



Six Sigma DMAIC Improvement Story

Green Belt Project Objective:
To Improve Efficiencies of Repair Operations

Last Updated: 2-24-13

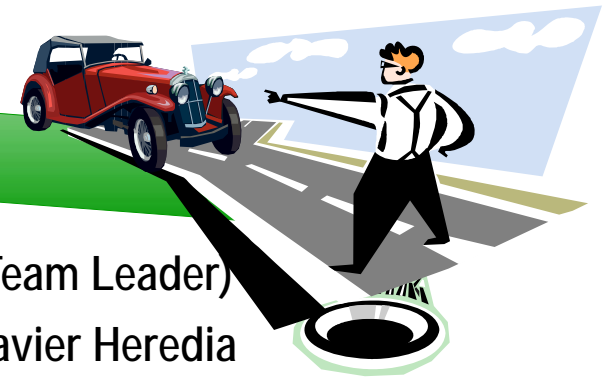
Team: *The "Roadsters"*

Manuel Garcia (Co-Team Leader) Christina Cotter (Co-Team Leader)

Antonio Cotarelo Christopher Rose Javier Heredia

Stacy Santos Nasif Alshaier

Kathleen Woods-Richardson (Sponsor)



Lean Six Sigma Problem Solving Process

The team utilized the 5-Step DMAIC problem solving process.

DMAIC Performance Improvement Process

Process Step		Description of Team Activities
Number	Name	
1	DEFINE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select Problem • Identify Project Charter • Develop Project Timeline • Establish Method to Monitor Team Progress • Construct Process Flowchart • Develop Data Collection Plan • Display Indicator Performance “Gap”
2	MEASURE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stratify Problem (i.e. “Gap”) • Identify Problem Statement
3	ANALYZE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify Potential Root Cause(s) • Verify Root Cause(s)
4	IMPROVE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and Select Improvement(s) • Identify Barriers and Aids • Develop and Implement Improvement Plan • Confirm Improvement Results
5	CONTROL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardize Improvements within Operations • Implement Process Control System (PCS) • Document Lessons Learned • Identify Future Plans



Select Problem

Management reviewed many problems using a selection Matrix.

Project Selection Matrix					
Problem(s) <i>(where cause is unknown and knowing cause is desired)</i>	Customer (Internal or External)	Selection Criteria			C=A*B Overall
		A Impact on Customer (Accuracy/ Cost /Timeliness)	B Need to Improve (Performance Gap)	Estim. Month for Project Ready and Prep'd	
1 PWWM: Bulky Trash Collection Costs are too high	External	4	4	Oct '12	16.00
2 PWWM: Public Works' Road & Bridge operations needs to be more efficient/effective (e.g. generalist vs specialist teams)	External	3	4	Oct '12	12.00
3 PWWM: Construction project not getting done quickly enough (especially length of time to launch project)	External/Internal	3	3	Oct '12	9.00
4 PWWM: Costs of Chemical Collection are too high	External	3	3	Oct '12	9.00
5 PWWM: Carryover is too high in Special Taxing Districts	External	3	3	Oct '12	9.00
6 Internal Services Department: Procurement process is too long/cumbersome	Internal	4	4	Oct - Nov '12	16.00
7 WASD: It takes too long for Dept to effectively answer/handle customer service calls	External	4	4	Nov '12	16.00
8 Transit: Cost of bus service has risen more dramatically than expected	External	4	4	Nov '12	16.00
9 Fleet Maintenance Costs are too high	Internal	tbd	tbd	Nov '12	TBD
10 PROS (Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces): tbd	tbd	tbd	tbd	Nov - Dec '12	TBD
Rating Scores:		5= Extreme 4= High	3= Moderate 2= Low 1=None		



The team was chartered by management to improve Road and Bridge operations.



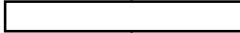
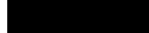








Develop Project Timeline Plan

The team developed a timeline plan to complete the Project.

4.

Legend:	
	= Actual
	= Proposed

WHAT: Complete DMAIC Story Project by March 31, 2013

DMAIC Story Process Step	WHEN					
	2012					
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar
1. Define	  Completed 11/11/12					
2. Measure	  Completed 11/30/12					
3. Analyze			  Completed 12/12/12			
4. Improve					1/30/13	
5. Control						3/30/13



Monitor Team Progress

The Team and Management used a Checklist to monitor team progress.

