

## Construction planning is the forerunner to scheduling.

There is little doubt that every construction manager, project manager, and general contractor would agree that planning and scheduling are essential to the execution of a project. Few, however, plan *for* scheduling.

## The schedule is the road map for the project!

The schedule provides a graphical representation of predicted tasks,

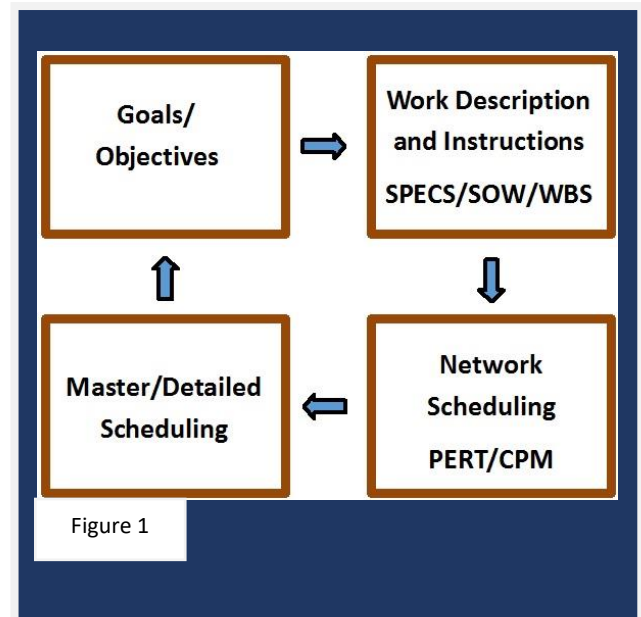


milestones, dependencies, resource requirements, task durations and deadlines. The master schedule interrelates all tasks on a common timeline of the project's life. For the team to navigate the project and keep it on course, the map must be reliable. Reliability requires special attention in planning. The planning effort must be complete and ongoing for effective schedule development. Regular, periodic updates often highlight the need to re-plan part of the project; thus, the process is iterative.

## Let's review planning basics, keeping in mind that we are setting the standard for the schedule.

Planning in a project environment may be described as establishing a predetermined course of action within a forecasted environment. One of the objectives is to completely define all work required so that it will be readily identifiable to each project participant. [1]

Figure 1 represents the cycle of planning/scheduling activities.



## The following points are crucial in planning for scheduling.

Planning a construction project requires adequate thought provided to:

- Site Logistics
- Availability of sub-contractors
- Build Technique and Methods
- Equipment needed and when
- Cost management

### Planning is Collaborative

For the most accurate results, those responsible for executing the project activities need to participate in planning and schedule development for the project.

- Involve subs

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- Involve procurement and logistics
- Involve owner/outside stakeholders (e.g., the city for permits, transportation for delivery for large equipment, Govt Agencies for regulatory and environmental needs)
- Involve the schedule developer

You can only be confident that your master schedule represents how the project team intends to build the project when you have incorporated the above tips into your schedule development process. Their input will help provide a more accurate estimate of the project's completion time.

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***Planning and schedule development set the tone of the entire project—harmony or cacophony!***

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## Fine-tuning

The time to fine-tune any project is before the actual performance. If your team struggles with the ability to do this, then the team performance will suffer, as will the project.

A concert pianist usually does not tune his piano. He knows how his instrument should sound, but he has a specialist keep it tuned.

A violinist must tune his instrument, but he needs the assistance of special tools to make sure he has done it correctly.

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Consider partnering with us. Together we can fine-tune your projects like a Steinway & Sons Piano, Stradivarius Violin, Fender Guitar, or the engine of a well-maintained Dodge Viper.



**Even the highest quality brands with strong reputations must maintain fine-tuning to live up to their potential.**

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References:

[1] Harold Kerzner, Ph. D., *Project Management – A Systems Approach to Planning, Scheduling, and Controlling - Eleventh Edition*, Copyright © 2013 by John Wiley & Sons, Inc. All rights reserved.

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