

Short Interval Scheduling (SIS®) — Plan, Schedule, Score, Review, and Act!

By Dr. Heather Moore & Jennifer Daneshgari of MCA, Inc.

Do you ever wonder where all of the time goes in a day? Do you wonder why you're not able to get things done on your list? It's not the major impacts on your project or the disasters ~ it's the things that happen on a daily basis that take 10, 15, or 30 minutes of your time, but when they all add up, it can send your schedule sideways.

Ask yourself and your team at the start of the day ~ what do you need to get done today? Go back at the end of the day and review what actually got done. Do they match? Not often, in fact, **89% of the time, that initial list isn't done at the end of the day!** Surprised? Maybe not, but what got in the way? Over 50% of the time, the roadblocks don't get reported to be able to act on.

MCA, Inc. started our research on Planning, Scheduling, and Quantifying impacts that happen on a job site 20 years ago and the answers are still true today. We asked: **"What blocks you from getting your work done in a day?"** Ask your team ~ what you'll find is that they don't often have a qualitative answer. Our research findings from the office were:

1. Waiting for material, for tools and equipment, and for equipment breakdowns to be fixed
2. Rework due to design, prefabrication, or field errors
3. Interface from other crews
4. Overcrowded work areas
5. Workplace changes
6. Waiting for permits
7. Waiting for instructions
8. Other delays (Like waiting for scaffolding to be put up or taken down)

In the field, we gathered data and while the list is right, the order isn't the same. We found the field needs help with a way to quantify impacts of schedule delays and productivity related issues. Quantifying impacts allows you and your team to address them methodically in a data-driven way. This finding became the start of SIS® (Short Interval Scheduling) that documents and categorizes obstacles for your Project Management team to **HELP THE FIELD** remove roadblocks for better productivity. In one output of SIS® for a recent project, we saw that most impacts fall into just four categories: the area isn't ready for them, there's unplanned absenteeism, weather impacts, and technical design issues are the items causing 80% of the obstacles on the project. **Now that's something you can manage!**

How does it work? It is simple. You schedule your day before you start and plan the next two. At the end of the day, you score the day, marking the obstacles. No big spreadsheets, no detailed schedules. Simply write down your plan for the day and score it at the end of the day ~ and have results you can act on. ⚡

To start making obstacles visible across your projects, reach out to our team or request a demo here: wemsoftware.com/request-a-demonstration/, or call us at (810) 232-9797.

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¹ Moore, H. PhD. (2013). Exploring Information Generation and Propagation from the Point of Installation on Construction Jobsites: An SNA/ABM Hybrid Approach. PhD Dissertation, Michigan State University.

