



# 2018 Best Mobile Construction Apps

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## Introduction

Mobile apps are no longer viewed as a fad in construction and are quickly becoming commonplace. In fact, mobile usage by the construction industry is actually keeping pace with usage by the general public. According to a 2015 survey of more than 1600 decision makers, which included respondents from the construction industry, 36 percent of firms said more than five mobile business apps were used and 69 percent of participants saw value in integrating them with mobile devices and tools.<sup>1</sup> James Quigley, CEO of Canvas, confirms this assessment, suggesting that construction firms are using multiple mobile business apps and deploying them to their mobile workforces at astonishing rates.

This is an indication businesses of all sizes are shifting from expensive, resource-intensive custom app builds to cloud-based mobile business app solutions. The survey results also reaffirm that when construction firms are able to easily share and learn from data collected via smartphones and tablets across the mobile workforce, the cost savings and productivity benefits can be significant.<sup>2</sup>

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— Jason Peck. “How Businesses are Using Mobile Apps.” May 2015.

## 2018 Best Mobile Construction Apps

Indeed, unlike traditional construction software, mobile construction apps have the power to transform your construction business by converting downtime to productive time, removing inefficiency with real-time communication and collaboration, and increasing access to data for better decision-making. In this respect, mobile construction apps are the most expedient way to increase efficiency. By saving you time and improving collaboration, mobile apps will make your business more profitable.

Since mobile construction apps have surged in popularity, the number of companies now offering construction apps is higher than ever before. In many cases, the app is offered by companies that have zero experience on a jobsite and have merely combined stock photos and a few basic applications to create something that mimics real mobile construction software, but falls short on performance. These apps look good on paper, but lack the true functionality needed to effectively manage multiple projects or truly anticipate the needs of your team and company.

So how can you determine if the app you're considering is not only legitimately useful for a construction firm, but also suited for your specific needs? No worries. We've done all the research for you, highlighting the best mobile construction apps by major category for you. After reviewing our recommendations in this guide, you'll be able to make an informed decision before you buy and purchase a mobile construction app that will deliver substantial ROI—making a huge impact on your bottom line.



## Best Construction Mobile Apps By Major Category

Mobile construction apps are rapidly transforming the construction industry and therefore have the great potential to transform your construction business. However, as mobile apps begin to proliferate, it can be difficult to ascertain which technologies would be the most beneficial for your business with its unique challenges. To help you sort through all of your options and determine which apps will work the best for your team, we've put together a list of the best construction mobile apps in the top emerging categories.



## 2018 Best Mobile Construction Apps

### Top Construction Productivity App

25 percent of projects slip by over 20 percent and 25 percent of all project costs grow in the field by over 30 percent. These percentages increase when you take into consideration megaprojects, 98 percent of which "suffer costs of more than 30 percent." Indeed, a whopping 77 percent of megaprojects are at least 40 percent late. Inefficiencies, such as schedule slip and project growth, are the biggest contributors to job overrun, impacting schedules, budget and labor productivity that result in an average cost increase of 80 percent of original value. While many factors contribute to cost overruns, the primary factor is low productivity. The good news is that with construction productivity apps, builders can eliminate time waste and increase field productivity by improving communication and collaboration.



Achieving widespread adoption of technology is usually the biggest hurdle for most construction companies, but [PlanGrid](#) was built especially for field use, making it easy for those who aren't tech-savvy to learn and use. PlanGrid's construction productivity software allows teams to collect, manage and collaborate in real-time on drawings, submittals, markups, photos, issues and RFIs. PlanGrid improves productivity in enumerable ways, by reducing trips to the trailer and time expenditures, allowing teams to complete field measurements with ease instead of surveying and enabling document control that reduces costly errors and rework.



**Construction Productivity 101: A Practical Guide to Increasing Productivity in 7 Easy Steps**

**DOWNLOAD GUIDE**

While many factors contribute to construction project cost overruns, the primary factor is low productivity. In fact, construction is one of the few industries that is less productive now than it was 50 years ago. Low construction productivity costs the U.S. global economy \$1.6 trillion a year. As costs from inefficiencies continue to soar, the construction industry must make productivity a priority. Download this ebook to learn the seven best ways to complete projects faster, reduce costs, win more bids and increase profits.





