



THIS ISSUE

Essence of Project Management
Cooking with Jamal
Purdue Road School
A&Z Birthday
Welcoming New Staff
Award Winning Project
Groundbreakings



>>> Summer Road Tripping

ROAD TRIP FACTS

45% of Americans take a summer vacation

568 miles is the average round-trip miles traveled on a summer trip

657 million long-distance trips are taken between Memorial Day and Labor Day

People are finding their inspirations for road trips on travel websites and Facebook

Two locations families would like to visit the most are Florida and California

Most people are planning their summer vacations between April and June

A&Z's Mission Statement: Dedication to provide the highest quality professional civil engineering solutions with competitive, honest, and timely services while maintaining public safety, integrity, and value to the community.

From a Project Manager's Point of View



By: Nitin Timble, PS, PE
Project Manager

For a young, budding engineer rising from the ranks of a Designer/Project Engineer to a Project Manager and ultimately to company ownership is a natural career progression. The role a Project Manager has in building a strong team and a loyal clientele cannot be understated. A Project Manager's awareness of several factors is very important. These factors govern his actions, simplify his decision-making and help achieve a self-fulfilling successful project completion goal. Defining a self-fulfilling successful project completion deserves clarification with a brief discussion on the main factors.

My definition of a self-fulfilling project completion is "a project constructed with minimal site questions and to the client's expectations." Plan clarity and material accountability lead to minimal site questions whereas safety and functionality meet client expectations. The factors contribute to the outcome of a project. The most important factors are discussed below:

TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE: This is a very important attribute the Project Manager acquires through years of learning as a Designer/Engineer. It provides the knowledge to identify challenging situations in a project and to focus on them at an early stage.

REPUTATION: A Project Manager's honesty and responsiveness go a long way in a client's decision favoring one firm over another. Reputation takes years to establish and maintain. Reputation can be tarnished easily with one false step.

Other Contributing Factors:

STAFF: Project success is built on understanding staff capabilities and developing trust. A project involves hundreds of manhours. Using the right people saves errors and the correcting effort. Hiring subconsultants to supplement project needs or manpower may be called for.

VISIBILITY: Developing frequent informal client contact is important. Attending MACOG conferences, LTAP meetings, and other institutional gatherings allows you to inquire about new opportunities, discuss new ideas or solutions and develop rapport.

PROJECT SCHEDULE: Keeping tabs on the schedule and building extra room in the schedule is important. Sometimes project funding may be predicated on meeting certain dates in which case following the schedule becomes of paramount importance.

IMPROVEMENT: A Project Manager is always looking for ways to improve the quality of the plans. This can be done by reviewing the work of others, frequent staff discussions and applying lessons learned on completed projects.

Remember when it comes to deciding money, time or quality — quality wins hands down. A Project Manager's reputation hinges on the quality of work they do. You may never get a chance to do more work with a disgruntled client/agency. Time delays depend on the amount of room available in the project's scheduled construction. A Project Manager's reputation represents that of his organization and how it is viewed for obtaining more work and new clients.

Contact Jamal Anabtawi at 260.485.7077 for more information on A&Z's projects or services.



>>> COOKING WITH JAMAL

Tabbouleh

Cool Summer Salad

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup bulgur
- 1 cup diced cucumber
- 1 cup diced tomato
- 1 tsp fine sea salt, divided
- 3 medium bunches of curly parsley
- 1/3 cup of fresh mint
- 1/3 cup thinly sliced green onion
- 1/3 cup extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 to 4 tbsp lemon juice, to taste
- 1 medium clove of garlic, pressed or minced

COOKING INSTRUCTIONS

- >>>Cook the bulgur until al dente according to package directions. Drain off excess water and set aside.
- >>>Combine the diced cucumber and tomato in a medium bowl with 1/2 tsp of the salt. Stir and let the mixture set for at least 10 minutes.
- >>>Using food processor, chop parsley and transfer to large serving bowl.
- >>>Add the chopped mint and green onion to the bowl of parsley. Strain off the cucumber and tomato juices that has accumulated in the bottom of the bowl. Add strained cucumber and tomato to the bowl of parsley. Add in the cooled bulgur to the salad.
- >>>Whisk together the olive oil, 3 tbsp lemon juice, garlic and remaining 1/2 tsp of salt. Pour into the salad and stir to combine. Taste and adjust if necessary.
- >>>Serve immediately or chill for later!

