



The Basics of Lean Construction Methods

By Holly Welles

Lean construction is a way to manage building projects by cutting waste and adding more value for clients. It focuses on teamwork, making improvements, and treating workers with respect. By reducing inefficiencies, lean construction helps projects finish on time, improves the quality of the work, makes workers happier, and reduces risks. Teams can adopt lean construction by empowering workers, pursuing continuous improvement, maintaining equipment proactively, using pull scheduling, and aligning goals with client priorities.

Most construction companies want to deliver the best possible results for their clients while expending the least possible resources. Yet, the construction industry has traditionally been littered with waste and inefficiencies. Today, some of the most successful companies use lean construction philosophy to guide their operations. Such companies regularly impress clients, maintain high morale, and create high-quality structures.

Many industry professionals have heard of lean construction, but they may not know what exactly it is or how they can apply it effectively. Let's take a look at the basics of lean construction and its benefits below.

What Is Lean Construction?

Lean construction is a relationship-focused production management system that aims to eliminate waste from the entire construction process and deliver greater value to clients.

The method has its roots in the Toyota Production System. First developed in Toyota Automatic Loom Works in Japan in the 1920s and later implemented in Toyota automobile manufacturing facilities after World War II, the system focused on providing greater customer satisfaction while reducing waste and giving workers more meaningful jobs. Toyota's strategies were found to be so successful that lean concepts were adapted for use outside of manufacturing.

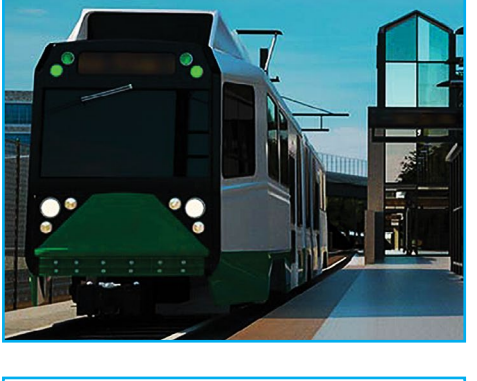
In the United States, lean construction has become heavily associated with tools such as just-in-time inventory, in which companies receive



materials on an as-needed basis. However, as a philosophy, lean construction involves much more than effective inventory management. Lean construction offers a framework for improving the entire construction process, from

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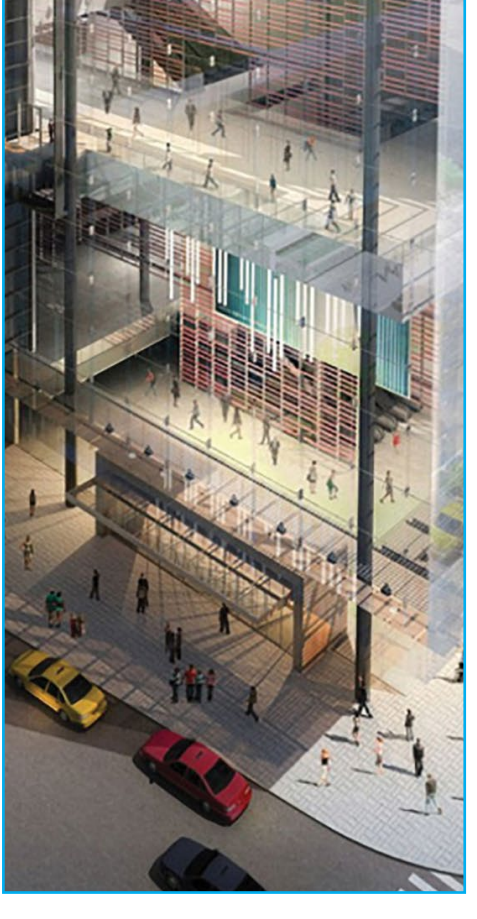
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PROJECT OVERVIEW
 A new out-of-the-ground two story, approximately 80,000 square foot (SF), Operational Facility, along with an adjacent, approximately 10,000 square foot (SF), equipment yard, on a 7-acre clear greenfield site in Melville, New York. This is a purpose-built, storm-hardened, redundant, state-of-the-art operational facility.

The building will include a 2-story high Technology arena, second story observation space, offices, meetings and training rooms, break rooms with pantries, a wellness room, restrooms with showers and lockers, and an open work area for workstations or touchdowns. The facility will also contain various meeting spaces that are flexible, and capable of being subdivided into three or more rooms that may be utilized as bunk areas to house storm riders. All necessary and required mechanical, electrical, emergency back-up equipment, and systems with also be constructed.

The project construction duration is from Q1 2026 through Q4 2027.



NMSDC
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SBA 101: Introduction to SBA Programs Webinar
 Monday, June 8, 2026, 10:00 am–11:00 am Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration, Rhode Island District Office
 Contact: Brian Hopkins, 401-528-4575, brian.hopkins@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required

This free workshop, presented by the Rhode Island District Office, is designed to help entrepreneurs understand the various SBA programs and services available to help them as they start, expand, grow, and recover their businesses. This overview presentation covers: Introduction to the SBA; SBA Resource Partner Network—Business Training and One-on-One Counseling; Selling to the Federal Government—SBA Contracting Certification Programs; Access to Capital—Loan and Surety Bond Programs; International Trade Assistance; Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Assistance Loans. Register online for the free Assistance Loans webinar at <https://www.sba.gov/event/80670>

Federal Contracting for Small Businesses Webinar
 Tuesday, June 9, 2026, 12:00 pm–1:30 pm Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
 Contact: Irene Gonzalez, 208-334-1673, irene.gonzalez@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required
 Learn the essentials of federal contracting for

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
 Tuesday, June 16, 2026, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
 Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1986913543896>

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