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Performance Comparison of Design-Build and Construction Manager/General Contractor Highway Projects

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PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF DESIGN-BUILD AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGER/GENERAL CONTRACTOR HIGHWAY PROJECTS

By

Binita Shakya

Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering

Tribhuvan University, Nepal

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A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment

of the requirements for the

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December 2013

Abstract

Performance Comparison of Design-Build and Construction Manager/General Contractor Highway Projects

by

Binita Shakya

Dr. Pramen P. Shrestha, Examination Committee Chair

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Professor Neil D. Opfer, Advisory Committee Member

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Researchers have conducted numerous studies comparing project performance of designbid-build (DBB) and design-build (DB) highway projects. However, little research has been done to compare the performance of DB and construction manager/general contractor (CM/GC) highway projects. Therefore, an exploratory study was conducted to compare the performance of 55 DB and 34 CM/GC highway projects from various States Departments of Transportation (DOTs) in terms of cost, change orders, and construction intensity. The results showed that contract award cost growth was significantly lower in DB projects than in CM/GC projects. In contrast to this, the total cost growth of DB projects was higher than that of CM/GC projects. In terms of change order cost factor and construction intensity, DB projects were found to be superior to CM/GC projects. However, no statistical difference was found.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

The project delivery method is defined as "the process by which a construction project is comprehensively designed and constructed for an owner - including project scope definition; organization of designers, constructors, and various consultants; sequencing of design and construction operations; execution of design and construction; and closeout and start-up" (Touran et al. 2009). Typically, there are three project delivery methods used in highway projects. They are design-bid-build (DBB), design-build (DB), and construction manager/general contractor (CM/GC).

For many decades, DBB was a major delivery method used to design and construct buildings, highways, and infrastructure projects. However, cost and schedule overruns, increased change orders, and disputes led State Departments of Transportation (DOTs) to slowly transition from the traditional method, DBB, to alternative project delivery (APD) methods. DB and CM/GC are major APD methods. In 2010, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) initiated Every Day Counts (EDC) to reduce the project delivery time using accelerated project delivery methods. EDC encourages the use of DB and CM/GC project delivery methods for the better and faster delivery of projects to the public (FHWA 2013a). The most-used APD method in highway construction is DB. However, recently State DOTs have started using CM/GC to construct highways.

Various studies have been conducted to determine the effect of DB and DBB project delivery methods on highway project performance. However, the performance comparison between DB and CM/GC has not been conducted yet. This exploratory study

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compares the performance of highway projects constructed using DB and CM/GC project delivery methods.

1.1. Design-Build (DB) in Highway Projects

FHWA defines DB as "a project delivery method that combines two, usually separate services into a single contract. With design-build procurements, owners execute a single, fixed-fee contract for both architectural/engineering services and construction" (FHWA 2013b). Therefore, DB is an integrated approach in which design and construction services are performed under a single contract. DB offers many benefits to the owner. The single point responsibility, low cost, accelerated schedule, and shifting risk to contractors are the major advantages of using DB. The designer and builder work together under the same contract in DB (Fig. 1). Because the designer and contractor work as a single team, the team develops innovative design and construction plans, ensuring quality and economy along with minimized risk and elimination of change orders.

Figure 1. Design-Build (DB) Process

Most DB projects use a two-phase selection process. The two-phase selection involves pre-qualification of firms in the first step and issuance of the Request for Proposal (RFP) and evaluation of technical and price proposals in the second step. The scope of work should be well defined in the RFP document for the success of DB projects (FHWA 2009). Though the small highway projects use fixed-price sealed bidding as well as one-step, two-step, and sole-source selection methods to select the DB contractor, more states are transitioning from fixed-price and one-step low-bid methods to two-step best-value methods (Molenaar & Gransberg 2001).The best value selection process uses weighting method incorporating technical proposal and bid price while selecting DB contractor.

The study has found that DB is suitable for projects that require accelerated schedule and have well-defined design and construction scope (FHWA 2009). DB method is best suitable for projects, such as major and minor bridges, interstate and rural

widening, buildings, and overpasses. However, the study has found that it is not appropriate for rehab/repair of major bridges, movable bridges, and urban construction/reconstruction works that have major problems related with utilities, subgrade, or other significant unknowns.

Currently, in most of the states, DB is allowed for the construction of transportation projects. Until the end of 2006, 13 states were not authorized to use DB in transportation projects (Ghavamifar and Touran 2008). On the basis of a 2013 Report of the Design Build Institute of America (DBIA), DB is "not specifically authorized" for transportation procurement in six states (DBIA 2013). In contrast to this, the Survey Report of FHWA Division Office showed that eight states were not authorized to use DB in transportation projects (Fig. 2) (Blanding 2012).

