

# Maintaining Construction Operations During COVID-19

## PennDOT Engineering District 5 Construction Unit

### Problem/Challenge Addressed

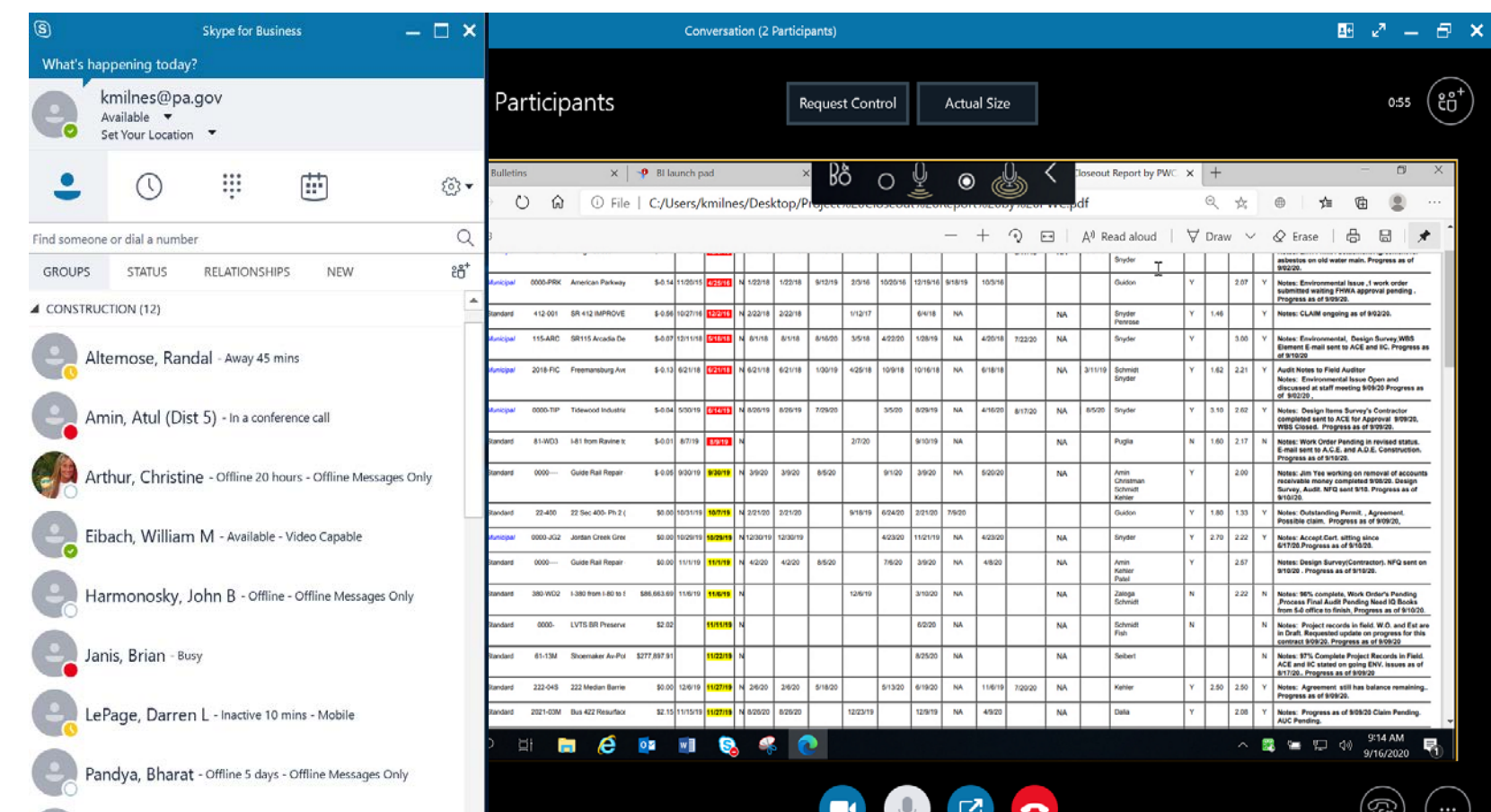
When routine in-person activities were suspended due to COVID-19 restrictions, the District 5 Construction Unit embraced modern technology to continue operations virtually. The activities affected included: staff meetings, materials testing, project documentation audits, and site inspections.

### Method/Process/Product to Resolve Challenge

In order to conduct monthly staff meetings, District 5 utilized *Skype for Business*. This platform allowed participants to collaborate as they would normally face-to-face without exposing each other to possible health risks.

### Results/Key Takeaways

The flexibility of staff to attend virtual meetings regardless of their physical location increased attendance that would otherwise depend on their physical presence.



### Contact Information

Kevin Milnes, P.E., Assistant District Executive – Construction  
(610) 871-4413

[kmilnes@pa.gov](mailto:kmilnes@pa.gov)



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### Method/Process/Product to Resolve Challenge

When challenged with maintaining social distance while performing concrete cylinder compressive strength tests, District 5 turned to *FaceTime* on their iPad device to witness the “breaks” remotely.

### Results/Key Takeaways

This method kept inspection staff safe from interacting with others, thereby limiting the spread of COVID-19. An added benefit was the significant savings in travel time and mileage expenses associated with observing this test in person.

