SmartPM[®]



New Generation Construction Meets Next Generation Scheduling

> "We're the next generation of builders, always looking at new technologies and new ways to approach everything we do. SmartPM fits the mold of what we're trying to do."

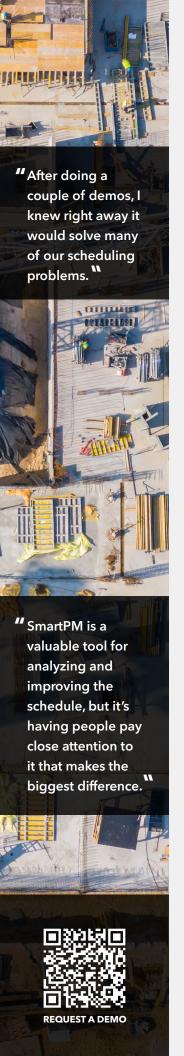
> > - Taylor Shapland, Project Executive | NGC Group, Inc.











CHALLENGE

Towards the end of 2022, NGC Group took a step back and realized there were some concerns regarding their scheduling practices. So, for the following year, they made it a company goal to improve scheduling – something falling under Taylor Shapland's realm of responsibilities.

"As part of this process, our Regional Superintendents and I spent time every month diving into the details of scheduling best practices, schedule progression, end date changes, critical path analysis, schedule viability, etc. However, doing this analysis proved to take a lot of time.

While it was good information for us to explore, we weren't getting into the details as much as we would have liked to, and it was not sustainable."

Eventually, halfway through 2023, NGC Group realized they needed a more scalable solution that would allow their department leaders and project teams to have reliable data that was easier to obtain. Luckily for Shapland, this just so happened to be when Lindsey Klug, Director of Organizational Development at NGC Group, introduced him to SmartPM.

SMART SOLUTION

"After doing a couple of demos, I knew right away it would solve many of our scheduling problems. With SmartPM, both PMs and superintendents can jump in, upload the schedule, and within minutes, understand what's happening from the data's perspective."

However, with access to real-time analytics comes access to more data, which can be overwhelming. So, during the product rollout, Shapland organized weekly training sessions into corresponding chunks, making a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for each segment of the training session. According to Shapland, the primary message in all SOPs related to SmartPM is to simply stay on top of the platform – and the schedule.

"Many people can get caught up in the day-today details and lose sight of the bigger picture of a project. They may think, 'I'm worried about this flooring contractor on this specific day,' rather than stepping back and worrying about the entire project.

"I want everyone to realize that the schedule is a living, breathing document for the entire project. SmartPM is a valuable tool for analyzing and improving the schedule, but it's having people pay close attention to it that makes the biggest difference."

RESULTS

Over a four-month period, NGC's teams realized that paying close attention to the schedule had made all the difference. They witnessed a drastic improvement in their scheduling practices, with quality grades improving by four letter grades and health by 12% across all projects. The attribution? "With SmartPM, our project managers can easily pinpoint what's missing from their schedules, which has been huge for improving schedule quality in general," Shapland observed.

Quality is just the first step but it's a significant one at that. In fact, SmartPM has become somewhat of a competitive advantage for NGC, with Taylor

noting, "We've used SmartPM as a selling point for how we stay ahead of our projects and finish them on track."

As Shapland points out, the "NGC" in the company's name stands for "New Generation Construction." SmartPM fits that description to a "T."

"SmartPM fits our company's schtick. We're NGC Group, which stands for New Generation Construction. We're the next generation of builders, always looking at new technologies and new ways to approach everything we do. SmartPM fits the mold of what we're trying to do."