implemented.	0	0	D	0	D	D	4
Gathering input from all company stakeholders to agree upon or refine processes and methods	0	0	0	D	D	0	0
Focus on small improvements and appreciate new ideas for improvement from the workforce	0	D	0	D	D	0	0

# "Fix what bugs you"



Image courtesy of Parsons Electric











<sup>\*</sup>Note – company order changes for each table to re-order from highest to lowest observed adoption

# Organizing & Prioritizing Lean Methods for Trades

Trade + GC

Reliable Coordination

Lean
Project
Production

Lonely Lean Production

Reliable Production

**Multiple Trades** 

Integrated Lean Methods



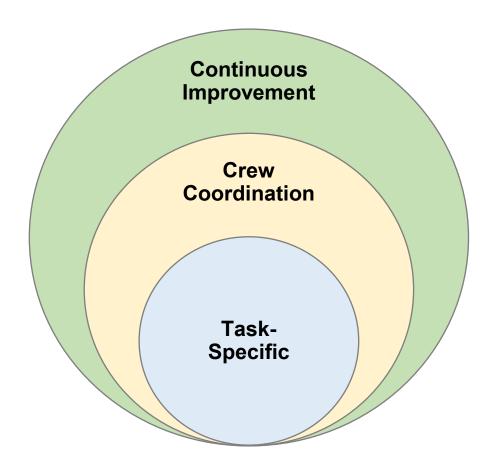
Coordinated Lean Methods



Fundamental Lean Methods



# Identifying your Lean Methods by your Sphere of Influence





## Taskspecific

### 8 Wastes

A simple method to introduce the idea of recognizing waste effort and resources that detract from producing value in work that is performed.

### Standard Work

Creating consistent processes and techniques for how work is performed based upon best practices.

### **5S**

An approach for workplace organization and maintaining visual control. The "S" stands for: Sort. Set-in-order, Standardize, Shine, and Sustain.

### **Kitting**

Sorting, grouping and packaging separate but related items together to reduce packaging and waste at the workface.



## Crew **●** Coordination

## Weekly Work Plans

Method within the Last Planner System that supports collaborative and commitment-based planning and control that helps develop a reliable workflow.

### **Daily Huddle**

A structured daily check-in for briefly highlight key plans. emerging constraints or safety concerns, changes, and team accomplishments.

### **Visual Management**

A way to manage information visually such that it enables collaboration, open communication, helps track progress and notice disruptions quickly.

### Prefabrication

Strategies employed in production to develop assemblies or components off-site to streamline work on- site.

## **Continuous** ✓ Improvement

### A3 Thinking

Documentation approach for problem- solving and reporting on project-related critical decisions using the Plan - Do - Check - Adjust. (PDCA) method for continuous improvement.

### Value Stream Mapping

Mapping the process by including value and nonvalue add work activities to identify areas of improvement in the delivery process.

### Gemba Walk

Means "Going to the work" or walking the job site where the actual work is done to identify waste elimination opportunities.

## 5 Whys

Problem solving technique to determine root cause by diving deeper into the "why" five times.

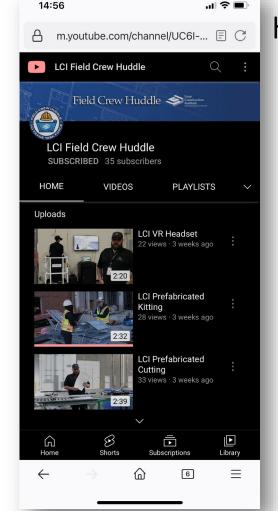




**ARCHITECTURAL** 

**ENGINEERING** 

# Accessing the methods and resources



https://fieldcrewhuddle.leanconstruction.org/



Handbook of Production Improvement Methods Authors: Robert M. Leicht, PhD ELECTRI INTERNATIONAL **PennState** 

**Downloadable Handbook** 

**Mobile-friendly website** 



# Field Crew Huddle – Industry Leader Case Studies

## **How Crew Coordination Improves Outcomes at KHS&S Contractors**

DOWNLOAD CASE STUDY

## **Background**

KHS&S Contractors – an international design-assist specialty building company – uses a standard process for coordinating the work across crews. The focus of trade work occurs in weekly cycles, breaking large milestones down to manageable scopes of work to hand out to crews or individual workers. Balancing and leveling this work, along with the necessary equipment, tools, and materials, requires detailed weekly work plans to define all of these activities and match them to the project plan and budget.

### **Weekly Work Plans (WWP)**

Beyond the training and understanding of all elements, KHS&S takes the weekly work plan as a key element for engagement with field personnel. The planning builds from standard Last Planner System (LPS) activities. Still, it is used to align budget information to field activities, plan detailed crew and location assignments, and map work areas and material deliveries.





The tasks for each crew member are laid out for the week. This includes the areas of work and day, using color coding as a visual management strategy. The tasks are broken down to match the budget, so the tracked hours are easily linked back to progress, productivity, and billing. Color-coding the daily tasks within the weekly work plan creates a quick visual link between the crew, task, area, and materials across the different visuals used to plan and coordinate work. Each morning, the plan is discussed as part of each crew's daily huddle.

