

Fleets are a Strategic Asset, Not Just Equipment

Fleets should be managed like a strategic asset portfolio. Too often construction firms treat fleets as a cost center or operational function. This mindset shift to treating fleets like a financial investment helps unlock value and profits.

Two Primary Risks in Equipment Management

1. Risk on Capital Deployed

- Managing risk is especially critical for heavy civil/infrastructure contractors (31% fixed assets vs. 4.5% in building contractors).
- Poor asset utilization means missed returns.

2. Risk to Operations

- Downtime is costly. Equipment availability (uptime) should take priority over maintenance cost minimization.
- Example: a \$6,000/night paving crew justified an onsite mechanic to avoid production delays.

Why This Matters



Adopt a Portfolio Mindset

- Apply asset allocation principles (what to own vs. rent).
- Plan for equipment churn (retire/replace at the “sweet spot” of value).
- Manage each equipment class independently to reflect real costs.



The Role of a Fleet Manager

- Technically skilled and financially fluent.
- Able to use telematics and data analytics.
- Equipped to align fleet decisions with long-term strategy.



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Mike advises construction, engineering and energy companies across the U.S. With a strong background in construction operations and strategy consulting experience, Mike brings a unique viewpoint to his client work that focuses on how to convert strategy developed in the boardroom into operational plans to be executed in the field. He possesses a deep knowledge of estimating, fleet operations, capital expenditure optimization, strategy, and leadership development and training.

He has led multi-disciplinary teams within FMI and outside industry professional groups to solve complex challenges for his clients and the broader industry. Mike is a nationally recognized speaker for associations and trade events.