Figure 2. Design-Build (DB) Authority in Various States in 2012

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Source: FHWA EDC (Blanding 2012)

1.2. Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) in Highway Projects

The CM/GC project delivery method is "an integrated team approach to the planning, design, and construction of a highway project, to control schedule and budget, and to ensure quality for the project owner" (Gransberg and Shane 2010). The federal aid transportation projects should get approval from Special Experimental Projects No. 14 (SEP-14) to use CM/GC. Though CM/GC is relatively new in highway projects, it has been used for a long time in vertical construction. According to FHWA, some differences in transportation projects from vertical construction include "self-performance requirements are typical, subcontractor procurement process is different, and CMGC relies on best-value selection" (FHWA 2013c). The variation in use of terms for CM/GC also depends on States codes. For example, it is referred to as CM/GC in Oregon but as general contractor/construction manager (GC/CM) in Washington (Rojas and Kell 2008).

There are two contract phases in CM/GC: the preconstruction or design phase and the construction phase (Fig. 3). The contractor's input in the preconstruction phase has been rated as the major advantage of using CM/GC (Gransberg and Shane 2010; Schierholz 2012). Similarly, the schedule-accelerating ability of the CM/GC contractor is recognized as the top benefit of using this project delivery method (Schierholz 2012). Furthermore, in addition to the cost advantage in the design phase, the teamwork between the construction manager and the designer are significant benefits of using CM/GC. However, it is suggested that in order to develop the co-ordination between construction manager and designer, the clause regarding teamwork should be clearly mentioned in the design and preconstruction services contract (Shane and Gransberg 2010).

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Figure 3. Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) Process

The FHWA Division Office Survey found that 12 states have full authority and six states have limited/partial authority to use the CM/GC project delivery method (Fig. 4) (Haynes 2012). The other study has found that thirteen states have legislative authorization to use the CM/GC method (Gransberg 2012).

Figure 4. Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) Authority in Various

States in 2012

Source: FHWA EDC (Haynes 2012)

CMGC method is used recently by State DOTs because owner has some control over the construction cost in this method compared to DB method. DB and CM/GC methods are similar in terms of contractor's input during design phase. However, there are some differences in these two methods. Table 1 shows the similarities and the differences in these two types of project delivery method.

Table 1. Comparison of Design-Build (DB) and Construction Manager/General

Contractor (CM/GC) Project Delivery Methods

1.3. Research Needs and Objectives:

This exploratory study measured the performance of DB and CM/GC project delivery methods in highway projects. The main objectives of this research are:

- To compare the cost, change orders, and construction intensity of DB and CM/GC project delivery methods in highway projects;
- To determine whether these performance metrics are significantly different in these two types of delivery methods.

Chapter 2

Literature Review

Various literature related to DBB, DB, and CM/GC was reviewed. The literature review was primarily focused on the selection criteria for these three types of project delivery methods and performance comparisons of projects built using these methods. The performance comparison section is divided into two sections: the first section includes the project performance comparison of building and infrastructure projects built using these methods; and the second section covers the comparison in highway projects.

2.1. Factors in Selecting a Project Delivery Method

Selection of an appropriate project delivery method is an important decision to maintain balanced cost, schedule, and quality. Various factors affect the selection of the project delivery method (Tran and Molenaar 2012, 2013; Ghavamifar and Touran 2008; Touran et al. 2011; Schierholz 2012; Touran et al. 2009). The study by Tran and Molenaar (2012) determined eight, twelve, and eight critical risk factors that influence the decision of the selection of DBB, DB, and CM/GC methods, respectively, in highway projects. Among the three project delivery methods, the study found four common critical risk factors: "unexpected utility encounter;" "third-party delays during construction;" "geotechnical investigation;" and "delays in reviewing and obtaining environmental approvals." The authors also conducted research on the risk factors that should be considered while selecting the DB project delivery method in highway projects. They found seven risk factors: (1) "scope risk;" (2) "third-party and complexity risk;" (3) "construction risk;" (4) "utility and right-of-way (ROW) risk;" (5) "level of design and contract risk;" (6) "management risk;" and (7) "regulation and railroad risk."

The laws and regulations of the state also affect the selection of the project delivery method (Ghavamifar and Touran 2008). This study categorized the authority of using project delivery into four groups on the basis of statutory permission for DOT projects: (1) fully authorized, (2) authorized but needs extra approvals, (3) authorized for a pilot program and/or with some limitations, (4) not authorized. This study found DB was fully authorized to use in state-funded transportation projects only in 17 states and CM/GC in 14 states on the basis of state code as of December 2006. On the other hand, 13 states were not authorized to use DB, and 31 states were not authorized to use CM/GC in transportation projects before the end of December 2006. Though the use of an APD was allowed in other project types, the study found that it was not allowed in transportation projects in some states.