### **Daily Huddles**

Daily huddles are conducted each morning before work begins to track the progress and activity of each crew. Using a standard work agenda, the group spends time discussing each crew's production goal, identifying any current of





the simple change they made to how the job box doors open; in an earlier version, a worker needed to stop his coworker to access items below, but could not open the door. However, by simply changing the order of closing, there is no longer a need to stop ongoing activities to access equipment or tools in the lower portion of the job box. This empowerment of workers and willingness to continue to iterate and improve was seen extensively throughout the c



### **Balancing intention with training**

The core to KHS&S' success appears to stem leadership, in lean principles and a shortlist of projects. The training is defined into three le fundamental training that is targeted for all emp Plan (CIP) an employee engages in when startin tasks, and mastery items each employee mu-Approximately half of these items are addres several further are assessed through their demo such as consistency in leading stand-up meet completing their certification are performed th that is to be presented back to the lean trainers

The training for the bronze, in class, consists of s that are focused on application and reflection, a training is not limited to their in-house personne on what they have found in years of their lean broadly expanding the use of lean for the benef

Leicht, R. M., Messner, J. I., and Asadian, E. (202 Case Study No. 02, Architectural Engineering, Th



**ARCHITECTURAL ENGINEERING** 

## A Case Study in Lean Construction: KHS&S

Robert M. Leicht John I. Messner Elnaz Asadian

Sponsored by Lean Construction Institute, ELECTRI International, New Horizons Foundation, and John R. Gentile Foundation

> Case Study No. 03 October 2021

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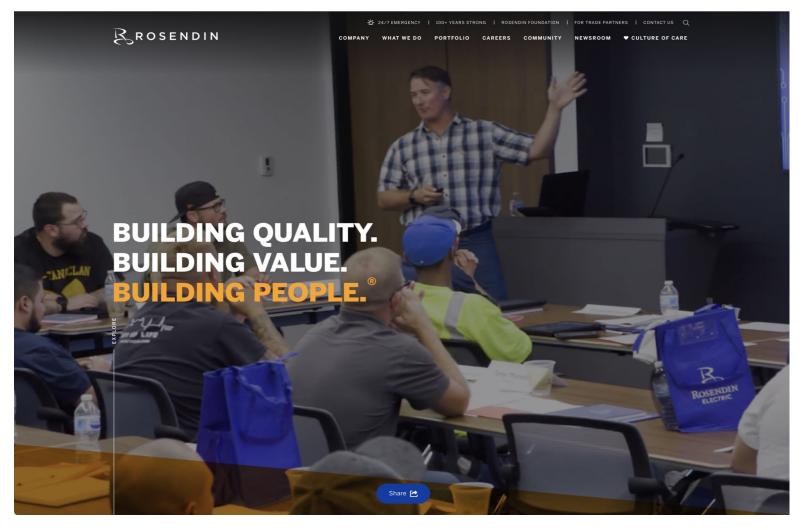
The Pennsylvania State University **Architectural Engineering** University Park, PA 16802





# Case Study: Rosendin Electric



















# Focus on where we add value (electrical work)

- Simple, standard, easy-to-use forms
- Make it easy to Plan (fundamentals):
  - Work/crew locations
  - Material needs & placement
  - Resource/equipment needs
  - Constraints

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Description of Work	Name(s)	м	т	w	тн	F	Sat.	Sun.	м	т	w	тн	F	Sat.	Sun.	м	т	w	тн	F	Sat.	Sun.	Tools, Equipment, Material, Notes		
Vall rough room 212		2 +	2 -																				Prepackaged A		
Vall rough room 214			2 -	2 +																			Prepackaged B		
Vall rough room 216					2 -	2 -																	Prepackaged A		
Vall rough room 218					2 -	2 -			2 +														Prepackaged B		
Vall rough room 220									2 +	2 -	2 +												Prepackaged A		
Vall rough room 222										2 -													Prepackaged C		
Roof Penetrations and racks													4 +			4 -	4 -	4 -					Core Driller. Deck Flanges		
evel 3 seismic																			4 -	4 -			ISAT kits XZ		
	Totals:	4	4	4	4	4	0	0	4	4	4	2	4	0	0	4	4	4	4	4	0	0			



# Crew Coordination

## 8 Wastes

A simple method to introduce the idea of recognizing waste effort and resources that detract from producing value in work that is performed.

### Weekly Work Plans

Method within the Last Planner System that supports collaborative and commitment-based planning and control that helps develop a reliable workflow.

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### **5S**

An approach for workplace organization and maintaining visual control. The "S" stands for: Sort, Set-in-order, Standardize, Shine, and Sustain.

## Kitting

Sorting, grouping and packaging separate but related items together to reduce packaging and waste at the workface.

### **Daily Huddle**

A structured daily check-in for briefly highlight key plans, emerging constraints or safety concerns, changes, and team accomplishments.

