



For Business Leaders

5 Best Practices to Cut Costs, Finish Faster, and Reduce Risk

A guide for business leaders, owners, CFOs, and operations executives whose business depends on field and office teams.

Includes new findings from TrackVia Field Operations Research, a review of how successful TrackVia customers run their field operations.

**Connect the work.
Control the operation.**

Leaders who connect their operations are getting ahead in a tougher market.

Good people are hard to find and harder to keep. Customers want lower bids and more proof that the work was done right. Prices for steel, copper, and equipment have risen sharply. There is no shortage of business challenges today and you don't set any of these. The leaders who are doing well put their attention on what they can control: how they use their people, their inventory, and their equipment, and how accurately they bid and bill.

TrackVia reviewed how successful customers run their operations. Here is what stood out.

5 vs 2

Construction customers have automated a median of five business processes. Across all industries the median is two.

60%

Field inspections is the most common business process that leaders automate and mobile-enable.

70%

of customers described manual, paper, spreadsheet, or email usage as previously slowing their operations and negatively impacting business.

(TrackVia Field Operations Research, October 2026)

WHAT IS CHANGING

Costs are up. Construction input prices rose 8.9% from August 2025 to August 2026. Steel is up 23.4%. *(AGC, September 2026)*

People are scarce. 87% of contractors have openings for craft workers, and 88% of them say those roles are as hard or harder to fill than a year ago. *(AGC and NCCER 2026 Workforce Survey)*

Competition is tighter. 84% of contractors call aggressive pricing competition a major challenge, and 62% say contract terms are getting less favorable. *(Dodge Construction Network and CMiC survey, 2026)*

Construction is where the data is clearest. But the same pressure shows up in manufacturing, healthcare, education, and facility management.

WHAT LEADERS ARE DOING ABOUT IT

They bid with their own real numbers, because they know what their last jobs actually cost. They know where their equipment, materials, and crews are, so they don't buy things twice or lose a day looking for a part. They show customers the progress as it happens, and customers who can see the work are more likely to give them the next one.

In the same survey that reports the pressure, 74% of contractors say they are optimistic about their company's 2026 performance. This guide covers five best practices leaders are using to earn that confidence.

Before they changed anything, they looked.

The leaders who improve fastest start with a short, honest look at how work really gets done. You can do all three of these checks this week. None takes more than an afternoon.

1 Walk a job site or a shop floor.

Bring a notepad and watch for three things. Where does paper pile up? Who types the same information a second time? What are people waiting on? The answers show you where time and money are leaking, and they are usually easy to see once you look.

2 Look back at five recent jobs.

Pull the original order or estimate for each one. How close was what you bought ahead of time to what the job actually used? How much was rush-ordered, returned, or left over? How close was your bid to the final cost? A pattern across five jobs tells you more than any one story.

3 Answer five yes or no questions.

- ☐ Can you say where your five most expensive pieces of equipment are right now?
- ☐ Are your payroll hours based on when people were actually on site?
- ☐ Would you know today if a job were using materials faster than it was finishing work?
- ☐ Could you pull the real cost of your last five similar jobs to help price the next one?
- ☐ If a customer or auditor asked for proof of a job, could you produce it within an hour?

What peers found when they looked. 70% of the customers we studied said manual, paper, spreadsheet, or email processes were slowing their operations. More than half had no central, live view of the work. Your walk is likely to show you the same things. (*TrackVia Field Operations Research*)

How to read your answers. Each "no" points to one best practice in this guide. Start with the one that costs you the most.

01

BEST PRACTICE

Cut costs

Know what you own, and know where every dollar went.



WHY IT MATTERS

When prices rise, waste costs more than it used to. A part bought twice, a tool that can't be found, or a truck that leaves without a key item all come out of your margin. Leaders who cut costs this way get exact about what they have and what each job used.