A single project delivery method is not suitable for all types of projects (Touran et al. 2011). There are different legal, environmental, and technical requirements of the projects that determine the type of project delivery method to be used. The study identified 24 factors that affect the decision of selecting a project delivery method in transit projects. Furthermore, the study categorized the factors into five groups on the basis of whether the factor was related to a project, policy, agency, life-cycle issues or other issues. According to transit agencies that were interviewed, the top reasons behind the selection of APD methods were schedule reduction, implementing innovations, cost certainty, and early involvement of the contractor in the design process. The authors studied nine transit projects with a total cost of more than \$3.0 billion built using DB and construction-management-at-risk (CMAR). The quantitative analysis of project schedule and cost performance showed that the DB projects and the CMAR projects were

completed ahead of schedule, and the average cost growth of DB and CMAR projects were less than the estimates.

The proper use of a project delivery method is most important to successfully deliver a project (Schierholz 2012). This study observed the increasing use of the CM/GC project delivery method. Analyzing case studies for 12 highway and 15 non-highway projects related to transportation, the study found that the issues related to schedule were the highest-rated project factors contributing to the selection of CM/GC in both highway and non-highway projects. Similarly, the content analysis revealed the accelerated schedule advantage and the early involvement of contractor as the top reasons for selection of CM/GC. Furthermore, the study ranked the quality of design, cost, and schedule as first, second, and third-ranked benefits of the CM/GC process in highway projects. However, in the case of non-highway projects, cost, schedule, and the quality of design were first, second, and third benefits of the CM/GC process. As CM/GC is relatively new, education and training about the CM/GC method is required for all the involved personnel to overcome their lack of experience. This training requirement has been the most challenging issue in CM/GC. The study also found that collaboration among owner, designer, and contractor is a vital part of CM/GC method.

Recently, DB and CM/GC have become viable methods because of the need to accelerate the project schedule, use of innovative ideas, cost certainty, contractor involvement in design, and flexibility during construction (Touran et al. 2009).

2.2. Comparison of Project Delivery Methods

Various studies have been conducted to compare the performance between DBB and DB methods. However, there have not been any studies performed yet to compare the

performance of DB and CM/GC project delivery methods in highway projects. Therefore, the literature review regarding the performance comparison is focused on the DB, DBB, and CM/GC project delivery methods in building, infrastructure, and highway projects.

2.2.1. Building and Infrastructure Projects

The analysis of existing studies reveals that the DB method is superior to the DBB method in building and infrastructure projects (Konchar and Sanvido 1998; Ling et al. 2004; Hyun et al. 2008; Moon et al. 2011; Hale et al. 2009; Rosner et al. 2009; Water Design Build Council (WDBC) 2009; West Valley Construction 2011). Konchar and Sanvido (1998) compared the performance of DB, DBB, and CMAR project delivery methods in building projects with respect to cost, schedule, and quality metrics. The study used 351 building projects from the United States. The metrics of cost were unit cost, project cost growth, and intensity. The metrics of schedule were construction speed, delivery speed, and schedule growth. The metrics of quality were turnover, system, and process equipment. The multivariate analysis revealed that the cost growth and schedule growth of the DB projects was less than the DBB projects by 5.2% and 11.37% respectively. Similarly, the cost growth and schedule growth of DB projects were less than the CMAR projects by 12.6% and 21.8% respectively. Likewise, the study showed that DB and CMAR outperformed DBB in terms of unit cost, construction speed, and delivery speed.

Ling et al. (2004) analyzed 54 DBB and 33 DB building projects from Singapore and identified 11 performance metrics segregated from 59 potential factors. The 11 metrics included unit cost, project cost growth, intensity, construction speed, delivery speed, schedule growth, turnover quality, system quality, process equipment quality,

owner's satisfaction, and owner's administrative burden. The study found that the project size affected the schedule performance. Similarly, the study concluded that the technical expertise of the contractor impacted the "owner's satisfaction." The study also found that the past experience of the contractor in quality performance impacted the "owner's administrative burden."

Hyun et al. (2008) used 10 DB and 14 DBB public multifamily housing projects and evaluated the effect of the project delivery method on the design performance of these projects. This study concluded that the design performance of DB outperformed DBB in eight categories: "consideration on the path of flow," "sunshine and ventilation," "flexible space," "specialization of unit-household," "utility," "analysis on the level of finishing material," "maintenance and repair," and "ecological floor space ratio."