DMAIC Story Checkpoints		
PLAN	Step 1 Define	Objective: Demonstrate the importance of improvement needs in measurable terms.
		1. The stakeholders' need(s) were identified. ✓
		2. The problem can be described as an "object" with a "defect" with unknown cause(s) that need to be identified. ✓
		3. A line graph outcome indicator was constructed that appropriately measures the problem (or gap). ✓
	Step 2 Measure	Objective: Investigate the features of the indicator, stratify the problem and set a target for improvement.
		4. A schedule for completing the five DMAIC Story steps was developed. ✓
		5. Data contained or directly linked to the indicator were stratified from various viewpoints (i.e., what, where, when and who) and a significant dataset was chosen. ✓
		6. A target for improvement was established based on the stakeholders' need. ✓
	Step 3 Analyze	Objective: Analyze the stratified data to identify and verify the root causes.
		7. The impact of the target on the indicator was determined. ✓
		8. A problem statement that describes the "remaining dataset" was developed. ✓
		9. Cause and effect analysis was taken to the root level. ✓
DO	Step 4 Improve	Objective: Develop and implement countermeasures to eliminate the verified root causes of the problem.
		10. Potential causes most likely to have the greatest impact on the problem were selected. ✓
		11. A relationship between the root causes and the problem was verified with data. ✓
		12. The impact of each root cause on the gap was determined. ✓
	Step 5 Control	Objective: Confirm that the countermeasures taken impacted the root causes and the problem; and that the target has been met.
		13. Countermeasures were selected to address verified root causes. ✓
		14. The method for selecting the appropriate countermeasures was clear and considered effectiveness and feasibility. ✓
		15. Barriers and aids were determined for countermeasures worth implementing. ✓
CHECK	Step 4 Improve	16. The action plan reflected accountability and schedule. ✓
		17. The effect of countermeasures on the root causes was demonstrated. ✓
		18. The effect of countermeasures on the problem (or indicator) was demonstrated. ✓
		19. The improvement target was achieved and causes of significant variation were addressed. ✓
	Step 5 Control	20. The effect of countermeasures on the indicator representing the stakeholders' need was demonstrated. ✓
		Objective: Prevent the problem and its root causes from recurring. Maintain and share the gains.
		21. A method was established to document, permanently change, and communicate the revised process or standard. ✓
		22. Responsibility was assigned and periodic checks scheduled to ensure compliance with the revised process or standard. ✓
ACT	Step 5 Control	23. Specific areas for replication were identified. ✓
		Objective: Evaluate the team's effectiveness and plan future activities.
		24. Any remaining problems (or gaps) were addressed. ✓
		25. Lessons learned, P-D-C-A of the Story process, & team growth were assessed & documented. ✓

- Team identified an indicator; developed a Flowchart and a Spreadsheet
- Histograms, Paretos
- Single Case Bore; Fishbone ; RC Verification Matrix
- Countermeasures Matrix; Barriers and Aids; Action Plan
- Line Graph
- Process Flowchart; Process Control Chart
- Lessons Learned



Identify Project Charter

The team developed a team Project Charter.

Project Charter	
Business Case	Project Name: To Improve Efficiencies of Repair Operations 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Problem/Impact: Road and Bridge Repairs are ongoing and require significant resources to address. Backlog of service requests result in late completions. Citizen complaints and risk can result with delayed completion of repairs. 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Expected Benefits: Reduced costs; Improved Efficiencies. Improved service repair time on repairs.
Objectives	Outcome Indicator(s) Q1- % of Repair Service Requests Completed Late
	Proposed Target(s) Target= 2 %
	Time Frame: October 2012 thru March 2013
	Strategic Alignment: Supports the County's Business Plan
Scope	In Scope: Public infra-structure repairs...e.g. Road, Bridge and Canal Repairs
	Out-of-Scope: Other types of repairs
	Authorized by: Kathleen Woods-Richardson
Team	Sponsor: Kathleen Woods-Richardson
	Team Leader: Manuel Garcia, Christina Cotter
	Team Members: Antonio Cotarelo, Chris Rose, Javier Heredia, Stacy Santos, Nasif Alshaier
	Process Owner(s): Manuel Garcia
	Mgmt Review Team: Ray Scher; Chris Rose; Kathleen Woods-Richardson
Schedule	Completion Date: 31-Mar-13
	Review Dates: Monthly and Final Review in Mach 2013
	Key Milestone Dates: See Action Plan