### Visual Management

A way to manage information visually such that it enables collaboration, open communication, helps track progress and notice disruptions quickly.

### Prefabrication

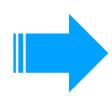
Strategies employed in production to develop assemblies or components off-site to streamline work on- site.





# 5S & VM – Organize resources to make it easy for craft to be efficient

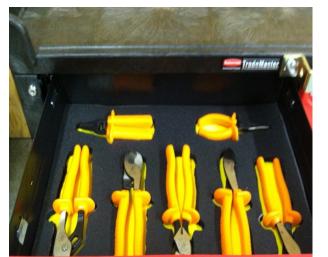














## Taskspecific

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# Standard work – make it easy to put work in place







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# Kits – make it easy to transport & find the right materials





Taskspecific

**Weekly Work Plans** 

Method within the Last

supports collaborative and

planning and control that

helps develop a reliable

Planner System that

commitment-based

# Crew Coordination

### 8 Wastes

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### workflow.

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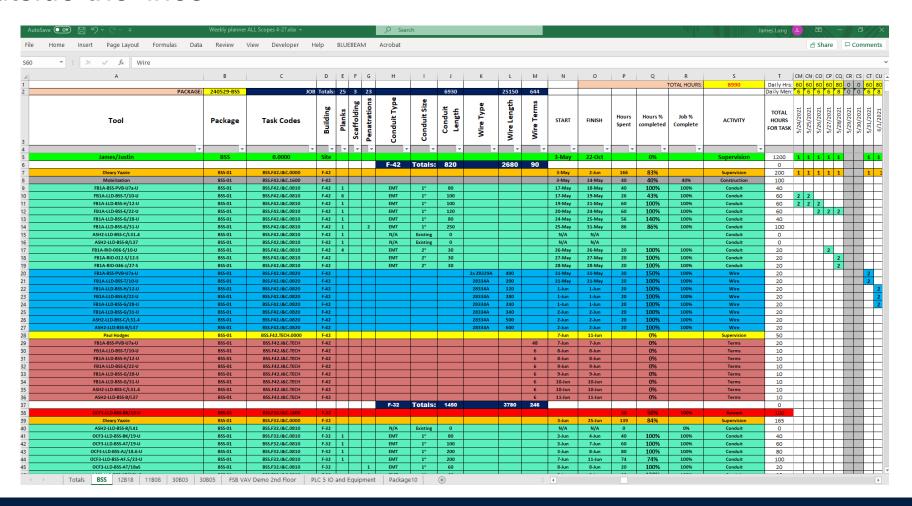
Strategies employed in production to develop assemblies or components off-site to streamline work on- site.





# Weekly work planning – **Improve** your work

- Empower foremen and crew leads
  - OK to color outside the lines
- Visual (color)
- Automated





# Training (electricians) to improve workforce and communication







# Resources and Path Forward



# Good to Great



Focus on People - Training extended into mentoring and coaching



Focus on process - using standards and visual communication to make work easier



Focus on Continuous Improvement -Empowering people toward CI through the alignment of values, goals, and methods











# Insights & Takeaways

- Fundamentals: Plan your work, organize your tools / materials
- Discipline: training and ongoing emphasis to embed lean thinking into routines and habits
- Start small: Focus on where crews lose time -> moving materials, collecting tools, finding equipment – a few minutes per day add up!
- Empower Craft: More improvements from empowering the workforce, than waiting for the boss to see a problem and fix it
- Risk (cost) is in the field: Everyone should be focused on helping craft focus on their tasks
- Incentives vs penalties: acknowledgement goes a long way!

# Field Crew Huddle website

Prefabricated Kitting



# In-wall Assembly Standards



# Waste – Site Inventory

- Overproduce
- ▶ Overdelivery
- Lack of Accountability
- Lack of Coordination
- ▶ Territoriality
- ▶ Slows Production
- Creates Safety Hazards



# Field Crew Huddle

https://fieldcrewhuddle.leanconstruction.org/





# **A Collaborative Platform**

This site serves as a platform for sharing methods, improvements and lessons learned on project sites or shops through simple visual content and short videos. It houses step-by-step guidance to use methods, and video examples from your colleagues, to allow you to start improving today. To support your work, the content on this site focuses on practical methods and easy-to-follow steps that will let you dive right in. The site format and YouTube videos are intended to provide access to the resources and information in the field – just when and where you need it!

**Greg Stedman** 

Henry Nutt, III

**Nick Masci LCI TRADE Tony Lowe** Rob Leicht TASK FORCE **Perry Thompson Matt Kitzmiller** 

**Blake Tormey** 

Joe Donarumo

**Elnaz Asadian** 









**Stephanie Roldan** 

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**Cary Norberg** 

**ADVISORY** Henry Nutt, III GROUP

**Sean Mcguire** 

**Sean Graystone Thomas Soles, Jr.** 

> **Brian Winningham Greg Stedman**

H. Glenn Ballard







In the spirit of continuous improvement, we would like to remind you to complete this session's survey! We look forward to receiving your feedback.

