



4castplus

Customer Success Story

Crosslinx Transit Solutions

Challenge: Crosslinx Transit needed an efficient solution to manage the budget, cost tracking, analysis and cost control of the Eglinton Crosstown LRT mega infrastructure project; the largest transit expansion in Canada.

Solution: 4castplus has been implemented across all segments of the project, and daily costs are being tracked and analyzed against budget and contracts in real-time. 4castplus is now the central repository for all cost information, replacing an inefficient spreadsheets and paper solution.



Background

Crosslinx Transit Solutions (CTS) is a design and construction consortium established to deliver and maintain the Eglinton Crosstown LRT. The consortium is comprised of four



global and local leaders in transportation infrastructure: [ACS-Dragados](#), [Aecon](#), [EllisDon](#) and [SNC-Lavalin](#). The Eglinton Crosstown will add over 19 kilometres of new light rail – 10 underground – that starts in the west end of Toronto and travels right through the city to the east end, with 25 new stations and stops linking to 54 bus routes, three subway stations and various GO transit lines. It's the largest infrastructure expansion megaproject in Canada, that's many billions in size and will span multiple years to complete.

The Situation

As a joint venture (JV) responsible for a high-profile, publicly funded infrastructure project, the team at Crosslinx Transit knew they needed to take the business of project controls and cost transparency seriously. Prior to adopting 4castplus, they were struggling with getting accurate and reliable cost and activity information from their employees and subcontractors that were actively doing work. The work that had started was not being tracked and costed on a daily basis; and was only known after the vendor invoice was posted to the project at some later date – sometimes weeks or months later. This lack of real-time information posed a real issue with both their internal and external stakeholders. "Things were happening on the project," says Roger Howarth, Senior Vice President Project Controls (Aecon) at Crosslinx Transit, "but we didn't have any visibility into what progress was being made, what costs were being incurred or whether the subs were achieving their agreed-to productivity. That made a lot of people nervous."

The solution they had in place initially was made up of Primavera P6 plus various spreadsheets where data was being manually entered, shared through email, and re-keyed into other spreadsheets for reporting. They also had to wait for Subcontractor invoices to be processed by AP before their costs were being recognized on the project. This introduced a significant delay in being able to analyze costs in a timely manner so that they could take corrective action quickly and decisively.

A Data Management Challenge

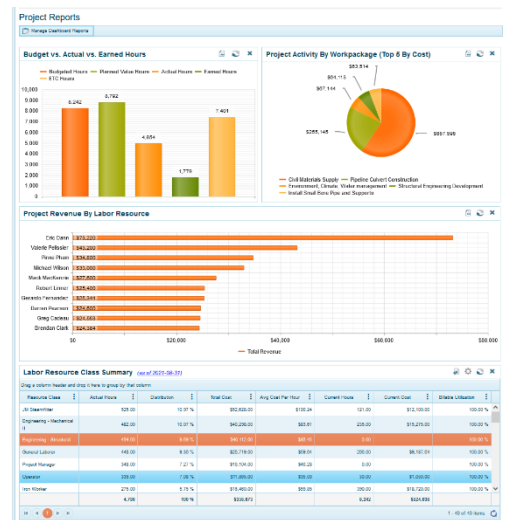
The Eglinton rail expansion is a multi-billion-dollar project that is divided into multiple segments – where each segment is further divided into individual projects such as stations, rail lines, bus loops, etc. For each of these sub-segment projects there is a tremendous amount of cost and activity data being collected daily including, labor, equipment, materials, documents, progress, etc. There are multiple crews and shifts, with some union and some non-union workers, and many subcontractors. All of it needing to be documented to recognize cost, payroll hours and progress on the project in real-time; and then needs to be routed for approval through the appropriate multi-

stage workflows. This all results in a tremendous amount of project data being collected for daily analysis and reporting by project controls and project managers.