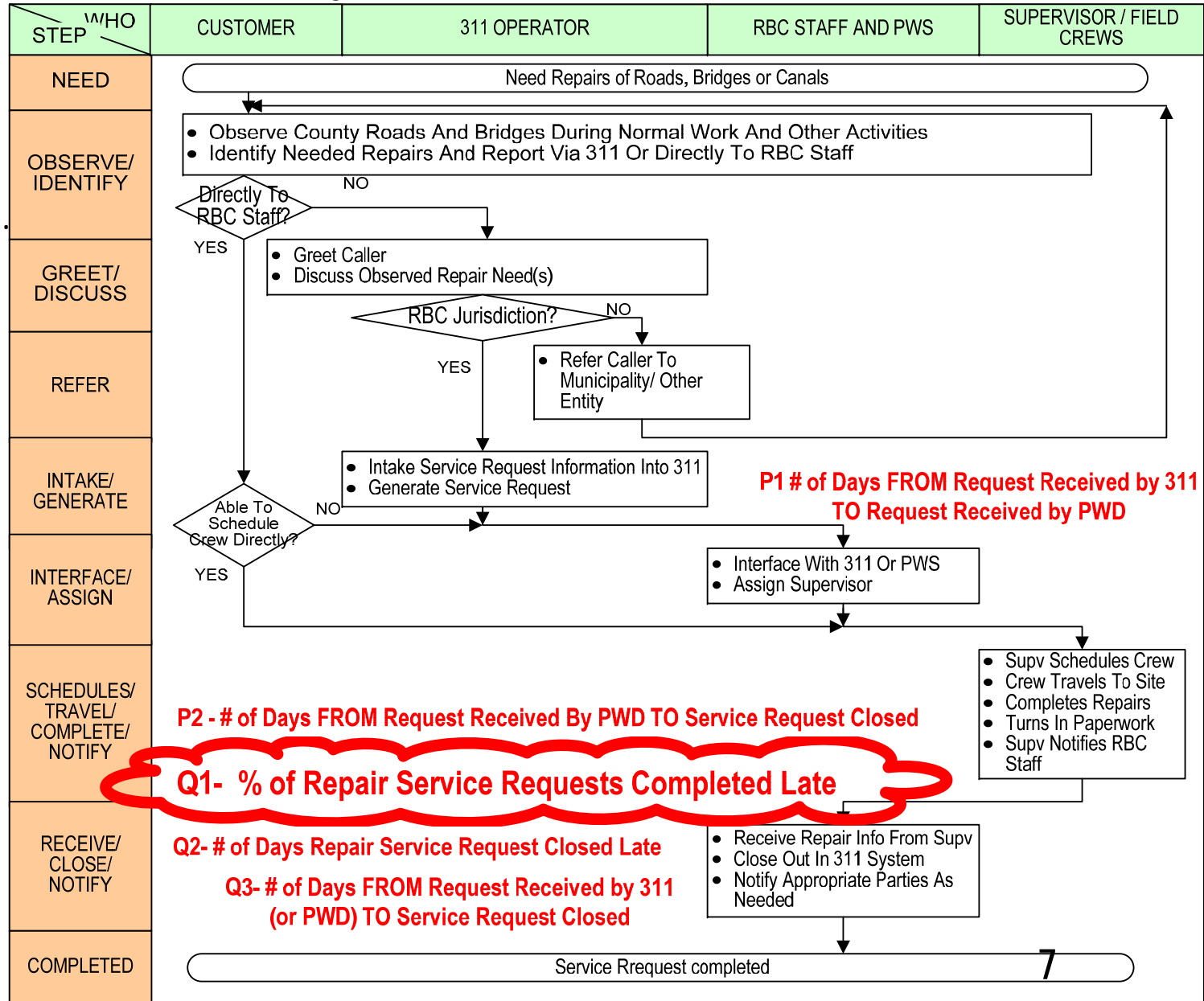
Review Process Flow Chart

The team constructed a Process flow chart describing the Process.

The team next looked closer how to capture indicator data.

Repair County Roads, Bridges and Canals

(Process Owner: Manny Garcia)