## 2018 Best Mobile Construction Apps

### Top Construction Project Management App

Managing multiple projects across multiple jobsites can be a difficult task. Each project has its own costs, schedules and documents—and each project its own delivery process, including planning, design, procurement, construction and operations. For these reasons, a majority of construction professionals are currently using mobile construction apps to help them manage projects. Project managers can collect field data as well as record important project information with mobile devices. Mobile project management apps help streamline the workflow and improve communication on the jobsite, which can accelerate schedule delivery and reduce costly mistakes.



**eSUB's** construction project management software was built specifically for subcontractors. Their mobile and cloud project management software connects the field and office in real-time. eSUB integrates tightly with PlanGrid, so you can save snapshots of drawings and annotations to eSUB documents and synchronize your RFIS between the two applications, for a complete record of what happens on the job site.

### Top Cad /BIM Mobile App

Design information used to be restricted to paper, making it difficult to access, but mobile apps now enable project teams to access and alter design plans from any location. These mobile apps for BIM also make it easier for teams on the jobsite to collaborate with architects and owners on any changes or adjustment by enabling project teams to record important information about project materials and design. What's more, by leveraging 5D modeling, teams can now even see how design changes will impact cost and labor.

## GRAPHISOFT®

A great BIM viewer mobile app is **BIMx** from Graphisoft, which is free on both Android and iOS devices. BIMx essentially allows users to upload a 3D drawing and explore it. Construction companies can use BIMx to illustrate to customers what they will get and why they should sign a contract, show workers on the jobsite understand how the end result will look to guide them while they perform the work and solicit important feedback from workers and supervisors about an issue by referencing the drawing.



## 2018 Best Mobile Construction Apps

### Top Photo Mobile App

Before the advent of smartphones and mobile technology, to get accurate project progress reports builders had to rely on written documentation and/or buy expensive equipment to reliably capture accurate real-time activities of work-in-progress. But the best and most complete construction site reporting features both written and visual records. The right mobile construction photo app will not only enable you to capture and document small details or large aerial views of a project, but also enable you to incorporate photos into documents, do “field captures” of various locations that can be added to smart document programs and view real-time dashboards showing progress from multiple jobsites at once.



While there are many mobile construction photo apps, to get a complete and accurate assessment of your project's progress, you need a view from the top.

[TrueLook](#) uses drones to take aerial photographs of jobsites. The app deploys drones manned by professional pilots who are trained to photograph and video your work. In days, your app will be populated with 20 or more high-res aerial images and an edited video for you and your customers to review.

### Top Time Entry Mobile App

Time tracking used to be a nightmare before mobile technology. With mobile time-tracking apps, companies can track time for each employee on each job site while streamlining the approval and payment process. Not only do mobile time tracking apps allow workers to clock in and out from their mobile devices, but supervisors can use those apps to verify that workers were on the jobsite during that time with GPS tracking. These apps reduce payroll errors and ensure companies don't pay for work that wasn't completed. With mobile time tracking apps, bookkeepers can say goodbye to handwritten payroll and login to desktop software to see all tracked time.



[TSheets](#) is one of the best mobile time tracking apps on the market. With the simple touch of a button and easy-to-use graphical interface, employees can clock in, clock out, take a break, submit PTO or timesheets, change tasks and track GPS coordinates—all in seconds. Recorded time sheets can be easily exported to QuickBooks.





## 2018 Best Mobile Construction Apps

### Top Mobile Cloud Storage

It's critical for construction teams to be able to save important project data—such as blueprints, contracts, and reports—in a location where others can quickly access it. Cloud-based mobile technology allows them to store those documents safely and access it easily, which improves communication and collaboration. Cloud-based file storage and sharing makes construction teams more efficient and less likely to make costly mistakes as they are able to access everything they need right from their mobile devices.