BY THE NUMBERS

Across TrackVia data: Automated asset tracking is used by **20%** and inventory tracking by **23%**. In construction, **42%** use automated inventory tracking. *(TrackVia Field Operations Research, 2026)*

Construction input prices are up **8.9%** in a year. Steel is up **23.4%**. *(AGC, September 2026)*

91% of contractors say tariffs have already added to their costs. *(Dodge Construction Network and CMiC, 2026)*

Teams complete only **54%** of their scheduled preventative maintenance, and missed maintenance can cost **\$100,000** or more in downtime. *(Limble State of Maintenance survey of 686 U.S. maintenance and operations professionals, 2026)*

THREE BEST PRACTICES

Keep one list of what you own.

Every vehicle, tool, and piece of equipment is tagged, and you can see where it is, what shape it's in, and when it was last serviced. Replacement becomes a plan instead of a scramble.

Tie every part and material to the job that used it.

When materials are logged against the job, you see the real cost of each job. That is job costing built on real field data. Your accounting or ERP system still keeps the books, and the field record feeds it, so the numbers it holds are right. The job can also be invoiced for what was actually used.

Check the truck before it leaves.

The night before, a request goes in for what tomorrow's jobs need. The crew loads the trucks and checks off what actually went on. Anything missing shows up in a report the next morning, before the crew rolls out. Even small items, like safety glasses and marking paint, are counted so you know when to reorder.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN PRACTICE

One contractor runs this way every day. Material use per job is now close to real time. The owner's view is simple: when you send material to a job and don't know it, that job probably didn't perform the way you thought it did.

START HERE



Pick your five most expensive assets. Confirm where each one is today. If it takes more than a few minutes, you have found your first opportunity.

02

BEST PRACTICE

Get more from your people

Pay for the time worked, and put the right person on the right job.



WHY IT MATTERS

You can't easily add people, so every hour has to count. Payroll should match the hours your people actually worked on the job. When it does, labor cost is accurate, jobs are priced better, and your crews know the system is fair.

BY THE NUMBERS

Across TrackVia data: Automated and mobile scheduling and planning is used by **31%** of customers and **83%** of construction customers. **66%** of customers who described their situation before TrackVia mentioned manual, paper, spreadsheet, or email processes slowing down their operations. (*TrackVia Field Operations Research, 2026*)

42% of contractors say shortages of their own workers or their subcontractors' workers delayed projects. It was the most common cause of delays. (*AGC and NCCER 2026 Workforce Survey*)

42% say new hires don't show up or quit soon after starting. (*AGC and NCCER 2026 Workforce Survey*)

Wages for production and nonsupervisory construction workers rose **5.0%** in a year, compared with **3.3%** for the private sector overall. (*AGC, September 2026*)

THREE BEST PRACTICES

Capture time once, in the field, with a location check. A worker clocks in from a phone. The clock-in is compared to the job site location, so a punch from a gas station five miles away gets flagged. A personal PIN means one worker can't clock in for another. Hours flow to payroll without paper or retyping.

Schedule and dispatch by skill, certification, and equipment. Before a crew is confirmed and sent out, the system checks that the people have the right certifications and the job has the equipment it needs. Fewer surprises on the morning of the job.

Manage subcontractors in the same view as your own crews. Subcontractor management gets simpler when insurance, licenses, and certifications are kept current in one place. The paperwork is there when a customer or auditor asks.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN PRACTICE

A commercial contractor used to print time cards each morning, drive them to the site, drive them back, and key them in for weekly payroll. Now workers clock in by phone. The company schedules about 250 employees across more than 40 job sites every day, and each assignment is checked against certifications and equipment before it is confirmed.

START HERE



Compare last week's clock-in times with the days each crew was actually on site. Any gap is worth a conversation.

Finish faster

Spot the problem while the job is still running.



WHY IT MATTERS

Projects slip when the right people, tools, or materials aren't in the right place at the right time. The cheapest day to fix a problem is the day you see it coming. The earlier the office hears about a problem, the less it costs to fix.

