Panel

One Project, Two Worlds: Navigating Public-Private Collaboration in AEC



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PURPOSE & LEARNING **OBJECTIVES**

Purpose:

- Explore how public-and private-sector project managers can successfully collaborate on infrastructure projects by understanding differences, reducing friction, and aligning stakeholders.

Learning Objectives

- Recognize key differences between public-and private-sector expectations
- Apply strategies to build trust and alignment across organizations
- Identify common risk points in public-private collaboration
- Understand how funding, procurement, and regulations shape decisions

Speakers



Dana Giesy, PE, PMP
Principal Project Manager, CDM Smith



Jeff Hardy, PE
Assistant District Engineer, Missouri Department of Transportation



Michelle Kratzer, PE, PTOE
Midwest Planning Group Leader, GFT



William Yord, PE
Senior Project Manager, The Kansas City Area Transportation Authority

What questions do you have for our panelists?

Question 1

Where do misunderstandings most often arise between public-and private-sector PMs early in a project—and what can be done to prevent them from escalating?

Question 2

How do public and private teams define "project success" differently, and how can PMs balance those perspectives without slowing progress?

Question 3

Which procurement or contracting requirements create the most friction in public–private projects, and how can PMs plan around them proactively?

Question 4

What actions have you seen PMs take that successfully build trust across public and private organizations?

Question 5

What are the most common risk points in public–private collaboration, and how can PMs identify and mitigate them earlier?

Question 6

For PMs seeking greater strategic influence, what mindset shift or skill set makes the biggest difference in public–private projects?

Key Takeaways

- Public-private projects succeed through alignment, not assumptions
- Understanding constraints strengthens decision making
- Proactive communication and trust reduce risk



Questions & Discussions

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