

CONSTRUCTION OBSERVATION IT'S MORE THAN JUST A GOOD IDEA



What's the value in having someone observe construction on your Indiana Town or City project? It could be priceless!

Having a construction technician, also referred to as a Resident Project Representative (RPR), on-site during the construction phase of a project is not only an invaluable asset to an Indiana project owner, but it can also make all the difference in the project's outcome/success.

"It is very important for us to have an extra set of eyes and ears on all city projects," said Jeff Thomas, Hartford City's superintendent of the Department of Public Works. "They can save the city time and money."

Construction administration starts and ends on-site when a contractor is doing work on a project, providing the owner with "eyes and ears."

The construction technician's job is quality assurance, serving as the liaison between the engineer(s), the city, the contractor and possibly a regulatory agency. The technician observes, documents, and monitors progress, and informs the contractor when work appears to not meet the intent of the plans and specifications.

The observer can also report who was there and what work was performed. Oftentimes the on-site observer can catch construction issues and provide a corrective course of action, saving the project owner and taxpayers lots of time and money.

"Having someone onsite constantly communicating with contractors and city officials is huge," Thomas said.

Fleis & VandenBrink (F&V) assisted the City of Hartford City on its recent Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) ADA sidewalk project along Jefferson and Park streets.

"The technician was very knowledgeable and kept me in the loop on every step of the project," Thomas added. "If there were any questions or concerns, he would call me immediately and we would discuss in length to resolve the issue."

"It saved me a lot of time."

WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUCCESSFUL PROJECT

A construction technician is usually on-site to answer questions from the contractor, the client, property owners and residents. They take photos and record the quantity of materials that come onto and leave the site.

They're also on-call for questions regarding work on-site. This constant communication between all parties helps move the project forward.

Construction technicians can also upload documentation on proprietary systems including the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Site Manager and ProjectWise applications. They can also work with your community and the contractor to write change orders and work directives and test concrete used and density of materials in-place.

The on-site observer does not direct the contractor on how to perform work or undertake any of their responsibilities including the superintendence of construction processes, site conditions, operations, equipment, or personnel, or the maintenance of a safe place to work or any safety in, on, or about the site.

F&V staff are prequalified by Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) in many construction engineering, inspection, and testing categories from simply checking ADA compliance to full-depth road reconstruction including utility relocations. This applies to private, local, and INDOT LPA projects.

"Construction technicians are the professionals and know the projects in and out," Thomas added. "We cannot always be on-site, but they can be there to see and hear everything that is being completed."

If you want "eyes and ears" on site during construction of your project to address issues as they arise, call F&V's Tom Cicero at 317.210.8922 or tcicero@fveng.com. We'll tailor our services to your needs!

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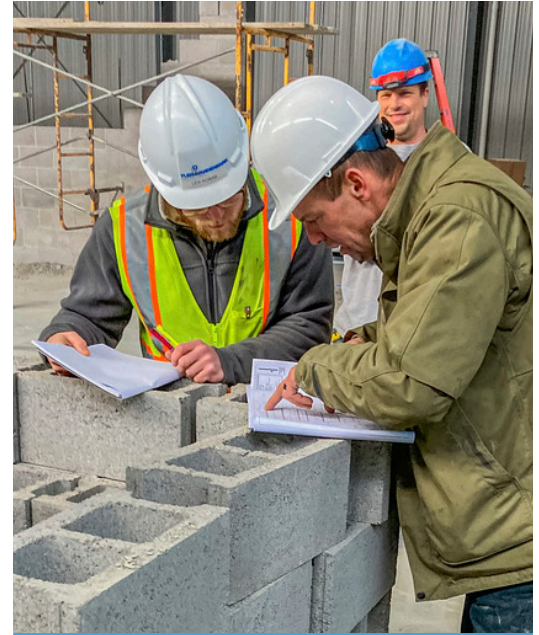
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