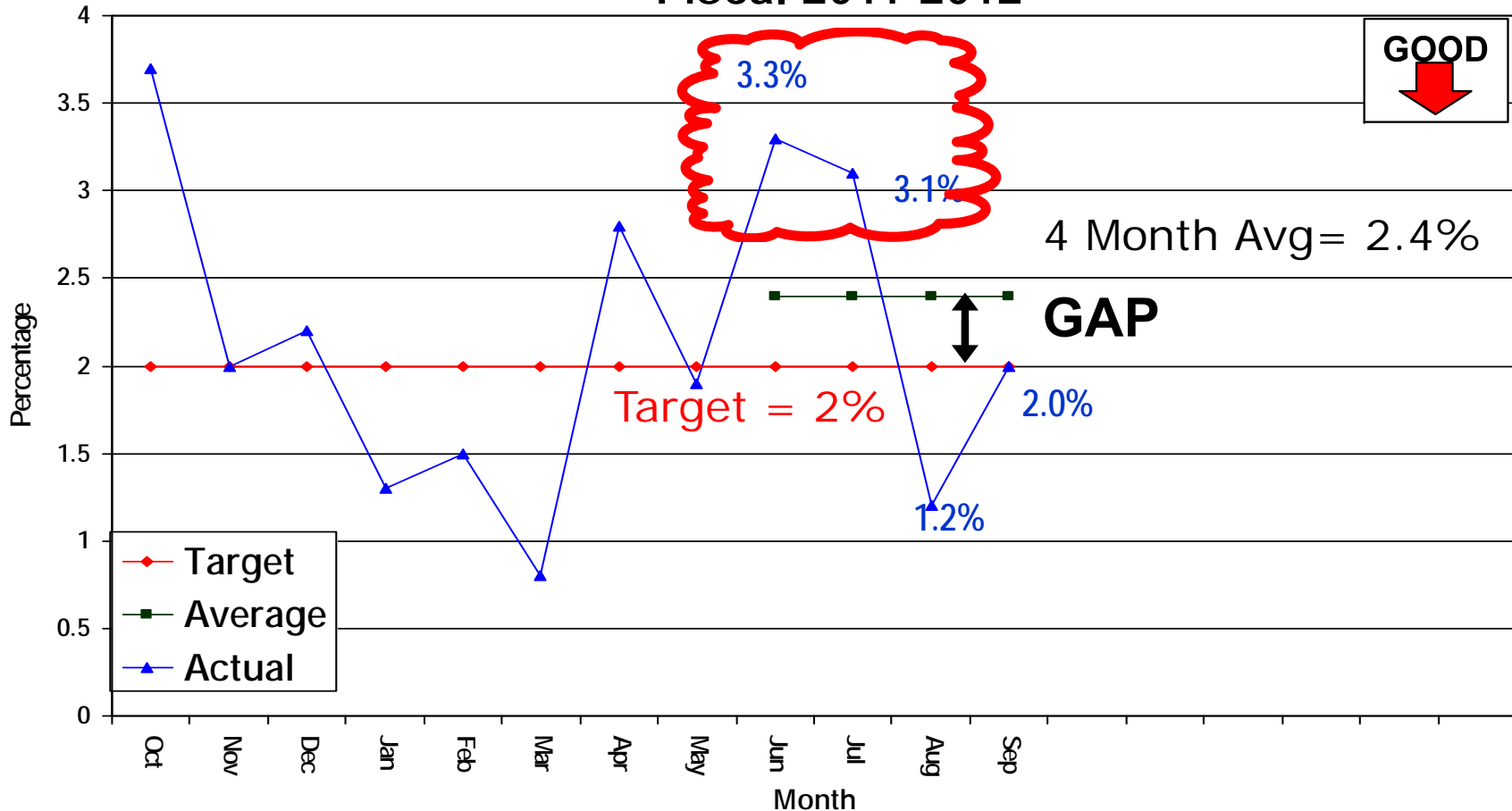


Review Selected Indicator

The team collected Q1 indicator data and reviewed performance trends:

Q1- % of Repair Service Requests Completed Late Fiscal 2011-2012

3.



The team next looked closer at the June and July recent months.



Hidden Costs of Late Repairs

The team identified info on costs of late repairs.

Annual Cost

1. Handling Costs for Inquiries/Complaints asking about repairs

a. (136 late repairs more than 13 days for Jun-Jul) X 6 X (50% probability of call) X(.5 Staff Hrs per Call)X(\$26 per Staff Hr)..... \$5,304

2. Managing Service Repair Requests Backlog

a. (136 late Repair Requests more than 13 days for Jun-Jul) X 6 X (.05 Staff Hrs per request) X(\$26 per staff hr)X(4 times)..... \$4,243

3. Claims through Internal Service Dept

a. Settlement Costs for RBC (316 claims for FY 2011-12)..... \$836,160

b. Processing Costs for RBC (25 Litigations for FY 2011-12)

1. An equivalent county attorney (Salary + Fringe Benefits).....\$200,00

2. 3 equivalent claims Investigators (Salary+ Fringe Benefits).....\$90,635

3. 2 equivalent claims Coordinators (Salary+ Fringe Benefits).....\$99,127

4. .5 equivalent claims manager (Salary+ Fringe Benefits).....\$53,356

Annual Costs = \$1,288,827

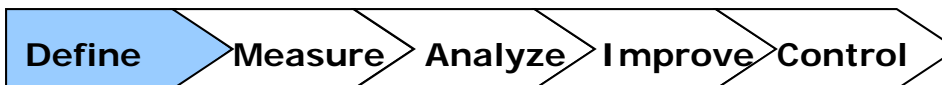


Identify Data Collection Needs

The team developed a data collection spreadsheet...

BCB	DEMOGRAPHICS										
	WHAT					WHO			WHERE		
	B	C	D	E	F	G	I	J	K	L	M
Line #	Complaint Asgmt #	Problem Description	Complaint Origin System	How Complaint Received	CSR Transferred? Y/N	Reporter Last Name	Rec'd By	Complaint Source	Complaint Address	Complaint Zone	Neat Zone #
					%Y						
					96.0						
1	A2011089249	Weed Control	PWS	N	N	Pw Neat C	SHERI	PUBLIC AT	24500 SW 160		5
2	A2011089250	Weed Control	PWS	N	N	Pw Neat C	SHERI	PUBLIC AT	SW 118TH A	0	5
3	A2011089251	Weed Control	PWS	N	N	Pw Neat C	SHERI	PUBLIC AT	SW 122ND A	0	5

