

Three Lessons From Some of the Country's Largest Civil Projects

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THE PASSAGE OF THE HISTORIC INFRASTRUCTURE ACT IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM THE COUNTRY'S MOST IMPACTFUL BUILDS, ACCORDING TO A CONSTRUCTION LOGISTICS EXECUTIVE.

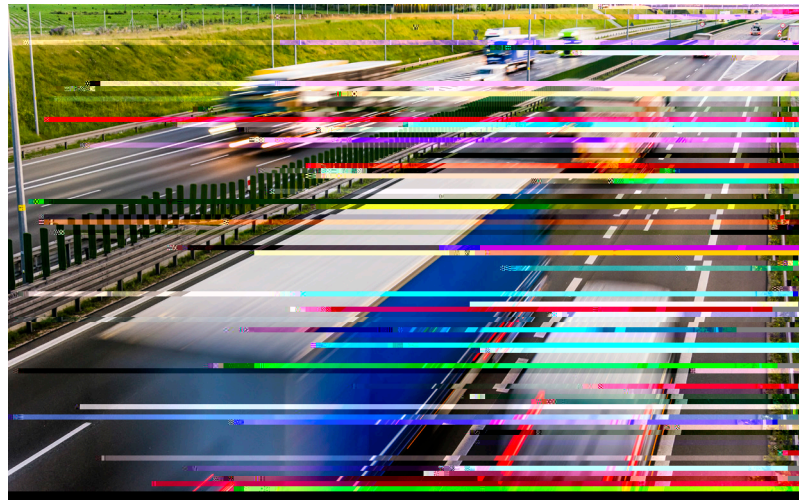
With the passage of the historic infrastructure bill, \$1.2 trillion will now be leveraged for much-needed improvements bU]cbk [XY"K \]Y'gdYVY VgUFY g]` VY]b['XYVUH'X'cb \ck` states will fund which projects, it's an opportunity for the]bXi gfmrc'fY Vm'K \Uhj Ui UV`Y`YggcbgWb'k Y`YUfb'Z'ca` major infrastructure projects over the last century?

There are countless examples of projects that made a notable impact on the country, but three of the most successful ones UFY.

- » The Interstate Highway System
- » The Big Dig
- » Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

Before we put these federal infrastructure funds to work, let's pause and study how these infrastructure projects came to be, the techniques contractors used, and the technology they deployed. By taking away critical lessons and applying them to today's market, construction pros can set themselves up for success.

The Interstate Highway System



The Interstate Highway System is considered the "Greatest Public Works Project in History." Funded by the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1956, it consisted of 41,000 miles of road spanning coast to coast and running through the nation's major Vh]Yg'7cbgfi V]cb'VY[Ub']b'%) +UbX'k Ug'cZ V]U`m]Vta d'Yh'X']b'%- &žh'ci [\`]hk Ug` fg]g'UH'X'hc'VY Vta d'Yh'X'Vm'%- +&" Congress allotted \$25 billion for the project in 1956, but it ended up costing \$41 billion, or nearly \$417 billion today.

- H`Yfy'k Yfy'g]j YfU`VWU`Yb[Yg'UggcV]UH'X'k]h`h'Y'dfc'V]h
- » Coordinating the efforts of several state DOTs and planning councils.
 - » Adjusting development and construction to federal standards.



» The project occurred in the middle of Boston, which if

Overall, the project spanned from 1990 through 2007. When

The Big Dig is a modern example of a project that improved residents' quality of life, but could have been implemented better. The project had considerable budget overruns, timeline delays and poor planning which resulted in costly rebuilds and materials issues. Had they had access to today's technology for process optimization, materials sourcing, cost streamlining, and

3 takeaways from these projects

These landmark developments demonstrate the lasting impact infrastructure projects can have, but they also highlight the need to leverage the right technology and tools to get them completed on time and on budget. While



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Opinions are the author's own.

Photo courtesy of Trux.

About the Article

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5bnj 'Jk g'UbX'cd]b]cbg'Yl dfYggYX']b'h.]g'Ufh]WY'a Umcf'a UmbchfY' YWthY' views and opinions of the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA). By publishing this piece, CMAA is not expressing endorsement of the individual, the article, or their association, organization, or company.