

Benefits and Challenges of Construction Manager/General Contractor

Definition:

Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) is an emerging project delivery method in the transportation industry where the team, consisting of the owner, designer, and construction manager, works together to control the schedule and budget of the project. This delivery method allows the construction manager to be hired on the basis of qualifications and allows the construction manager to be involved in the design process. Once the design is sufficiently advanced, the contractor can provide the guaranteed maximum price.

Shared risk allocation Flexibility during design/construction Owner control of design Ability to bid early work packages Early Knowledge of costs CM/GC Design Input Ability to fast-track



Methodology:

This research used a content analysis of twelve presentations by various state departments of transportation and other experts in the field, one interview with the Utah Department of Transportation, and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program Synthesis 402 for **Construction Manager-at-Risk** Project Delivery for Highway Programs.

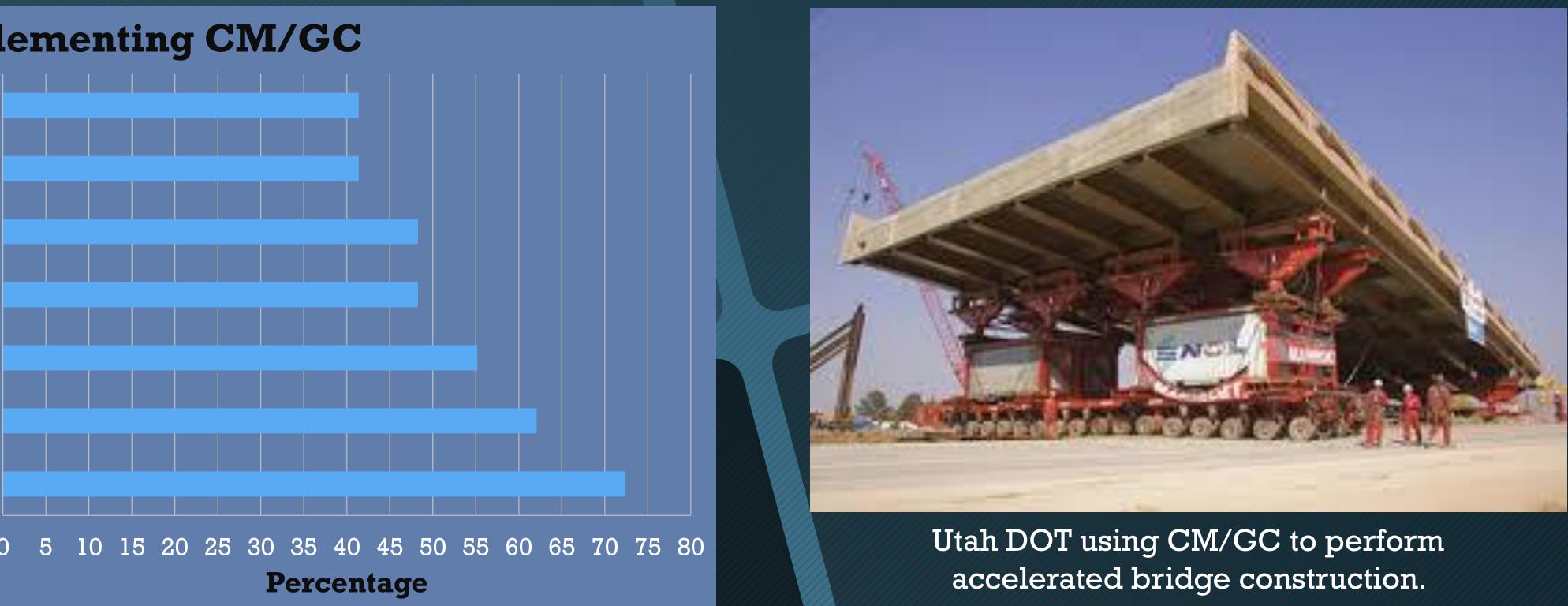
Utah DOT using CM/GC to perform accelerated bridge construction.

Conclusions:

In this study, twenty-eight benefits were mentioned while only fifteen challenges were noted. The top 25% of each category is listed in the two tables. As can be seen from the tables, the benefits were mentioned at much higher rates than the challenges. The top three benefits are all processes indicating that using CM/GC helps with the overall project process. The top three challenges have to do with personnel. Therefore, with training, some of the top challenges could be overcome.

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Benefits of Implementing CM/GC

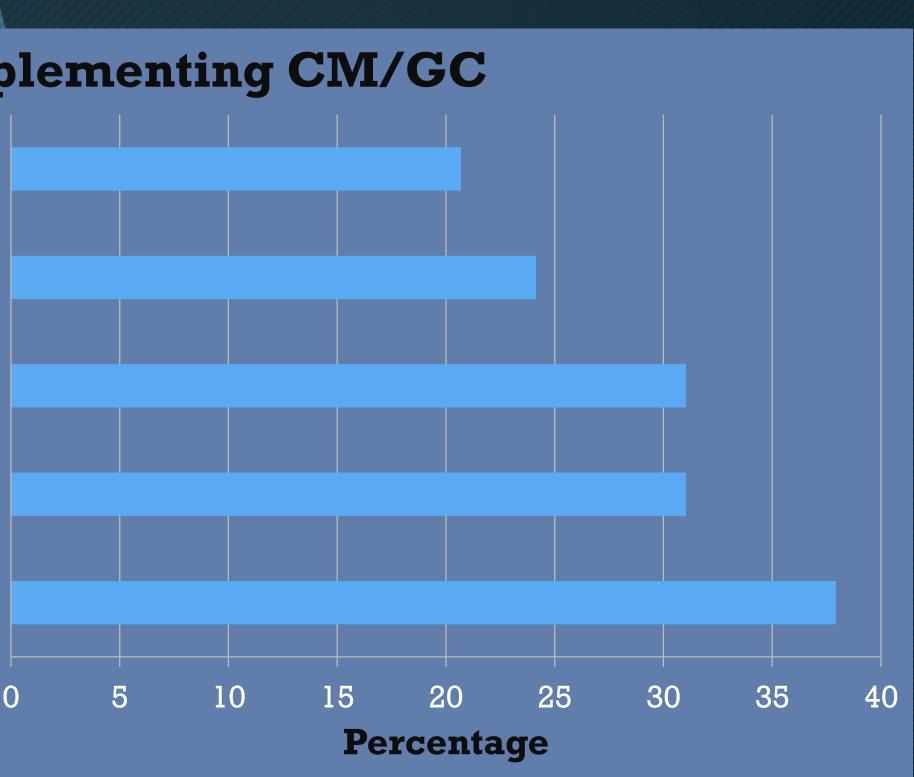


Training required for agency personnel



Challenges of Implementing CM/GC

- Still have two contracts to manage
- Actual cost not known until GMP is set
- Requires different procurement culture
 - CM/GC and designer have different agendas



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