BY THE NUMBERS

Across TrackVia data: Field inspection is the most common operations process leaders have automated and mobile-enabled, at **60%** overall (**75%** in construction, **57%** in manufacturing, **35%** in healthcare). **80%** of organizations who automated inspections also automated at least one other business process. Work orders and field operations together are used by **31%** of organizations and **92%** of construction companies. (*TrackVia Field Operations Research, 2026*)

Nearly three quarters of firms report at least one significant project delay in the past year. (*AGC and NCCER 2026 Workforce Survey*)

65% of contractors say skilled labor shortages are affecting their schedules. (*Dodge Construction Network and CMiC, 2026*)

55% had at least one project canceled, postponed, or scaled back in the past six months, and **34%** of those cited rising costs. (*AGC and NCCER 2026 Workforce Survey*)

THREE BEST PRACTICES

Compare progress with materials, every day. Track how complete each job is and compare it with what has been used. Suppose a job is 20% complete and has already used 80% of the materials ordered. That is a flag you want in week two. By week six it is a late job. The leader can order more before the crew runs out, and the schedule holds.

Reorder automatically. Set a minimum level for the parts and materials you use most. When stock on a truck or in a warehouse falls below it, a reorder request automatically goes to whoever buys. No one has to notice an empty shelf.

Inspect as you go. Crews complete a short checklist on a phone, with photos and notes, while the work is happening. When something fails, a work order is created automatically and assigned. Problems get handled this week, well before the final walk-through.

START HERE



Choose one active job. Compare its percent complete with the percent of materials used. If you can't get that number in a few minutes, that's the gap to close first.

04

BEST PRACTICE

Bid sharper and get paid faster

Know your real job costs, and bill from the field record.



WHY IT MATTERS

Competition is tougher, terms are tighter, and a bad bid costs real money. A slow invoice costs money too, because cash sits waiting. Leaders who do well here use accurate and current job history to price work, and they bill from what the crews actually recorded.

What is job costing?

It is tracking what each job really cost, including labor, materials, equipment, and subcontractors. When crews record the work in the field, those numbers are accurate and ready without retyping.

BY THE NUMBERS

Across TrackVia data: Automated order management and billing is used by **22%** of organizations and **50%** of construction companies. **85%** mentioned manual, spreadsheet, or email processes had previously slowed this process or created invoicing errors. *(TrackVia Field Operations Research, 2026)*

84% of contractors call aggressive pricing competition a major challenge. *(Dodge Construction Network and CMiC, 2026)*

62% say contract terms are getting less favorable, with more risk passed to subcontractors and smaller firms. *(Dodge Construction Network and CMiC, 2026)*

Contractors report adding larger cushions to bids, using price change clauses, and walking away from jobs that leave too little room for cost swings. *(MY Equipment, July 2026)*

THREE BEST PRACTICES

Price the next job from the last ones. Your best bid data is already in your own records: the equipment used, the materials consumed, the hours worked, and the final cost. When that information is accurately tracked and pulled together from your different systems, your bids reflect what jobs really cost.

Keep customers updated with real numbers. With live project data, you can send a regular update that shows actual progress. Customers see what is done and what is next. Fewer calls asking where things stand, and more trust when the next bid comes up.

Bill from the field record. When a crew completes the work, the record goes straight to billing. No one retypes paper forms into the invoicing system. Invoices go out sooner and match the work done.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN PRACTICE

A utility contractor used to pass a single paper form between a supervisor, a surveyor, a foreman, and a crew for days. A project manager then retyped it into billing. Now the crew captures the job on a phone, with location, photos, and notes. The finished record goes directly to payroll, invoicing, and project management. Invoicing dropped from about six days to a few hours, an improvement of over 80%.

START HERE



Pull the final cost of your last five similar jobs. Put each next to what you bid. The gaps show you where your next bid needs to change.

05

BEST PRACTICE

Reduce risk

Keep the proof, and keep what your best people know.



WHY IT MATTERS

More and more, customers, insurers, and auditors ask you to show your records. Missing paperwork, an expired certification, or an incident that nobody wrote down can turn a small problem into an expensive one. The other risk is quieter. When an experienced person leaves, what they knew goes with them.

BY THE NUMBERS

Across TrackVia data: Automated and mobile safety and compliance is used by **16%** of organizations and **42%** of construction companies. **94%** of teams who automated safety and compliance also automated field inspections. (*TrackVia Field Operations Research, 2026*)

47% of maintenance teams say they have lost knowledge they can't replace when people left. (*Limble, 2026*)

Nearly three quarters rely on a critical piece of equipment that only one person knows how to repair. (*Limble, 2026*)

61% say their current approach raises the risk of unplanned downtime, higher costs, and safety problems. (*Limble, 2026*)

THREE BEST PRACTICES

Keep safety and compliance in one place. Inspections, incidents, near misses, and certifications live in the same record. Alerts go out before a license or certification expires, so there is time to renew.