Moon et al. (2011) evaluated the cost, schedule, and construction intensity and delivery intensity of 21 DB and 79 DBB multifamily-housing construction projects. The metrics of schedule were construction schedule growth, delivery growth, design speed, and construction speed. The metrics of cost were award rate, final cost to budget, cost growth, and unit cost. The study found that the DB method was superior to the DBB method in all of the metrics of schedule and intensity; however, in the metrics of cost, DB was only superior in terms of cost growth.

In 2009, Hale et al. statistically compared 39 DBB and 38 DB projects for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) in terms of cost and schedule performance, and concluded that DB projects performed superior to DBB projects. The study analyzed cost-related performance metrics, such as cost per bed with other costs, cost per bed, and total project cost growth. The metrics for duration-related performance

were project duration, fiscal-year duration, construction-start duration, project duration per bed, fiscal-year duration per bed, construction-start duration per bed, and time growth. The results showed that the metrics for schedule-related performance for DB projects were superior to DBB projects. In contrast, only cost-growth of DB projects was significantly less than DBB projects; however, the results relating to other cost-related metrics were not statistically different.

Rosner et al. (2009) investigated the performance of 278 DB and 557 DBB projects for the Air Force military construction (MILCON) and found the DB method was superior to the DBB method. The performance metrics used for the study were unit cost, cost growth, schedule growth, modifications per million dollars (Mods/\$M), current working estimate/programmed amount ratio (CWE/PA), and total project time. The findings showed that DB performed better than DBB with respect to cost growth and Mods/\$M. In contrast, DBB outperformed DB with respect to the total project time. However, the historical analysis showed that DB is superior to DBB with respect to cost growth, Mods/\$M, and total project time. The facility type analysis also showed that DB performed better in most of the facility types.

The questionnaire survey conducted by Water Design Build Council (WDBC) (2009) showed that DB projects had lower design and construction schedule growth than DBB projects. The study found that the median duration for the completion of design and construction of a project was 23 months for DB and 40 months for DBB. Also, the study found that the project intensity of DB projects were \$1.5 million/month, whereas project intensity of DBB projects was \$0.6 million/month.

West Valley Construction (2011), a design-build firm, estimated that DB projects resulted in about 6% cost advantage, 33% schedule advantage, and 60% reduction in claims and litigation in comparison to DBB. In addition, the firm also stated that the designer and the contractor needed to work together in a single company and under a single point of contact for a project in an integrated DB method.

Rojas and Kell (2008) compared 273 DBB and 24 CMAR Pacific Northwest Public schools in Oregon and Washington, and found that bid and cost growth varies depending on the size of the project. The study evaluated the cost effectiveness of the CMAR project delivery method in terms of change order, guaranteed maximum price (GMP), and project cost. The researchers inferred that GMP does not guarantee cost control. The overall statistical comparison indicated CMAR (4.74%) had less change order than DBB (6.29%); however, when a comparison was made on the large projects (greater than \$5 million), no significant difference was found in change order growth between DBB (5.3%) and CMAR (6.13%).

2.2.2. Highway Projects

Shrestha et al. (2007) statistically compared project performance of four DB (\$126 million to \$1.4 billion) and 11 DBB highway projects (\$50 to \$100 million) in terms of cost, schedule, and change order metrics. The DBB projects were selected from the database of the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), whereas the DB projects were selected from a list of FHWA SEP-14 projects. The DB projects were in the states Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Virginia. The findings showed that an average cost growth of the DB (-5.47%) was lower than that of DBB (4.12%). Similarly, the schedule growth of the DB (7.59%) was lower than that of the DBB (12.88%). However, the

schedule growth was not statistically significant. Likewise, the change-order cost factor was not statistically significant, though the change order cost factor of the DB (5.28%) was higher than that of the DBB (3.94%). The study observed that the type of input impacted the performance of the projects. For example, the study found that delays during project construction directly impacted the cost growth, delivery speed, and schedule growth, consequently affecting the change order.

Shrestha et al. (2012) conducted the comparison of 16 DBB and six DB large highway projects (greater than \$50 million) with respect to cost, schedule, and change order metrics. They also investigated the project characteristics associated with the performance. The DB projects were selected from the list of FHWA SEP-14 projects, whereas, the DBB projects were selected from Texas only. The study found that the DB projects outperformed the DBB projects in terms of delivery speed and construction speed. However, the study found that cost-related metrics, schedule growth, and cost per change order were not significantly different between DB and DBB project delivery methods. The study also found that there is an association among the cost, schedule, and change order metrics with various input factors, such as project characteristics, and contract clauses.