Solution: 4castplus

4castplus handles this level of complexity and data management with ease, and provides a multitude of charts, timeline curves and reports to ensure project managers can stay on top of each sub-segment of the project. It provides a vast array of reporting options that can be very granular for the key details and can also be more high-level, for executive dashboard reporting. At all levels, one-click reports show comparisons of Budget vs. Actual Cost vs. Earned Value (Progress) to show any potential issues that may be surfacing. 4castplus also provides powerful productivity metrics so that project controls can get an early warning of subcontractors or crews that are not achieving agreed-to performance targets.

"I need to know which contractors are causing delays," adds Howarth. "We don't have time or budget for any productivity issues. That's just unwanted risk that we need to address sooner rather than later."



An Independent and Objective System

Managing this daily flood of data with a manual spreadsheet solution was not only resulting in errors, missing data and delays getting access to information – it was also very labor intensive and wasn't providing the reporting required.

Although each of the joint venture partners had a 'system' they use for tracking project costs, contract management and, in some cases, project controls; it was decided that they needed to implement an off-the-shelf system that was not owned by or affiliated with any of the joint venture partners. The intent was to ensure they were getting the best-in-class solution, and to eliminate any potential friction amongst the partners. After evaluating several commercial solutions, 4castplus was chosen to provide project cost tracking, project controls, contract management and reporting for the Crosslinx Eglinton project.

"4castplus is very well designed and easy for the whole team to learn and work with," asserts Trevor Watt, manager, Project Controls at Crosslinx. "It needed to be easy for

our field personnel to enter their daily LEMs so we could get accurate cost reporting. These guys in the field aren't always very technical."

4castplus stood out as the solution that was far more well-rounded in that it does much more than collect and report on the data – it includes powerful cost control, procurement, and analysis tools to support the project team in making timely and critical decisions to keep the project on budget and on schedule.

Successful Outcomes

As a high-profile project, the Crosslinx Transit joint venture wanted to ensure their client (the City of Toronto) are happy with the outcome of a successful project delivered on budget and on time. 4castplus raises the quality level of what they deliver throughout the project. With so much valuable information being gathered, analyzed and shared-out to stakeholders at all levels each day, Crosslinx Transit can deliver accurate, timely information that leads to good decision-making and transparency.

Ongoing Partnership

The Crosslinx Transit team has provided valuable feedback and feature recommendations to the 4castplus team which have been well received and implemented into the system. "4castplus is very open and very good at listening to their clients. It's clear they're very eager to continuously improve the product to make it better, smarter, and easier." The Eglinton Crosstown LRT expansion is projected to be a 6-year project, so they wanted to make certain they were partnering with an organization like 4castplus that is committed to continuous growth and open communication.

Who Uses 4castplus?

Contractors, Owners, EPCMs in industries such as, Infrastructure Construction, Oil and Gas, Mining, Utilities, and Commercial Construction.

Benefits

- Eliminate Spreadsheet and Paper Solutions
- Current, Accurate and Complete Project Information
- One-Touch Data: Optimized Information Flow
- Reduced Staffing Costs
- Elimination of Project Cost Overruns
- Centralized Repository for all Projects, Programs, Resources and Costs

- Productivity Improvements
- Easy to Use
- Standardization and Best Practices
- Elimination of Waste
- Reduction of Project Risk
- Early Identification of Project Issues

Key Features

- Project Controls
- Project Budgeting and Forecasting
- Construction Procurement and Subcontracting
- Construction Cost Tracking
- Estimating
- Change Order Management
- Document Management
- Integration with Finance System (ERP)
- Timesheets and Customer Billing
- Vendor Invoice Matching and Approvals
- Cloud Based with Mobile App

Learn More

If your company is in need of cloud-based project cost management software as a unified platform for your project teams to successfully deliver projects, we'd love to hear from you! Contact us today at the following:

[Click here to contact us](#) or

[Click here to sign up for a live demo](#)