Enjoy!



>>> MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AIM ANNUAL CONFERENCE IS AUGUST 27-29 IN FRENCH LICK! STOP BY AND SEE US AT BOOTH # 58!

>>> PURDUE ROAD SCHOOL

MPO Conference Update

By: Elias Samaan, Transportation Consultant

This past March, A&Z attended Purdue Road School and the consensus was this year's event was a good one! The event kicked-off with a great opening session feature several speakers such as Deputy Administrator of FHWA Brandy Hendrickson, Norfolk Southern's Vice President, Ports of Indiana Executive Officer, the IEDC Executive Vice President and INDOT Commissioner Joe McGuinness. The technical programs included three days of very informative sessions.



>>> A&Z HAS A BIRTHDAY!

On March 8, A&Z celebrated **14 years** of existence! What started as two friends wanting to create their own company to focus on the client's needs, has grown into a successful organization with 32 people. A&Z celebrated with Jamal and Warren telling stories about starting the company and some delicious cake.

>>> A&Z WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYEE TO EXPANDING TEAM



David Tieman started with A&Z Engineering in February

David's background includes roadway design, site layout and design, storm sewer, subsurface utility design and surveying for a variety of roadway and site development projects. His experience includes AutoCAD Civil 3D including the latest civil engineering design technology. David also has experience in land development including streets, public sanitary sewer, water and storm sewer systems, parking lot layouts and design, detention basin and storm sewer design. He has worked extensively on erosion control reports and storm water pollution control specification following the Indiana Department of Environmental Management's specifications.



>>> A&Z AWARDED PROJECT OF THE YEAR

American Public Works Association selected A&Z

The City of Fort Wayne's Coldwater Road Concrete Street Rehabilitation project won the 2019 American Public Works Association Indiana Chapter "Co-Public Works Project of the Year" award. A&Z Engineering designed the project. The City of Fort Wayne was recognized at the annual golf outing in Indianapolis at Eagle Creek on May 23.

>>> A&Z IS BREAKING GROUND

Hessen Cassel improvements to multiple neighborhoods

Mayor Tom Henry led the ceremonial groundbreaking on June 24 for the Hessen Cassel stormwater project. The project will reduce flooding and standing water. Sixth District City Councilman Glynn Hines, City Utilities and Public Works staff members and project construction crews participated in the event. The improvement project focuses on six southeast neighborhoods and includes more than 650 homes in 10 subdivisions. The Hessen Cassel Phase 1 project is worth \$1.8 million in construction and will place 2,500-ft. of storm pipe underground, install 1.8 miles of roadside ditches, include sidewalks on both sides of the road and add an up-to-date traffic signal with pedestrian crosswalks at Tillman Road.



>>> SYRACUSE TRAIL GROUNDBREAKING

CONNECTING SYRACUSE

On June 10, a large group gathered in Syracuse to help start the new hard-earned trail project. The groundbreaking was attended by representatives of the DNR, Earth Source Inc., Town of Syracuse, WACF board members, WPOA board members, Kosciusko Community Foundation, K21 Foundation, trails committee members, A&Z Engineering (who helped design the trail in the state's right-of-way) and contractor Selge Construction.





>>> NEW PROJECT SHOWCASE

Ardmore Avenue Improvements

A&Z, along with subconsultants DLZ, Earth Source and GME, are pleased with the progression of the Ardmore Avenue from Airport Expressway to Second Street project. This project will not only enhance the traffic flow around and near the airport, but includes new landscaping features and a welcoming gateway into the City from the south side. The project also includes a trail along Ardmore Avenue being developed to connect with one that starts on Jefferson Boulevard and runs all the way to the airport.

A groundbreaking ceremony was held March 27. Mayor Henry, the Fort Wayne Redevelopment Commission, contractors, City Community Development and Public Works officials attended the event. *Warren Zwick wields a shovel in the photo (second from the right).*

>>> A&Z FEATURED IN BUSINESS PEOPLE

A&Z was featured in the June 2019 issue of *Business People Magazine*! The article focuses on A&Z's philosophy of 'doing the right thing' for employees and clients.

Visit the A&Z website at www.az-engineering.net for a link to the article to read more!



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