

Martin Smith

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My dealings with the Axial team have always been positive and refreshing no more so than during my role as the Managing Director of the Midland Mainline Electrification Programme for the Carillion Powerlines Joint Venture. They managed with utmost professionalism the complexities of a £ 1.5 billion programme to upgrade the Midland Main between London and Sheffield with scope encompassing some 164km of new electrification, power supply upgrade, Telecomms and SCADA immunization. This required liaison and interface management with Network Rail and their wider supply chain for disciplines including Track Remodelling, Route clearance, Line speed enhancement & Signalling Upgrades.

Led by Fin Burke as Planning and Controls Lead for the project, Axial also supplied an Integration manager and a number of Construction Planners. All the people supplied were experienced and highly competent, and one of the main benefits to us as a business was the way which the Axial team supported the development of our internal planning capability by transferring their knowledge and experience to our in house team. The remit for Axial was to develop and support the implementation of a holistic planning system including a fully integrated programme, which considered de-confliction of the various construction activities on the busy MML route.

Along with the programme development, Axial were also commissioned to develop a suite of construction metrics with regular reporting to enable progress to be appropriately monitored. A number of visualisation tools were implemented as part of this process including a route wide time-chainage diagram, and specific dashboard reports for internal and customer reporting.

Tony Bullivant developed our integrated access strategy and lead negotiations with the TOCs and FOCs, in order to secure sufficient track time to enable the efficient construction of the works. A testament to the quality of Axial work for CPL, is that the client's Programme Manager requested that CPL take on the Planning and Controls function for all works on the route. The Axial guys stepped up to the challenge and their role was duly extended to cover the wider construction activity along the route. I would whole heartedly recommend Fin and the rest of the Axial team for any multi-disciplined/multi-faceted rail project and would not hesitate to use them again.

Martin Smith - Managing Director of Carillion Powerlines