[Box](#) for Construction gives architectural, engineering and construction firms a simple, secure way to plan, design and undertake projects. With Box, firms can intuitively share blueprints, photos and construction specs on any device, getting projects done on time and on budget. Used in tandem with productivity apps like PlanGrid, Box simplifies

coordination and troubleshooting for workers in the field. Snap photos and video of work sites or safety hazards and share securely using Box.

### Top Safety Mobile App

Safety is a primary concern in the construction industry because it's one of the most dangerous industries to work in. In fact, construction tops the list for the most deaths by industry sector for the 2015 Census of Fatal Occupations, with 937 deaths in 2014—beating out even transportation and hunting. Mobile safety apps not only save lives, they can help you save money and increase your profit margins because safety accidents are a major cause of delays that result in costly schedule overruns.



**American  
Red Cross**

Being able to deal with injuries swiftly and accurately on the jobsite may mean between completing your project late or completing it early. With the [Red Cross First Aid app](#), safety managers and other supervisors can get expert advice on almost any medical emergency, including broken bones, strains and sprains, and wounds. Packed with comprehensive resources like videos, quizzes and step-by-step instructions, this app can help almost anyone on the jobsite provide accident victims the treatment they need in an emergency.

Overall, construction mobility is revolutionizing the way construction teams work by increasing productivity, automating important workflows on the jobsite and improving communication and collaboration.



## Final Thoughts . . .

Because the mobile construction app you choose will impact your business for years to come and affect the way that your jobsites run, taking the time to study your own needs and to locate the best construction software for your brand ensures you get every feature you need and as many benefits as possible for your team and your company. Our comprehensive ebook “The Dollars and Sense of Mobile Construction Apps” is designed to help you get on the fast track to choosing the right construction software for your team—the software that will provide substantial return on investment. Armed with this knowledge, you’ll be able to make an informed decision about the construction apps that will make a big difference in the way you work. [Download your free copy of Dollars & Sense of Construction Apps](#) today and get started with the right mobile applications and programs for your business.



## See a Live Demo

or give us a call at +1 (415) 429-1227

PlanGrid construction productivity software is the easiest and most cost-effective way to get substantial return on your investment in construction mobile apps. By using PlanGrid you will:

