

Construction Project Restart Strategies

Part 2: Project

According to the most recent survey done by [AGC](#), 39% of US projects currently under construction have been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. As some states begin to lift “shelter in place” orders or re-evaluate which construction projects are considered “essential”, it is critical to have a plan in place to restart a construction project and bring workers back to the jobsite safely. As discussed in USI’s [Construction Site Operations and Temporary Shut Down Procedures Best Practice Guide](#), having an organized plan and systematic process will enable clarity and accountability for all parties returning to work.

Restarting a Project Considerations

In addition to the health and wellness of your workers, clear and transparent communication on what is necessary to restart the project will be necessary to ensure a smooth transition from an idle to a fully operational project. Construction Dive has a valuable resource keeping real-time information on project shutdown or restart by state. [Project Shutdown and Restart Mapping by State](#). Additional recommendations and considerations are as follows:

- Conduct a project restart meeting with all project participants including project partners such as legal, banking, and insurance to review the contract and critical path including supply chain issues, labor sourcing, tools and equipment and any legal changes due to new regulations. Proper notification to governmental authorities should be done in accordance with local, state or federal requirements.
- Review the status of the project as documented in the temporary cessation checklist and identify any issues or new problems which were created by the cessation of work and determine appropriate corrective actions.
- Review material and project cost changes associated with the temporary shutdown and notify insurance broker and carrier(s) should there need to be adjustments made to the current coverage limits and period of insurance.
- Explore funding options for cash-strapped contractors and subcontractors and settling matters related to coronavirus-related costs.
- Re-examine each project’s material specifications and make sure they include options for locally sourced or readily available products in order to provide enhanced levels of cost and schedule controls while maintaining quality standards.
- Review project delivery methods. Look for long-lead items that can be sourced early to avoid future schedule delays.
- Examine all installed or stored equipment and materials including but not limited to electrical wiring, temporary fire protection measures and temporary works for integrity
- During the bidding process, consider rewriting RFP’s to include multiple shifts, overtime or other labor-acceleration mechanisms that will help make up for any delays incurred during planning and procurement and mitigate potential future delays. Using multiple shifts will also assist contracts in adhering to social distancing.

- Develop a plan for continued communication amongst construction companies, suppliers, owners and developers to ensure all elements of the project align.
- Restrict all business travel to any CDC Level 3 country, which is a country deemed to have widespread transmission.
- With the potential for higher demands for distribution and inventory, seek out warehouse space.
- On-site trailers should be cleaned daily. Consider alternative methods of increased ventilation.
- Develop Standard Operating Procedures to limit the number of employees in an elevator or hoist at a given time.
- Establish a Coordination Response Team that are tasked with monitoring COVID-19 developments, sharing information with employees and business partners and implementing protocols.
- Develop a COVID-19 Action Team to gather information to help employees guard against coronavirus-related scams.
- Explore digital alternatives or techniques to allow for a reduced level of human interaction – such as, modular construction, remote and robotic drone inspections, autonomous rovers, 360-degree cameras and artificial intelligence.
- Stay up-to-date on both federal and local COVID-19 developments, and be sure to update trainings and employee communications regularly.

Helpful Resources

To help clients navigate these challenging times USI has implemented a **STEER (Steer Through Epidemic & Economic Recovery) Task Force**. This cross-functional team is working to provide up-to-the-minute COVID-19 information, understand cross-industry and geography impact and evolving responses, and to develop and deliver tailored solutions to help clients **steer** through this epidemic challenge and economic recovery.

For additional resources, tools, information, and links, please visit our COVID-19 resource page: www.usi.com/public-health-emergencies



Sources:

[Construction Dive Article: Prepare your Construction Project to Get Back Online](#)

[Construction Dive Article: Post Coronavirus Contingency Planning for Contractors and Owners](#)

[FMI Report: Critical Project Restart Strategies](#)

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