

CPM's Lean Tips

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What do “defensive medicine” and traditional practices in public construction have in common?

In our current national healthcare debate, one issue that keeps surfacing is tort reform – the idea that limiting frivolous malpractice lawsuits will reduce the amount of unnecessary tests doctors may order when practicing medicine with one eye over their shoulders for the legal profession. Many public agencies do not realize that our current practice of awarding construction based on the “lowest” bid on “completed” plans has similar unintended consequences.

Lean construction practices recognize that much of the work done in preparation of plans for public works projects is unnecessary and wasteful, and is being done because of the exposure of the public clients and design professionals to construction claims by predatory contractors.

Engaging a construction team early in design and selecting all the key team members based on the qualifications rather than lowest cost, results in projects with more efficient processes in both design and construction, lower overall project costs to the owner and faster project completion without exposure to claims. For more information on lean, check out Lean Project Management at <http://www.capitalpm.com/services-lean-manage.html>.