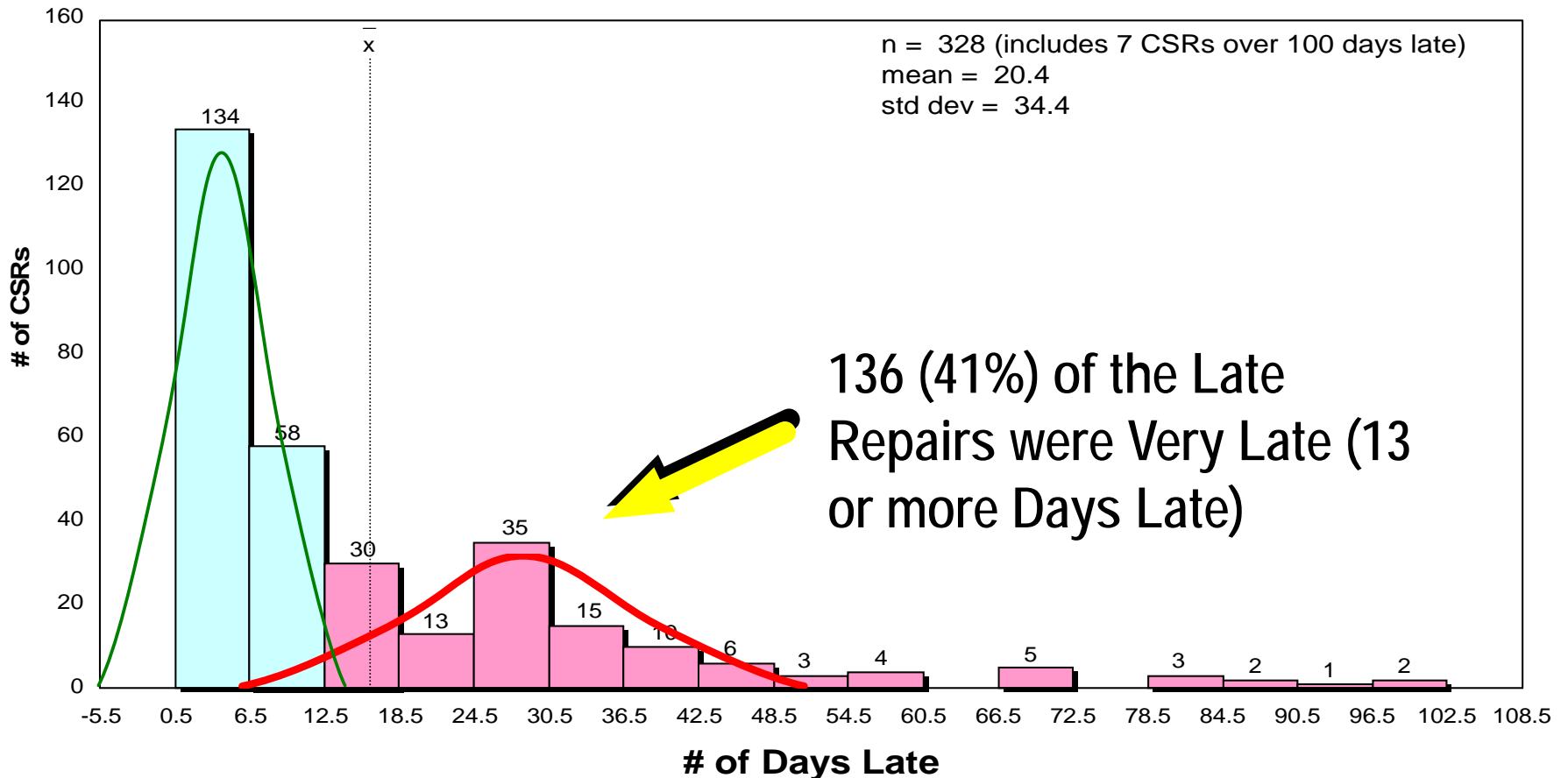
MILESTONES							DURATION			OUTCOMES		BB
N	O	P	Q	Z	AA	AB	AC= P-N	AD= AA-P	AI= AA-(N or P)	AO= Z-AB	AP='Y' if Z-AB>0	
1- Request Received by 311		2- Received By PWD		3- Request Closed		Complaint Due Date	Received by 311 TO Received by PWD	Received by PWD TO Rqst Closed	311 Rc'd/ PWD Rcd TO Rqst Closed	# of Day: Repair Reques Closed Late	Repair Request Closed Late?	Comments
Date	Day	Date	Day	Date	Day		Avg # of Days	%Y				
	%Mo		%Mo		%Mo	0.0	37.2	37.3	20.4	100.00		
	3.4		9.5		11.6							
						P1	P2	Q3	Q2	Q1		
		29-Nov-11	Tu	20-Jul-12	Fr	30-Nov-11		234	234	233	Y	
		29-Nov-11	Tu	20-Jul-12	Fr	30-Nov-11		234	234	233	Y	
		29-Nov-11	Tu	20-Jul-12	Fr	30-Nov-11		234	234	233	Y	



Stratify the Problem

The team stratified the June and July Late Repairs and found...