Keep an audit trail. Every inspection, sign-off, and change has a date, a time, a person, and a location behind it. When someone asks, you can show them.

Write down what your best people know, and schedule preventative maintenance. Turn their habits into checklists, service schedules, and history that anyone on the team can follow. Preventative maintenance means servicing equipment on a schedule, before it breaks. Set it up once and the work creates itself. The next person doesn't start from zero.

WHAT THIS LOOKS LIKE IN PRACTICE

One organization had to prove that its staff completed required reading and training. Sign-off sheets used to be taped to an office door. Now coordinators sign off from their phones, and the office gets an alert when a certification is done. Every record keeps an audit trail. The team reports up to 80% time savings on data collection and reporting, and they are far better prepared for planned and surprise audits.

START HERE



List every certification and license that expires in the next 90 days. Next to each one, write the name of the person responsible.

Connect the work. Control the operation.

TrackVia is the field operations intelligence platform that helps organizations connect, control, and continuously improve mission-critical operations. It brings your field teams, your workflows, and your enterprise data into one real-time system. For more than two decades, thousands of operational leaders have used TrackVia to build and run mission-critical applications across field and back office operations.

HOW THE FIVE BEST PRACTICES CONNECT TO TRACKVIA

Best practice	TrackVia modules that help	Share of TrackVia customers using it
1. Cut costs	Asset and Site Operations Inventory and Materials Control	Assets 20%, inventory 23%
2. Get more from your people	Crew and Vendor Management	31%
3. Finish faster	Work Order Management Field Inspection	Work orders and field operations 31%, inspections 60%
4. Bid sharper and get paid faster	Work Order Management Inventory and Materials Control	Order management and billing 22%
5. Reduce risk	Safety and Compliance Preventative Maintenance	Safety and compliance 16% (preventative maintenance is not yet tracked separately)

WHY LEADERS CHOOSE TRACKVIA

- Start ready.** Proven modules for work orders, inspections, assets, inventory, crews, safety, and preventative maintenance, shaped by more than 2,800 builders who know the work firsthand.
- Stay in control.** Your own team can change forms, workflows, and dashboards as the business changes, with no waiting on a developer.
- Work with what you have.** More than 6,000 integrations connect TrackVia to the ERP, accounting, and other systems you already run.
- Work anywhere.** Mobile apps for iOS and Android capture the work with or without a signal, and sync when the connection returns.

COMPARING FIELD SERVICE MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE?

TrackVia handles dispatch and scheduling, and it also covers work orders, inspections, assets, inventory, crews, safety, and maintenance in one system. Your own team can adjust it as your operation changes.

ABOUT TRACKVIA FIELD OPERATIONS RESEARCH

TrackVia Field Operations Research is our review of how TrackVia customers use the platform. This October 2026 edition covers 250+ customers with at least one documented workflow or business process. Industries are shown only where there are a large enough sample to provide clear direction. Scheduling and field inspection are the most common pair, used together by 20 customers.

Source: TrackVia Field Operations Research, October 2026.

500M+
operational records managed

3,000+
production applications

15,000+
monthly active users

99.99%+
uptime across commercial,
government, and HIPAA
environments

Ready to see what this looks like in your operation?

Visit trackvia.com to talk with our team, or ask us for the Playbook Worksheet, a simple way to estimate what these five best practices could be worth to your business.

Sources AGC, "Construction Input Costs Climb 8.9% Between August 2025 and August 2026," September 10, 2026. AGC and NCCER, 2026 Workforce Survey, September 3, 2026. Dodge Construction Network and CMiC survey, as reported by MY Equipment, July 9, 2026. Limble, State of Maintenance report (686 U.S. maintenance and operations professionals), as reported by Manufacturing Dive, October 8, 2026. TrackVia Field Operations Research, October 2026 (250+ TrackVia customers with documented use cases; 31 customers with documented pre-TrackVia challenges).