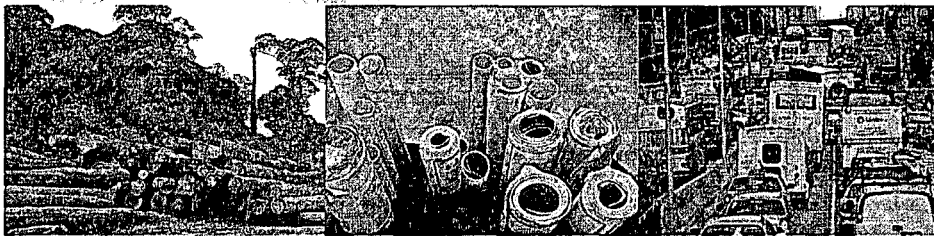# Electronic Plan Submission and Review

Improve the Process

Conserve the Environment

Save Time and Money

Use ProjectDox

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Why ePlan Submission and Review?

It's time to go paperless!

Paperless processes **save time, money,** valuable **resources.** Meet a new generation of challenges in environmental conservation, commercial competitiveness, emergency response and disaster recovery.

The technology to support electronic plan (ePlan) processes is available now and is being implemented by many jurisdictions nationwide.

The total cost of continuing with manual, paper-based plan review processes far exceeds the cost of ePlan implementation.

ePlan technology can be integrated with existing or planned permitting system software, or function independently as a stand-alone solution.

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Key Metrics

- Environmental Benefits
  - Reduce Paper
  - Reduce Miles Driven and Cars on the Road
- Improve the Process
  - Shorten the permit process
  - More Accurate and Parallel review process
  - Central, easy access to all documentation
- Expedite Tax Assessment
- Interoperability
- Bridge the Future

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Reduce Paper Usage/Storage up to 80%

- Using digital files drastically reduces paper consumption and the cost to manage and store paper documents

Every 7.5 sheets of construction plans requires approximately 1 lb. of paper. If each permit requires several sets of plans to be submitted/resubmitted, the amount of paper used can be astronomical.

A permit with:
30 sheets per set, 4 sets, 4 revisions = 64 lbs of paper, storage for 4 lbs.

A jurisdiction that issues 3000 permits per year:
Receives 192,000 lbs of paper (approx 96 tons)
Stores at least 12,000 lbs for final print set (6 tons)

Save 239 trees!

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Support Green/Environmental Initiatives

- Reduce miles driven by citizens and couriers
- Enable telecommuting
- Reduce Carbon Monoxide emissions
- Save trees

Example: 1 permit requiring 1 submission and 3 resubmissions, and departmental distribution by the jurisdiction

Assumptions: 10 miles one way (applicant)

3000 permits with plans reviewed in ProjectDox can eliminate

- 312,000 miles driven
- 20,800 gallons of fuel used
- 457,600 lbs. carbon monoxide emitted
- $57,200 in fuel costs
- 12,480 hours of drive-time
- 60,000 cars on the road

Note: This does not include drive-time and costs for interdepartmental courier or departmental personnel working at home

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Improve the Process

- Increase the accuracy of the review process
- Improve the inter-departmental communication
- Maintain a complete history of all actions
- Allow the applicant to get status and information about the review process online
- Perform parallel reviews by multiple departments
- Centralize documentation: easy to find, easy to search, easy to view
- Use outside consultants without transferring paper plans
- Measure productivity
- **SHORTEN THE REVIEW CYCLE 20-50%**

Example:
A large county jurisdiction in the Western U.S has reduced its premium expedited plan review service from 11 days to 3 days.

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Enhance the Process for Applicants

- Applicants have access (24/7) to a secure, fast and convenient system to submit/resubmit plans
- Easy access to current plan review status
- Cycle time reduced allowing faster project completion
- Save time and money. Eliminating paper reduces cost to applicants by thousands of dollar per plan review
  - Gas costs
  - Printing Costs
  - Labor Costs

GET A COMPETITIVE EDGE!
Improve the Plan submittal and review process and
make your jurisdiction even more attractive to applicants

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Tax Assessment Expedited

- **Streamlined processes means buildings are completed sooner and on tax records faster**

Land that is undeveloped or in transition generates less tax revenue than land that is certified for occupancy (CO).

If the time to issue a CO is reduced by 20%, over the course of 1 year the potential increase in tax revenue for a jurisdiction would be significant.

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Interoperability

- Increased cross-departmental and cross-agency communication
- Collaboration between organizations is easier with access to the same records
- Speeds disaster response and recovery with As-Built drawings available from any location quickly and remotely
- No software is needed on the machines of the reviewers
- Communication is automated with reminders and notification of activities that pertain to each individual regardless of location, agency or department

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Bridge to the Future

- Prepares jurisdiction for new technologies and processes (such as Building Information Modeling of 3D & 4D designs and SMARTCodes)
- Leverage new technology easier when the basics are in place
- Attract talented new employees
- Be ready for commercial and federal practices that are rapidly evolving

Jurisdictions will have to compete for talented employees and commercial business!

You are either moving forward or falling behind.

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ProjectDox Clients Reap the Benefits

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- "As one of America's largest and fastest growing counties, we have witnessed a huge increase in demand not only for faster and better permitting services, but for streamlined IT infrastructure between departments. Moving to electronic review and approval gives us a number of near and long-term advantages over paper-based manual processes and fits well with our vision of system interoperability." **Gordon Jennings, Director of Information Technologies/ Planning and Development – Maricopa County, AZ**

- "We have always taken great pride in being a technologically-advanced Building Department. ProjectDox will be a great communication enhancement in working with design professionals that will enable us to serve these clients in a highly efficient manner by providing a way to permit their projects more expeditiously." **Chuck Zimmerman, Building & Safety Manager – City of Lincoln, NE**

- "Automating the development and construction permitting process as much as possible using tools like ProjectDox gives us tremendous opportunities to serve our rapidly growing county. ProjectDox not only provides more structure and support for our commitment to building safety, but it also facilitates information visibility for all our departments and citizens at any time. We're a better building department with this technology." **Clinton Wallace, Director of Building – Osceola County, FL**

- "Our goal is to implement technologies that have intrinsic and long-term economic, social and ecological value, and at the same time fit well with our information management strategy. ProjectDox is an important first step towards electronic plan review, a key component of our strategic plan to improve customer service, convenience, and our permitting and development review processes." **John Sweeney, Business Operations Manager, Development Services Department – Pima County AZ**

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Benefits Summary

- Reduce Plan Review processing time by 20-50%
    - Example: A jurisdiction reduced the expedited commercial residential building permit time from 11 days to 3 days, reduced the cycle by 67% and increased the fees charged
- Save the Environment
    - 80% reduction in paper compared to traditional paper plan review
    - Eliminate the requirement for a warehouse lease for storage of paper plans
    - Reduce miles driven and associated carbon monoxide emissions
- Eliminate counter submission
    - Resulted in incremental staff time for review
    - Improved customer satisfaction
    - Environmental contribution
- Improved competitiveness in the commercial space
- Expedited tax revenues

ROI can be realized as quickly as 4 months

ROI calculations and many benefit statements are taken from *On Best Practices in Electronic Plan Submittal, Review and Storage* by the Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age at FIATECH
www.natlpartnerstreamline.org

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