**Customer Service Requests Completed Late (after Due Date)
PWWM June-July Completed CSRs**



The team looked closer at these 136 Very Late Repairs.

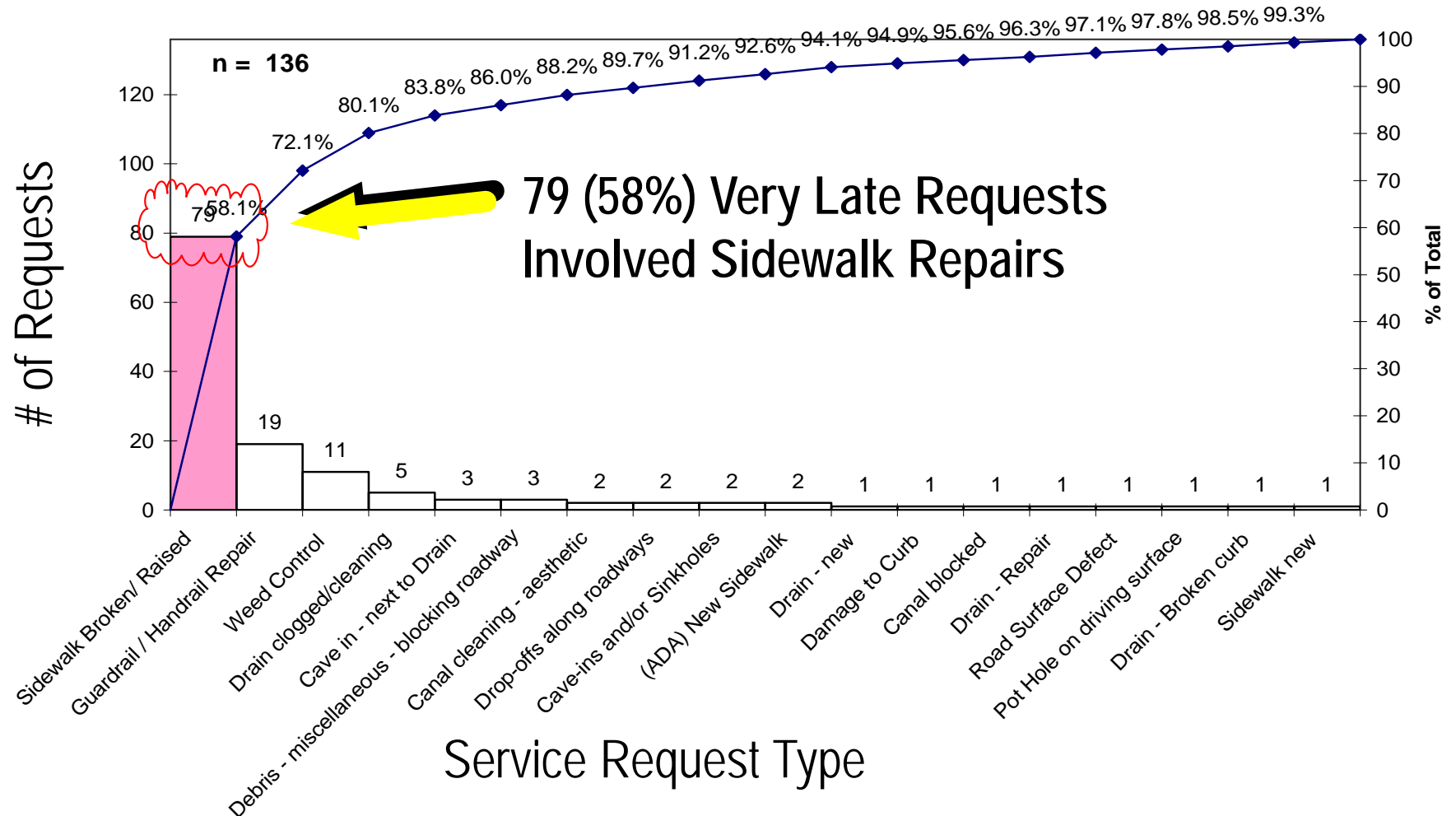


Stratify the Problem

The team stratified the 136 Very Late Repairs many ways and found...