Based on the literature review, though various comparisons have been done between the DB and the DBB methods in highway and non-highway projects, no comparisons have been conducted between the DB and the CM/GC method in highway projects. Thus, this study fulfills the need of performance comparisons between the DB and the CM/GC highway projects.

Chapter 3

Research Methodology

The study collected the DB and CM/GC highway projects' performance related data from various States DOTs. Next, statistical analysis was conducted to determine the significant difference in performance of these two project delivery methods. The scope, objectives, and the literature reviewed for this study have been described in the previous chapters. The rest of the steps involved in this methodology are described below.

3.1. Data Collection

The study collected data for this research from various State DOTs. The States' DOT members were contacted in order to collect the information related to DB and CM/GC highway projects. The data that was not received from the State DOTs was collected from the FHWA and State DOT websites. The study collected data related to projectspecific information such as project name, project identity, and project location. Additionally, the study collected data related to size of the project in lane miles and then collected the data related to project description: project type, construction type, projectdelivery approach, contractor-selection method, notice to proceed (NTP), cost, schedule, and change order metrics. The cost data collected were estimated project cost (design and construction cost), bid project cost, final project cost, and total change orders. Similarly, schedule data were estimated project duration, bid project duration, and final project duration.

The selection criteria set to select DB and CM/GC highway projects were: (1) the projects should be related to highway only, (2) the projects should be completed at the time of the study, and (3) data should be collected from the states using both DB and

CM/GC project delivery methods for more reliable comparison. The data was collected from January to August 2013. The collected data include 68 DB projects and 40 CM/GC projects. However, as the study used completed projects only, 13 DB projects and six CM/GC projects under construction were eliminated from data analysis. Therefore, the study used 55 DB highway projects and 34 CM/GC highway projects. Data from DB projects were received from 10 DOTs: Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Maine, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Ohio, and South Carolina. Data from CM/GC projects were received from three states: Utah, Colorado, and Nevada.

Figure 5 shows the number of DB and CM/GC highway projects data used in the study from various State DOTs. The 55 DB highway projects include five from Louisiana, 11 from Florida, nine from Michigan, nine from Kentucky, seven from Maine, four from Ohio, three from Oregon, three from South Carolina, three from Montana, and one from Nevada. Similarly, 34 CM/GC highway projects used for the study include one from Colorado, one from Nevada, and 32 from Utah. Although data from seven CM/GC projects was collected from Colorado, only one project was used for the study as the remaining six projects were under construction. The response from Idaho indicated that Idaho DOT received authorization to use DB and CM/GC in the 2010 legislative session and contracted a DB pilot project in September 2012. Also, the responses showed that Idaho DOT and Minnesota DOT had not contracted any CM/GC projects until the time of this study. Similarly, the response from Connecticut showed that it received authority to use DB in two pilot projects in May 2012, and it is in initial state of DB. According to the response from California DOT, DB highways in California were under construction at the time of the study.

Figure 5. Map Showing the States Participated in the Study and Number of Projects

As the CM/GC delivery method is relatively new in highway projects, few states have completed highway projects using CM/GC. Utah DOT (UDOT) is the only DOT with a large number of CM/GC projects. According to UDOT 2011 CM/GC annual report, UDOT has 22 Federal and State CM/GC projects that are in progress or completed (Alder 2011). Therefore, for the study, CM/GC data was collected from those 22 Federal and State CM/GC projects. The 22 CM/GC projects had several phases. This study considered each phase as an individual project because each phase has its own construction NTP, final acceptance date, original bid amount and so on. Therefore, 22 CM/GC projects became 46 projects by counting each phase as single project. Among

those 46 projects, the study considered completed projects and projects having detailed information on cost and schedule. Thus, the data of 32 completed projects was used for this study.

The study considered only cost, change order, and construction intensity performance to compare DB and CM/GC highway projects. The study used such metrics as contract-award cost growth, total cost growth, change order cost growth, and construction intensity for the performance comparison between DB and CM/GC highway projects. In the beginning, the research set out to determine some additional metrics, such as schedule growth, actual-cost per lane distance, project-delivery speed per lane distance, and construction speed per lane distance. However, the study could not collect the project size in lane miles and the schedule data. Thus, due to lack of complete data of schedule and project size of CM/GC projects, the metrics related to schedule, cost per lane mile, and construction speed were eliminated during the comparison. The performance metrics used in the study are defined as follows:

Cost-related outputs

1. Contract award cost growth. It is defined as the difference between the design and construction bid cost and the estimated design and construction cost divided by the estimated design and construction cost. Contract award cost growth is expressed in percentages and is given in Equation 1.

