Hello Jason, thank you for taking the time to answer these questions.

I'm conducting research on behalf of a Dr. Anh D. Chau’s research team. Our project aims to explore how AI could be developed to assist professionals in the construction industry. We're specifically looking at how these applications could help with day-to-day tasks. There are no right or wrong answers – we're interested in your honest thoughts and experiences. Your expertise in the field is what we're here to learn from.

**1. Background Questions**

* Could you briefly describe your role in the construction industry? I am a project manager for an asphalt paving/road building company who performs work as a prime contractor as well as subcontractor.
* How long have you been working in this field? Construction and Engineering for 25+ years.
* What are the main types of projects you typically work on? The bulk of projects I work on are Florida Department of Transportation roadway jobs as a prime contractor. The remainder of my jobs typically involve performing as a paving only subcontractor.

**2. Current Challenges and Processes**

* Could you walk me through a typical day in your role, focusing on tasks that involve accessing information, decision-making, or following specific processes? No two days are alike i.e. different “fires” every day to extinguish. Regardless, some items such as tracking asphalt, trucking, schedules, timesheet approvals/verifications, billing, subcontractor payments, change orders, subcontract selection and negotiation, RFI/Submittal/RFM’s and a plethora of additional Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) typical submittals/documents/forms both weekly and monthly. Additionally, at some point during each week I try to make it a priority to visit each jobsite.
* What are the most challenging or time-consuming aspects of your daily work? How do you handle them? (Follow-up: How do you think AI might help with these challenges?) Project Schedules seem to take the most time and effort. Per FDOT specifications, we are required to submit a monthly CPM Schedule to FDOT. The challenges with this are the many changes that take place in the sequence of events that end up changing the logic and durations of these tasks. Many hours can be spent with the scheduler to try and get everything “on paper” to reflect what is happening in the field. This becomes critical when you have a delay/claim on the job (at no fault of the contractors) and have to provide proof that you, the contractor, does, in fact, have entitlement. At this stage of AI and my unfamiliarity with its capabilities, I can’t say whether or not it could help.
* Are there any repetitive tasks in your work that you find particularly tedious? Can you describe one in detail? (Follow-up: How much time do you estimate you spend on this task?) Very much so: FDOT weekly/monthly required forms and documents. I would guess I spend 2-3 hours per week and up to 6 hours per week if it’s a CPM Schedule submittal.
* In your area of work, what are some common issues or mistakes that people often encounter? How are these typically addressed? Is there any possibility that they cannot be discovered and resolved timely? Speaking from an office perspective, mistakes can occur by simply transposing something incorrectly. While our technology is valuable and always progressing, we are still required to perform many tasks without technology automatically generating responses, reports, etc. Typically, resolving these issues can take as little as seconds, which can also compound exponentially, or as much as hours.
* If you encounter any problems, do you have any online source that you use to trouble shoot it? If so, what do you use? Any social media like Reddit, YouTube etc.? The internet has been a wonderful source of information, replacing books, magazines, reference materials, encyclopedias, etc. As many of us who have been around a number of years, we remember how every construction and engineering office once had a library of reference materials which can now be accessed in seconds on the internet including, Reddit, YouTube, etc.
* How do you currently handle tasks that require looking up information from company documents, industry standards, or databases? (Follow-up: What challenges do you face in this process?) If the document isn’t a pdf, I will convert it and use CNTL-F to find what I am looking for. I suppose a challenge with this, would be if the document is a photo or if the original document is in table form and the conversion isn’t clean enough i.e. words get translated into numbers, columns do not get aligned, to name a few.
* Can you describe any routine analysis or decision-making processes you perform regularly in your work? (Follow-up: How do you ensure accuracy or consistency in these processes?) Personally speaking, if it’s an unfamiliar set of circumstances, I like to hear others’ opinions to help generate my final decision. Perhaps I didn’t agree with anything else I had heard but it helps me formulate my final decision as well as providing me with reasons that I can explain to others why I chose to do what I did.
* How do you stay updated with changes in industry practices, regulations, or company policies? What challenges does this present? Every time we change software, computers, phones, typical processes “the way we’ve always done it”, etc. there is resistance and complaint. I’m as guilty of this as the next person, however, once you adapt to these changes (advances?) you tend to realize that these changes actually improve efficiency. Not always, but more often than not. Most of us seem to be reluctant to these potential “upgrades” only because we are so used to performing tasks one way and learning another way, albeit better, we resist to change. The challenge is getting people to open their minds and give it a realistic and honest effort before condemning it only because you must retrain yourself.
* Can you think of any aspects of your work where even small improvements in efficiency or accuracy could lead to significant time or cost savings? Nothing jumps out at me. I believe my company, Ajax Paving, seems to give you all the tools you need to perform your job at maximum efficiency although I would love to hear other’s opinions and ideas on this.

**3. AI Awareness and Potential Applications**

* Are you familiar with AI or chatbot technologies? If so, how have you encountered them in your work or personal life? I am not but realize I must familiarize myself and begin to experiment with it in case it does become part of our everyday tasks.
  + Have you or your company used any AI tools in your work? If yes, could you describe that experience? I/we have not to my knowledge with the exception of some email responses.
* In what areas of your work do you think AI could be most helpful? Letter writing, meeting minutes, summaries, organizing lists to name a few but with my ignorance of its capabilities, I’m sure that I’m missing a much larger picture.
* What concerns, if any, do you have about using AI in your industry? That it may take my job…..although I would hope it only supplements my task load.

**5. Closing Thoughts**

* Based on our discussion, how do you envision AI potentially changing your work in the future? It should assist in my everyday tasks, most notably the weekly/monthly FDOT Forms.
* Do you have any other thoughts or suggestions about integrating AI into the construction industry? I would need to learn more about AI to formulate some kind of opinion on this.