P6 – Current Status and Vision

March, 2014

Purpose

The purpose of this document is to define the short and long term vision for using P6 in MnDOT. This document will be supplemented by detailed one-pagers related to individual tasks and initiatives.

The Case for Change

PPMS is an aging system that needs to be replaced. There are only two known individuals in the United State which can program the language PPMS was written in. Due to the risk of this system failing, MnDOT and MNIT identified P6 as the best replacement option.

P6 allows MnDOT to not only track things on a project level, but allows additional reporting at the program and enterprise level. Although currently used for state construction projects, P6 can also be used to track project schedules and future budgets in other areas of MnDOT.

P6 and the WIG

The additional program and enterprise level reporting will help MnDOT meet our WIG of Enhancing Financial Effectiveness. As part of the WIG, the following 6 stakeholder questions will be answered:

1. How much does it cost (in dollars and hours) to deliver our program?
2. How much of our program can we deliver in-house?
3. How much does it cost to deliver our products/services?
4. What is our overhead rate?
5. What is the return on our investment (ROI) for our major products and services?
6. What is the lifecycle cost for our major assets.

P6 will play a major role in answering questions 1, 2, and 3. By role loading activities in P6, we will be able to predict how many hours it will take to deliver our program and how much it is anticipated to cost. P6 also allows us to look at things programmatically instead of just by projects. With this function, P6 will help us answer how much of our program we can deliver in-house by balancing resources across multiple projects.

Where We've Been

Although relatively new to pre-construction, construction administration has been using P3/P6 schedules since the mid-2000s. As P6 expanded to pre-construction, the Office of Project Management and Technical Support (OPMTS) has developed dedicated staff to implement P6 and support the districts through a Shared Service Center. Some accomplishments so far include:

- Converted 1,300 schedules from PPMS to P6
- Developed State Road Construction templates
- Purchased and administered over 600 P6/Team Member licenses

Short Term Goals (6 Months)

With the implementation of P6, we have gained several lessons learned over the past year. Before making additional enhancements to the system, we will be working with the districts and functional groups to improve current practices.

Proposed Goal	Reason
Improve and streamline templates	Templates may not be fully serving the needs of our customers Refine and/or add templates to minimize schedule building time
Improve the accuracy of schedules	Some schedules (converted from PPMS or new) may not be accurately reflecting the work occurring.
Improve, streamline and automate reports	Develop reports to help users, project managers, and program/portfolio managers understand the status of projects and the program. OPMTS is spending significant resources generating reports, automation will reduce time and costs.
Move P6 data to the data warehouse	This will assist in streamlining reporting (all data will be in one location)
Train staff on entering some PPMS header data into P6	There is currently two points of data entry, which causes data conflicts. PPMS fields will still be populated, but the date will be "pushed" from P6 into PPMS to eliminate double entry.
Finalize P6 admin processes and procedure documents	Documentation is required to maintain data integrity & consistency in schedule quality
Finalize role loading procedures for preconstruction	Role loading will be used to determine the capacity of MnDOT staff & proactively plan resources
Improve how P6 can track information needed for the WIG scorecard	WIG reporting on the Project Management Battle is reported through P6 for efficiency

Mid Term Goals (6-12 months)

Proposed Goal	Reason
Develop a process for role loading construction administration schedules	Role loading will be used to determine the capacity of MnDOT inspection staff and which projects need assistance from other districts or consultants. This will help better predict the impact of moving letting dates on the construction administration staff.
Find a funding application to replace PPMS (assisting Transportation System Management group)	PPMS is an outdated computer program that is difficult to maintain and support. P6 is not the best tool to manage the financial aspect of PPMS, an alternative system is required.
Role load all pre-construction activities	The current templates and schedules are role loaded, but may not necessarily reflect the accuracy of the projected workload. This still will be to refine the current role loading.
Develop standardized training for P6 and Team Member	This will assist in more efficient use and understanding of the system by users

Long Term Goals (12+ months)

Proposed Goal	Reason
Expand the use of P6 to align with MnDOT Product and Services Grid	As P6 becomes more efficient, other areas besides road and bridge construction may find the tool useful for managing projects.
Completely retire PPMS	PPMS is an outdated computer program that is difficult to maintain and support. PPMS cannot be retired until a funding application is found and all systems/programs that pull PPMS data re-link to P6 data