*** ADA Project Risk Management ***

Events can, and do, occur that positively or negatively affect the objective of the ADA project. It is useful to prepare for some typical risks and recognize when they start happening with a deliberate response that minimizes the consequences and/or maximizes the exploitation of a presenting opportunity. These examples are illustrative only; as each project should be addressed on a case by case basis because each project is so unique and important.

Cultural/Historic/Environmental

Event: Are those petroglyphs?
Consequence: minimum $8-10k and 3 months schedule overrun
Response: Coordination with SHPO (State Historic Preservation Office) or THPO (Tribal Historic Preservation Office) in addition to working with LHTAC and/or ITD environmental section
Notes: May only be a cultural review which is a shorter process, but if a survey is required it is a much longer process and SHPO requires 30 days review time once the report is submitted

Hazmat

Event: someone digs up a big barrel...
Consequence: minimum $5k and 2 weeks
Response: call the fire department, review this link

Stormwater System

Event: Discovery of a previously unknown stormwater system, extent of a known system or exceeding a trigger to create a stormwater system where no system currently exists
Consequence: minimum $5-50k and 3 months schedule overrun
Response: Hire a civil engineer, potentially perform geotechnical work and construct the stormwater system appropriate for the land use jurisdiction sponsoring the project
Notes: These are very common and likely project risks

Waters and Wetlands Permitting – Federal and State

Event: working below the high water mark or work that impacts continuous year-round flow
Consequence: minimum $10k and 6 months schedule overrun
Response: Stream Channel Alteration (IDWR) and/or 404 permit (Army Corps) is likely required
Notes: This includes time for consultant to delineate and both permits. Army Corps gets 45 days to review and if it goes to DEQ that’s an additional 60 day review period

Utility coordination

Event: Utility found/hit.
Consequence: $5k-$50k, 1-3 months schedule overrun
Response: Signed utility waivers in time to deliver the plans, specifications, an estimate (PS&E)
Notes: Utilities will often refuse to sign waivers. Failure to coordinate with utilities can result in minor to catastrophic consequences: for above ground utility relocation, right of way shortage or redesign for over the top work, ‘stop work’ is on the table. Relocation tasks should be known at the onset of the project. These events may include locating utilities and constructing sidewalk over the top without disruption; moving a pole, going around a pole or avoidance.
Right of Way

Event: The subject site turns-out to be on private property!
Consequence: funds cannot be used to acquire Right of Way ... stop work.
Response: Pass or fail. Sponsor acquires at own expense, without contribution of federal funds.
Notes: Acquiring right of way is a long lead task and requires final design plans to begin the acquisition process. Property rights issues can end the project if unresolved. Expect delay in obligation of project funds until ITD is informed that the completion of the project is possible.

Response time

Event: Various members of the project team may seem slow to respond
Consequence: Cascading schedule delays, corresponding budget overruns
Response: Increase communication, adaptation and flexibility
Note: When, it can lengthen the design time and increase costs to the project.

Railroad

Event: Railroad corridor and pedestrian corridor intersection improvement
Consequence: maintenance review fee ($500), $1-$3k initial application fee, 15 day rush fee ($5k) or 5 day rush fee ($10k); crossing application (30-45 day min), encroachment application (90-120 day min), and if further questions (30-45day min) for overall total (60-90 day)
Response: Acquire contractor right of entry/temporary use of railroad property permit
Notes: Coordination with railroad partners is a consistently deliberate process. Scale/magnitude dependencies will become realized in this process, from an additional 1-2 months’ to 1-2 years’ timescale depending on the complexity of development/design time required to implement the project abutting, crossing, passing over or obtaining easement with the railroad right-of-way.

Economy, Bidding climate and Inflation

Event: The economy rises and falls and the cost of time, service and material
Consequence: When the government and private sector compete for resources, costs fluctuate
Response: Pay increased/decreased cost, postpone, bid 5 quarters prior to construct, no build
Notes: Sponsors complete estimates during the application period and the projects bid years later, when they go to construction. Timing of advertisement also impacts the construction prices – if possible, a fall or winter bid is ideal for construction the following spring/summer.

Pedestrian Safety

Event: Demolition of curb ramp at an intersection, creating detour
Consequence: The need to separate incompatible transportation uses becomes clear
Response: traffic control/pedestrian safety plan – required to provide same, or better, pedestrian level of service during construction as before construction.
Notes: Successful strategies include: construction of one side of the thoroughfare at a time, detour to the opposite side; detour route one block away or closest cross walk; be mindful of timing, business and local commerce (i.e. 4th of July one week, 10th of July next week); increase communication with local jurisdictions and property owners and deliver on schedule.

Geotechnical

Event: A rock job becomes a dirt job; or conversely, a dirt job becomes a rock job.
Consequence: highly severe or inconsequential
Response: Stop work, reassess, change order and cancel
Notes: Unknown subsurface conditions are a common risk, with scale dependent consequences.
FILL IN THE BLANK:

(Insert Type of Risk) __________________________

(Describe) Event:

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(Describe) Consequence:

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(Describe) Response:

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(Describe) Notes:

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Event:

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