### Contact Information

Tony Zaloga, Transportation Construction Manager  
(570) 956-6583  
[azaloga@pa.gov](mailto:azaloga@pa.gov)





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## Method/Process/Product to Resolve Challenge

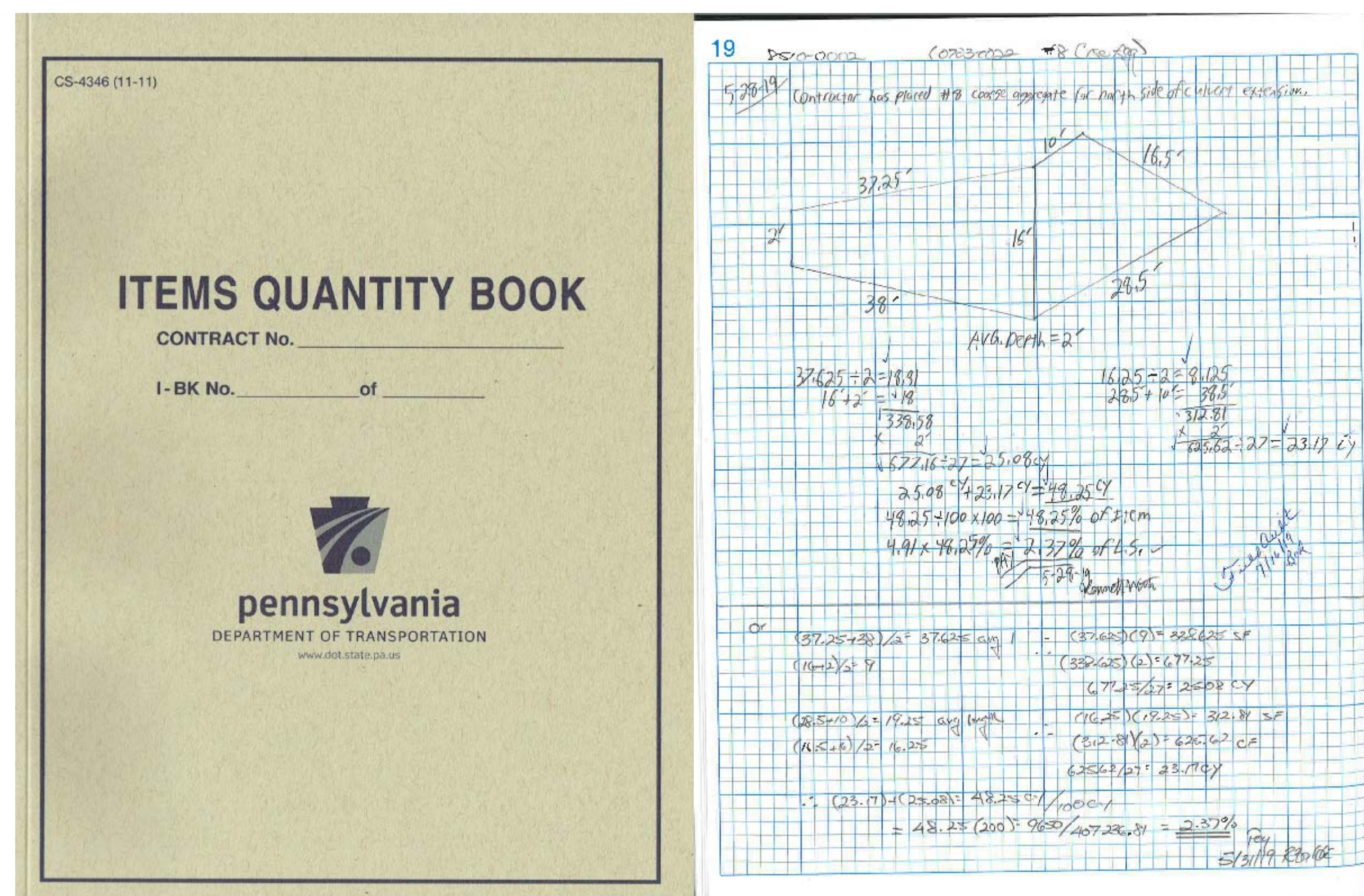
PennDOT construction projects require frequent field audits that involve a thorough examination of project records. In order to complete this task while maintaining social distancing, the field staff used *OneDrive* to share scanned copies of project documentation that were too large to send via conventional email.

## Results/Key Takeaways

Electronic transmission of documents eliminated the contact between field staff and auditors, reduced travel time associated with performing field audits, and allowed the records to be archived electronically rather than taking up physical storage space.

## Contact Information

Ben Bayuk, EIT, Civil Engineer Supervisor  
(610) 428-9541  
[bbayuk@pa.gov](mailto:bbayuk@pa.gov)





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PennDOT Engineering District 5-0 Construction Unit

## Method/Process/Product to Resolve Challenge

Contractors with active construction projects that were temporarily shut down during COVID-19, were still required to maintain traffic control through their work zone. As a means of ensuring that the traffic control devices were operational during the stay-at-home order, inspectors purchased *Dashcams* to video record the state of the site.

## Results/Key Takeaways

Video recordings of the construction project can provide many benefits including but not limited to pre-construction conditions, time-stamped visual progress updates, issue resolution, and claims avoidance.

## Contact Information

Joe McFadden, Construction Manager  
(484) 515-0381  
[jmcfadden@mbakerintl.com](mailto:jmcfadden@mbakerintl.com)

