



Christine Sawatzke, RA
Project Architect

Communication is Key to Project Success

We hear it all the time, “communication is key.” I have always known this statement to be true, but it wasn’t until we were in a full-blown global pandemic that I fully came to appreciate how critical it is in our business.

Our firm was fortunate to adapt quickly to the COVID mandates that had us all working from home. In a very short period of time, our entire team was set up on a virtual network as if we had been working remotely for years. In those early quarantined days, some projects slowed down or halted, but our work at Hard Rock Northern Indiana didn’t skip a beat.

As the ground-up casino was in the early phases of construction, the entire project team ramped up their communication and coordination, which was the differentiating factor in keeping the project on schedule for its 2021 opening. Technology also had its advantages; meeting regularly on Zoom and drawing 95% of the project in the cloud through Revit BIM 360, which allowed for live, in-real-time communication between consultants. Where we would normally make weekly site visits during construction, travel restrictions had us rely heavily on our construction team—TN Ward and Hagerman—who were phenomenal in providing regular updates and site photos as the project progressed.

I firmly believe the strong and very intentional lines of communication between all parties involved contributed to Hard Rock Northern Indiana’s successful opening last month. We are grateful to work with such an incredible team of consultants, general contractors and of course, our clients who had the foresight to stay the course and put their trust in our abilities to adapt our processes to create a world-class casino.

My biggest takeaway from the last 15 months: communication and a team willing to push beyond any limitations the world can throw at us are the keys to any successful project.