Contract Award Cost Growth
$$
(\%) = \frac{\text{Design and construction bid cost-Estimated design and construction cost}}{\text{Estimated design and construction cost}} \times 100
$$
...........(1)

2. Total cost growth. It is defined as the difference between the final design and construction cost and the estimated design and construction cost divided by the estimated

design and construction cost. Total cost growth is expressed in percentages and is given in Equation 2.

Total cost growth $\left(\frac{\%}{\%}\right)$ = $\frac{\text{Final design and construction cost-design and construction bid cost}}{\text{design and construction bid cost}}$ construction cost-design and construction bid cost)
design and construction bid cost

Change order-related output

3. Change order cost factor. It is defined as the ratio of the total change order and the total project cost. Change order cost factor is expressed in percentages and is given in Equation 3.

Change order cost factor $(\%) = \frac{\text{Total change order}}{\text{Total president cost}}$ Total project cost ×100………………………………………………………(3)

* Construction intensity. It is defined as the unit cost of design and construction per unit time. Construction intensity is expressed in \$/day and is given in Equation 4. Construction intensity $\frac{\$}{\text{day}} = \frac{\text{final design and construction cost}}{\text{total project duration}}$ total project duration ………………………………………………..….(4)

3.2. Statistical Analysis

The study used descriptive statistics and the one-way ANOVA (Analysis of Variance) Test for the data analysis. The one-way ANOVA Test compared the means of performance metrics and determined whether those means were significantly different from each other. The null hypothesis $(H₀)$ for ANOVA was that the means of performance metrics related to cost, change order, and construction intensity in highways built using these two project delivery methods were equal $(\mu_1=\mu_2)$. If p-value was equal to or less than 0.05, then reject H₀ at α =0.05. The advantage of using ANOVA was that the number of observations in each group was not necessarily equal. For the validity of the results of ANOVA, four assumptions must be fulfilled: (1) the dependent variables should be in ratio scale, (2) the dependent variables for all the groups are normally

distributed, (3) the samples are independent, and (4) the variances of the population distributions for all the groups are equal.

In this study, the performance metrics measured were all in ratio scale. To check whether the dependent variables were normally distributed or not, the Anderson Darling Test was conducted. Similarly, the samples taken in this study were independent of each other. To test whether the population variances of these two groups were equal, Levene's Test was conducted.

The Anderson-Darling Test was conducted to determine whether the dependent variables for all the groups were normally distributed. The null hypothesis of this Test was that the dependent variable was normally distributed. If the p-value was less than 0.05, then the null hypothesis was rejected. The results showed that the p-value was less than 0.05 for all the four variables, indicating that the population distribution was not normal (Table 2). Generally, if the population is not normal, the Kruskal Wallis Test must be conducted. However, ANOVA is a better test than the Kruskal Wallis Test for small sample sizes (Khan and Ryner 2003). Therefore, the study used ANOVA Test.

The number of samples used in the study was not equal for all the metrics. Though 55 DB and 34 CM/GC projects data were used for the study, the CM/GC projects did not have all the required information. Therefore, there was variation in number of samples in the four different metrics used for the study. As shown in Table 2, CM/GC projects used in contract award cost growth was 34, whereas only 24 CM/GC projects were used in total cost growth. Similarly, 15 CM/GC projects were used for change order cost factor, and 24 CM/GC projects used for construction intensity.

Table 2. Anderson-Darling Test Results

* Significant at alpha level 0.05

Levene 's Test was used to determine if the samples had equal variances. The null hypothesis of this Test was that the samples had equal variances. The null hypothesis was rejected if the p-value of this Test was less than 0.05. The results presented in Table 3 show that all four metrics have equal variances.

Table 3. Test Results of Homogeneity of Variance

Significance at alpha level 0.05

3.3. Adjustments for Time and Location

The cost data should be adjusted to a same-year and same-location index in order to establish a more direct comparison of the projects. Therefore, the construction intensity (\$/day) was adjusted to the 2013 values by using published conversion factors of Engineering News Records (ENR 2013a). Then the construction intensity was adjusted to Denver location values by using Metro Area Multiplier of Engineering News Records (ENR 2013b). The construction intensities were multiplied by the August, 2013 Base ENR index and divided by the Construction NTP ENR Index to adjust to 2013 values. Likewise, the converted construction intensities were multiplied by the Metro Area Multiplier of Denver and divided by the Metro Area Multiplier of their respective cities to adjust for location. However, the contract award cost growth, total cost growth, and change order cost factor were not adjusted to 2013 values as these metrics were calculated in percentage. As construction intensity was the only metric that compared unit cost per unit time, this cost was only adjusted to find more valid comparison in reference to time and location. Therefore, bid cost, final cost, change order, contract award cost growth, total cost growth, and change order cost factor were not adjusted according to time and location.

