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ACCELA
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Designed for all staff and departments who use Accela

Welcome Home Builders Association of Lincoln!

This edition of the Accela project newsletter marks a milestone for the newsletter and the Accela Automation project. The Home Builders Association of Lincoln (HBAL) welcomed us to their general membership meeting. We found an awesome group of people who are committed to excellence and ethics in building Lincoln and surrounding communities. During a presentation given to inform HBAL members of the benefits of the new Accela Automation system, there was a lot of enthusiasm for the changes that Accela Automation is bringing to the Development Services Center (DSC) as well as discovering opportunities to leverage these new technologies within their businesses.

This is a milestone for the newsletter as we have planned to slowly shift the focus of the newsletter from project-only content towards being more community centric and to the contractors who are frequent DSC users. As we planned early on in the life of the newsletter, the audience would slowly shift from only those involved in the immediate project and from the future internal system users, to include HBAL and contractors in the community who are part of improving Lincoln. We have watched the humble beginnings of our newsletter audience grow from roughly 75 to 380 and eventually expect to reach 1,000 recipients.

The HBAL group is comprised of progressive business people who are open to new technologies. As discussed in the presentation, there are a number of technologies which will converge to enable project reviewers, builders, and inspectors to work together more seamlessly to leverage a common repository of information. The audience at HBAL is already familiar with smart devices and indicated heavy use of i/OS and Droid platforms. This also marks an exciting time in the continuation of fine building practices here in Lincoln!



Jim Walkenhorst and Fred Hoke



Mary Kay Bielenberg, Brady Yoder,
Jeff Bielenberg and Russ Neil

Project Status Report

The Accela Automation project is moving ahead as quickly as possible. The "kink in the garden hose"--the bottlenecks on our critical path--have been resolved. We now have working parts for major points of integration with Accela including Crystal Reporting, On Base (the Electronic Document Management System) and ProjectDox for plan review. It has taken the majority of the summer to resolve them; however, the water is beginning to flow more freely again. The number one obstacle on our critical path is conversion. Each conversion pass takes data, conversion business rules, a lot of processing power and many hours to complete. The conversion rules are then fine-tuned as a result of desk and process checking the converted data. We are moving ahead with parallel activities such as, connecting Accela Mobile Office (AMO) to the Accela database. The AMO inspections application has been configured; however, the applications must be tested to ensure that the data is coming into and leaving AMO in the correct manner. Also, Accela Citizen Access (ACA) is getting more attention. The initial setup of ACA is finished. The difficult part of ACA is in progress. This includes setting up the individual permit record types for contractors and the community to access on-line. They can be accessed using a browser on a variety of platforms. There is a legal component of ACA, general liability/disclaimer text information that will be displayed within ACA and this text is being reviewed by the Law Department. It appears that nearly all of the Accela GIS or AGIS layers have been created. Only one layer needs to be tested with a background Script for the Impact Fees record type. We believe that almost all AGIS components have been created for the AA project.

In our recent presentation to HBAL, a question came from the audience after seeing some of the PowerPoint slides called Today/Tomorrow. The question is "When is tomorrow?" The summer has been difficult; the project was slowed with technical issues related to product integration subjects and conversion. Although a "kink in the garden hose" surfaced this summer, progress continued to be made, work did not come to a screeching halt. With progress beginning to climb again we have begun the formal assessment process. Lincoln will create an assessment based upon their perspective and Accela will create an assessment based upon their own. Lincoln and Accela are working together in this process so that as much project detail as possible can be considered during the assessment. The end result is to update our project planning document with Lincoln's critical "go-live" details and project a new target date. This is a detailed process and will take the next two weeks to collect the information from Subject Matter Experts and Accela/Lincoln's project SharePoint site. Additional details about this process and more information about the project will be made available as the assessment and project continue to unfold.

Check out the DSC presentation made to the Home Builders Association of Lincoln (HBAL) at: dsc.lincoln.ne.gov/accela Select the .pdf with a video to see a glimpse of our technology future. Use page up/down keys to navigate through the document. On page 2, simply click on the coffee pot to start the video.



We will never forget



JIM WALKENHORST
PROJECT MANAGER

FRED A. HOKE
PROJECT SPONSOR

Our Accela project newsletter now reaches 380 people!