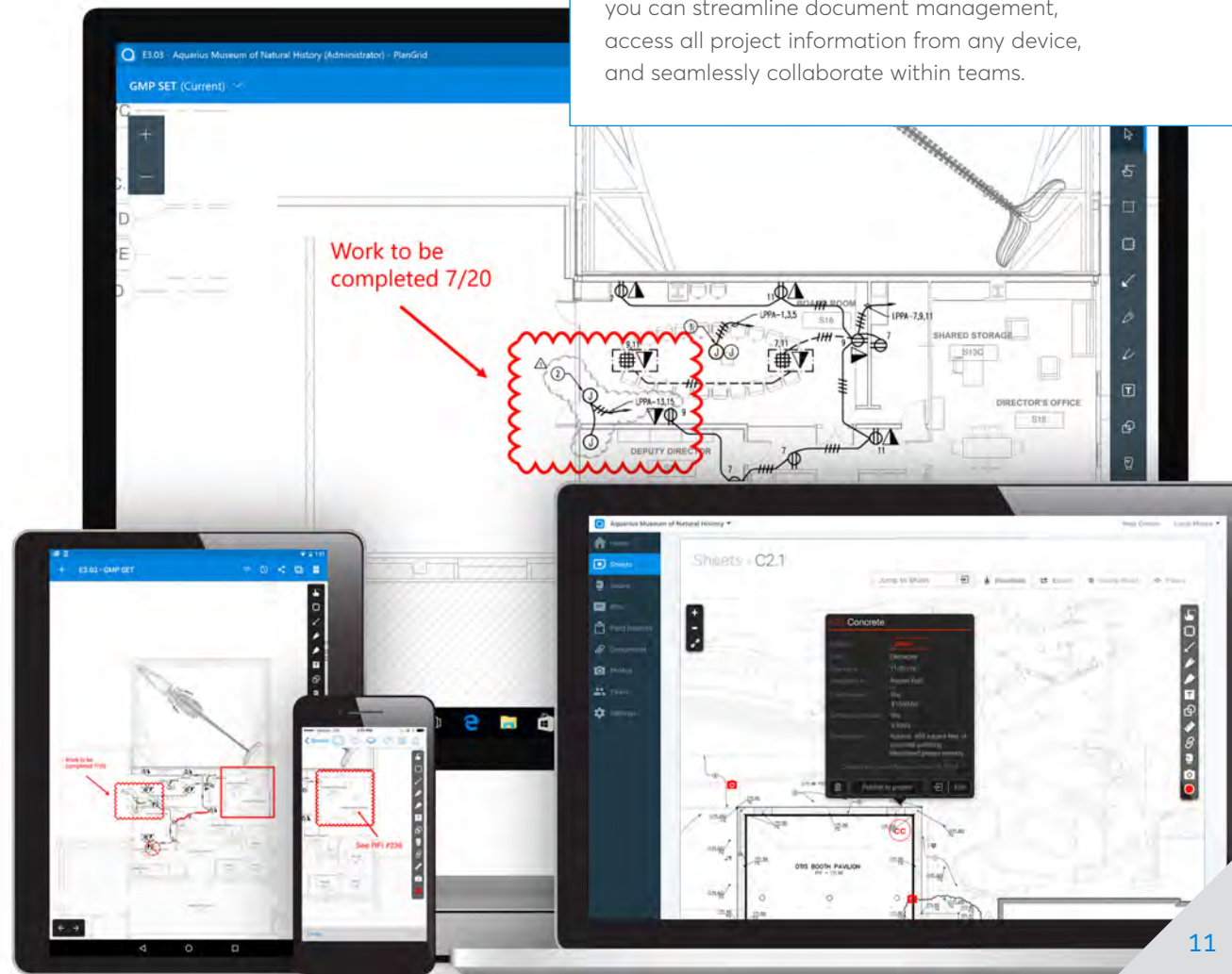
- **Complete projects faster:** 90% of project costs occur in the field not the office and most can be attributed to time waste or delays. With PlanGrid, you can reduce wasteful trips to the trailer and time delays while eliminating costly rework with faster collaboration and communication.
- **Reduce costs:** PlanGrid allows you to optimize productivity in the field, which eliminates time waste that causes project overruns. By completing projects early or on time with PlanGrid, contractors will benefit from reduced costs.
- **Win more bids:** The best way to bid more competitively is not just to track costs so you can provide more accurate estimates—it's to improve your overall productivity. PlanGrid's construction productivity software will allow you to increase productivity so you can reduce costs and win more bids.



### Try PlanGrid for Free



There is a reason why PlanGrid is not only the #1 construction app, but also the highest rated. With PlanGrid construction productivity software, you can streamline document management, access all project information from any device, and seamlessly collaborate within teams.





## References

<sup>1</sup>Construction Specifier. "Survey results for mobile app usage in construction announced" March 2015.

<https://www.constructionspecifier.com/survey-results-for-mobile-app-usage-in-construction-announced/>

<sup>2</sup>Jason Peck. "How Businesses are Using Mobile Apps." May 2015.

<https://www.gocanvas.com/content/blog/post/how-businesses-are-using-mobile-apps-2015-canvas-survey-results>





Used on more than 500,000 projects around the world, PlanGrid is the first construction productivity software that allows contractors and owners in commercial, heavy civil, and other industries to collaborate, collect, and share project information from any desktop or mobile device through the entire project lifecycle.

PlanGrid increases project efficiency by streamlining document management, providing construction teams with easy access to all project information from any device, and enabling seamless collaboration within teams.

Guide Author:

**Lynn Langmade**

*Director of Content Marketing, PlanGrid*  
[@llangmade](#)

Connect with PlanGrid



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United States  
+1 (415) 963-4088  
[www.plangrid.com](http://www.plangrid.com)

Australia  
AUS 1800 316 406  
[www.plangrid.com/au](http://www.plangrid.com/au)

United Kingdom  
+44 (0) 20 3695 0292  
[www.plangrid.com/gb](http://www.plangrid.com/gb)

Canada  
(800) 646-0796  
[www.plangrid.com/ca-en](http://www.plangrid.com/ca-en)  
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