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Chapter 4

Findings

The data was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) software. The results are presented in two sections. The first section reports the results based on the descriptive statistics and the second section summarizes the results of the one-way ANOVA test.

4.1. Descriptive Statistic

Figure 6 shows the range of cost of the DB and CM/GC projects used in the study. The study used 55 DB and 34 CM/GC projects. However, all CM/GC projects did not have the cost information. Therefore, only 26 CM/GC projects having cost information were used for the calculation of cost related metrics. Out of 55 DB and 26 CM/GC projects, 25 DB projects and 19 CM/GC projects had the cost range of \$1 to \$20 million. Similarly, 18 DB projects and only three CM/GC projects had the cost range of \$20 to \$50 million. In addition, nine DB projects had the cost range of \$50 to \$100 million, but in contrast, there were no CM/GC projects in the range of \$50 to \$100 million. Similarly, three DB projects cost greater than \$100 million, and one CM/GC project cost greater than \$100 million. The cost of DB projects were greater than \$1 million. However, three CM/GC projects cost less than \$1 million.

Figure 6. Number of Projects with Various Range of "Final Completion Design and Construction Cost"

Figure 7 shows the range of duration of the DB and CM/GC projects used in the study. The duration used in the study was the working days. Out of 55 DB and 34 CM/GC projects, only 27 CM/GC projects had the project duration related information. Therefore, 55 DB and 27 CM/GC projects were used to calculate the final design and construction duration. The duration of DB projects were greater than 100 days, whereas one CM/GC project had a duration of less than 100 days. Sixteen DB projects and 10 CM/GC projects had a final design and construction duration range of 100 to 500 days. Similarly, 31 DB projects and 16 CM/GC projects had a final design and construction duration range of 500 to 1000 days. In addition, six DB projects had a final design and construction duration range of 1000 to 1500 days and two DB projects had a final design and construction duration greater than 1500 days. In contrast, all the CM/GC projects used for the study had a final design and construction duration of less than 1000 days.

Figure 7. Number of Projects with Various Range of "Final Completion Design and Construction Duration"

Table 4 shows the range of project cost and duration of DB and CM/GC projects collected for this study. It shows that the DB projects (maximum \$358 million) were bigger than the CM/GC projects (\$105 million). Similarly, the average size of DB projects was greater than that of CM/GC projects. The range of the project duration in working days was 114 days to 1827 days in DB projects. The project duration in working days was 70 days to 954 days in CM/GC projects. The number of CM/GC projects that had final project cost data were only 26 and that had final project duration were only 27.

S. No.	Data attributes	Statistics	Design-Build	Construction Manager/General Contractor	
	Final project cost	Minimum	\$2,317,220	\$297,601	
		Maximum	\$358,700,948	\$105,598,495	
		Mean	\$37,111,852	\$13,356,736	
		Median	\$23,713,153	\$7,580,460	
		Standard Deviation	\$7,038,352	\$21,421,772	
		Number of Samples (N)	55	26	
2	Final project duration	Minimum	114 days	70 days	
		Maximum	1827 days	954 days	
		Mean	697 days	570 days	
		Median	665 days	554 days	
	Standard Deviation		350 days	272 days	
		Number of Samples (N)	55	27	

Table 4. Project Cost and Duration Data

The analysis of the data shows that DB projects had negative cost growth for contract awards, whereas CM/GC projects had positive cost growth (Table 5). The results showed that the mean cost growth for contract awards of DB projects (-3.65%) was lower than that of CM/GC projects (3.50%). Similarly, the median cost growth for contract awards of DB projects (-0.3%) was lower than that of CM/GC projects (2.28%). However, in the case of total cost growth, the mean of DB projects was more than that of CM/GC, whereas the median for both DB and CM/GC projects were similar. The data shows that the standard deviation for CM/GC projects was greater than that of DB projects. Therefore, the results showed that the DB projects were bid lower compared to the CM/GC projects.

The data analysis showed that the average change-order cost factor and standard deviation of DB were lower than CM/GC, whereas the median of the DB projects was higher than that of the CM/GC projects. On the other hand, the data showed that mean

and median construction intensity of the DB projects were higher than that of the CM/GC projects. Despite this, there was not much difference in the standard deviation between the DB and the CM/GC projects.