Customer Service Requests Completed Very Late (13 or more days after Due Date)

PWWM June-July Completed CSRs



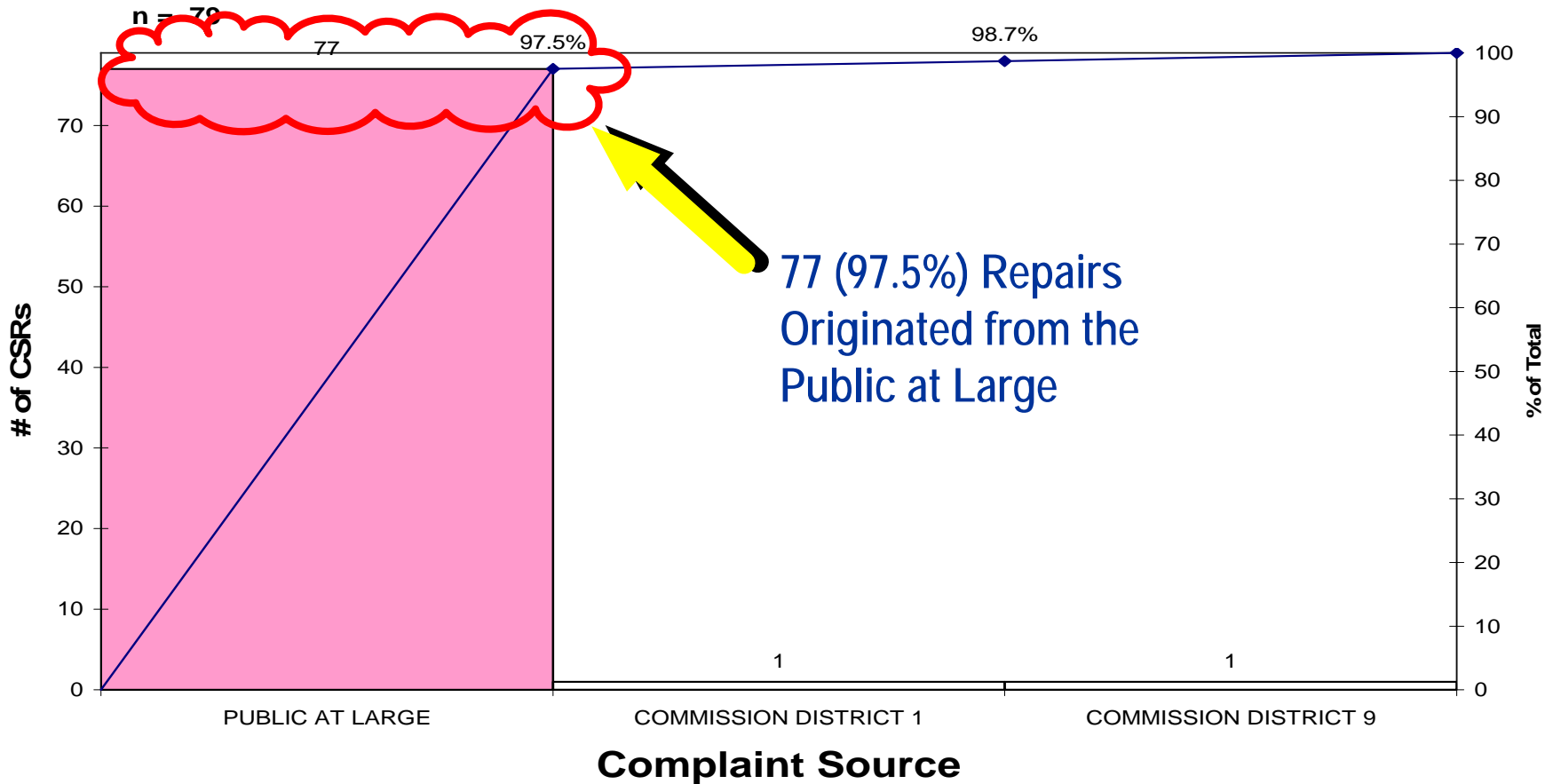
The team looked closer at these 79 Sidewalk Repairs.



Stratify the Problem

The team stratified the 79 Very Late Sidewalk Repairs many ways and found...

Customer Service Requests for Sidewalk Repairs Completed Very Late (13 or more days after Due Date) PWWM June-July Completed CSRs



Problem Statement: *"77 Customer Service Requests from the Public at Large for Sidewalk Repairs were Completed Very Late (13 or more days after the Due Date) in June and July 2012"*



Identify Potential Root Causes

The team sampled 23 of the 77 Late Sidewalk Repairs and reviewed Request documentation before conducting Single Case Bore Analysis.