4.2. One-way Analysis of Variance Results

A one-way ANOVA Test was conducted to determine whether the means of the performance metrics were significantly different between these two types of delivery methods. If the p-value is greater than 0.05, the samples' means are not statistically different. Table 7 shows the mean values of cost, change order, and intensity metrics for

DB and CM/GC projects. F-values and p-values of those metrics are also shown in Table 6.

The mean of the contract award cost growth for DB and CM/GC projects was significantly different. The p-values of this metric were less than 0.05. Therefore, this study has shown that the mean contract award cost growth was significantly higher in CM/GC projects in comparison to DB projects. In contrast, no statistical significance was found in other metrics, such as total cost growth, change-order cost factor, and construction intensity during the analysis. These findings suggest that, in general, DB contractors were bidding significantly lower than the estimated cost of the projects compared to CM/GC contractors. Although the data showed that the total project cost growth was higher in DB projects than in CM/GC projects, no significant difference was found.

S. No.	Performance metrics	Unit	Design Build	Construction Manager/General Contractor	F- value	p-value
	Contract award cost growth	$\%$	-3.65	3.50	5.10	0.026
$\overline{2}$	Total cost growth	$\%$	4.01	1.68	2.23	0.140
3	Change-order cost factor	$\%$	3.25	4.29	0.64	0.427
4	Construction intensity	$\frac{\text{d}}{\text{d}}$	53,684	46,499	0.37	0.544

Table 6. Results of One-way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) Test

* Significant at alpha level 0.05

Figure 8 shows the box plots of the median values of these four performance metrics in DB and CM/GC projects. The plots show that there are no large numbers of outliers in the data set. The smaller number of outliers in the data shows that the variances in the data set were not high.

4.3. Limitations of the Study

The research was conducted with a small sample of CM/GC projects as few State DOTs had completed highway projects using the CM/GC project delivery method. The sample could not be collected from all states because CM/GC projects were not built all over the United States. The study could not collect the estimated and bid duration of most of the CM/GC projects. Therefore, the schedule-related metrics such as contract award schedule growth and total schedule growth could not be compared in these two types of projects. In addition, due to unavailability of lane mile data of CM/GC projects, the study could

not compare metrics related to lane mile such as project delivery speed per lane mile, actual cost per lane mile, and construction speed per lane mile.

Chapter 5

Conclusions and Recommendations

The study investigated the performance of DB and CM/GC highway projects in terms of cost, change order, and construction intensity. The study collected data of completed DB and CM/GC highway projects from the states that have built DB and CM/GC highway projects. Contract-award cost growth, total cost growth, change order cost factor, and construction intensity were used as metrics for comparison of performance between DB and CM/GC highway projects. One of the significant findings of this study was that DB projects were bid significantly lower than that of CM/GC projects. In contrast to this, the study also found that DB projects have high total cost growth in comparison to CM/GC projects, but no significant difference was found. The negative cost growth for contract awards in DB and positive cost growth in CM/GC indicated that DB projects bid low in comparison to CM/GC projects. Similarly, the results also showed that the change order factor was higher in CM/GC projects than in DB projects. Despite this, there was no significant difference in these means. The construction intensity, which was the measure of the amount of cost spent every working day, was higher in DB projects than in CM/GC projects. However, there was no significant difference in these means.

The number of DB projects used in the study were large in comparison to the number of CM/GC projects. With the limited data available for CM/GC projects, the results of this study determined that DB highway projects were bid significantly lower than CM/GC highway projects. However, due to unavailability of complete schedule data, it can be determined whether DB outperformed CM/GC highway projects in terms of schedule. In order to determine which delivery method provides superior performance,

further studies should be conducted with complete sets of cost, schedule, and change order data after many states have completed CM/GC highway projects. Indeed, some of the results are not statistically significant; nevertheless, this study shed some light on the performance comparison between DB and CM/GC highway projects. Because there have been no studies conducted in the past regarding performance comparison between DB and CM/GC in highway projects, this exploratory study's results are useful for the future researchers working toward comparison of these two project delivery methods.

The sample size used in the study was small because few CM/GC highway projects were completed at the time of the study. Therefore, in order to find significant statistical results, further studies needs to be conducted using a larger sample size. In addition, this study has collected DB and CM/GC state highway projects from few states. Thus, this study can be broadly expanded in the future comparing a large number of DB and CM/GC highway projects from many states. Likewise, it is suggested that the data related to all the performance metrics should be collected in the future studies. The future research should also consider samples having costs of a similar range in order to achieve better results.

Appendix: Data Collection of Design-Build Highway Projects

Appendix: Data Collection of Construction Manager/General Contractor Highway

Projects

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