Single Case Bore Analysis	
Problem Statement: "77 Customer Service Requests from the Public at Large for Sidewalk Repairs were Completed Very Late (13 or more days after the Due Date) in June and July 2012"	
Reasons or Factors (That possibly contributed to Very Late Repair of Sidewalk)	Random Sample of 23 of the 77 Sidewalk Repairs
	2012019048 2012035531 2012034629 2012034798 2012033483 2012031877 2012019054 2012024210 2012025323 2012030772 2012029929 2012019051 2012023929 2012026364 2012030058 2012026775 2012030455 2012029352 2012028654 2012028657 2012028660 2012028661 2012028207 total percentage
Requires both grinding and asphalt patch (two crews)	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X 16 70%
Office closure issue	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X 7 30%
One very large project (took a long time to complete)	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X 6 26%
Tree Roots	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X 4 17%
Utility Verification	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X 3 13%
Internal coordination required	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X 3 13%
Requires ADA verification of proximity	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X 1 4%
Pending permanent sidewalk repair (takes time to make this determination)	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X 1 4%
Municipal coordination required	X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X X 1 4%

The team next looked closer at these 3 factors.



Develop and Implement Action Plan

Legend:
 = Actual
 = Proposed

The team implemented an Action Plan for the team's Countermeasures.

16.

WHAT: Implement Countermeasures to Reduce Service Request Late Completions

HOW	WHO	WHEN									
		2012	2013								
		Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	
1. Develop Countermeasures:											
A1- Create PWWM Asphalt Plant	Chris			1/15/13							
A2- Secure second Supplier	Chris			1/15/13							
A4- Ask Provider to add more days of Patch Supplies	Chris			1/15/13							
A5- Develop SOP for Scheduling Asphalt Crews	Javier/ Christina/ Stacy			1/15/13							
A6- Re-train staff in Priority of finishing Asphalt Patches when possible	Javier/ Christina/ Stacy			1/15/13							
B1- Create new task code for large projects and SOP for use of new task code	Nasif			1/15/13							
C1- Develop Procedure to separate out sidewalk repairs in phases	Manuel			1/15/13							
C2- Add two men crews	Chris			1/15/13							
2. Secure Management Approval of Countermeasures (share benefits and cost savings)	Team			3/1/13							
3. Communicate/Train PWWM Staff in Countermeasures and related policies/procedures (share benefits and cost savings)	Team			3/15/13							
4. Implement Countermeasures and Pilot Countermeasures	Manuel Garcia/ Team			4/15/13							
5. Review Pilot and determine Benefits and adjust as necessary and present results to management	Team/ Manuel Garcia						4/30/13				
6. Establish On-going responsibilities and standardize countermeasures into operations	Manuel Garcia										On-going



Implement Process Control System

21.,22.,23. ✓

The team developed a Process Control System to better monitor the process on-going.

Process Control System						
Process Name: Repair County Roads and Bridges			Process Owner: Manuel Garcia			
Process Customer: Public at Large			Critical Customer Requirements: Respond Timely and Satisfactorily to Service Requests			
Process Purpose: To respond to (and complete) service requests			Current Sigma Level: 98% (approx 2.9 sigma)		Outcome Indicators: Q1, Q2, Q3	
Process and Quality Indicators		Checking / Indicator Monitoring				
Process Indicators	Control Limits	Data to Collect	Timeframe (Frequency)	Responsibility	Contingency Plans / Misc:	
And					Actions Required for Exceptions	
Quality Indicators	Specs/Targets	What is Checking Item or Indicator Calculation	When to Collect Data?	Who will Check?	Procedure References	
P1	# of Days FROM Request Received by 311 TO Request Received by PWD	2 days	(date Request recd by PWD) - (Date Request Recd by 311)	Monthly	Manuel Garcia	311/PWD system
P2	# of Days FROM Request Received By PWD TO Service Request Closed	15 Days	(Date Request completed) - (Date Request recd by PWD)	Monthly	Manuel Garcia	311 system Escalate to Supv if Overdue
Q1	% of Repair Service Requests Completed Late	75%	$100 * (\# \text{ Completed Late}) / (\# \text{ completed})$	Monthly	Manuel Garcia	311 system Overdue Rpt
Q2	# of Days Repair Service Request Closed Late	0	$9 * [(Date Completed) - (Date Recd by 311)]$	Monthly	Manuel Garcia	311 system Overdue R pt
Q3	# of Days FROM Request Received by 311 (or PWD) TO Service Request Closed	120 days	(Date Request Completed) - (Date Request Rcd by 311)	Monthly	Manuel Garcia	311/PWD system Overdue R pt

Approved: _____ Date: _____ Rev #: _____ Rev Date: _____

The team looked ahead to the future.



Identify Lessons Learned

24.,25. 

Lessons Learned

- 1) **Accurate and appropriate data is very important in analysis.** Care should be taken to identify appropriate data collected in order to solve the problem.
- 2) **There are many approaches to analyze problems,** each requiring the use of appropriate tools to separate the pertinent data needed to help identify Root Causes.
- 3) **Learned how to interpret various graphs** in order to better understand what is happening with the process and outputs.
- 4) **All Root Causes come from either Standards that Fail or People that Fail the Standards"**

Next Steps

- 1) Continue to monitor the countermeasures and performance results.

