U.S. Institute of
BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

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The U.S. Institute of Building Documentation (USIBD) Board of Directors is issuing this document on behalf of the Organization in support of the AECO/O Industry. This document is intended to help convey the key benefits of virtualization of job-sites along with other considerations industry participants should be aware of when transitioning from a "Shelter-in-place" strategy to a "Return-to-work" strategy.

Board of Directors
on behalf of
The U.S. Institute of Building Documentation (USIBD)

Key Benefits of Virtualization of Job-sites:

- **Keep Designers Working** - Virtualization allows AECO/Os to access their job-sites digitally and through cloud services so they can continue to work remotely and stay safe and productive. Facilitating remote access is consistent with the work remote strategy being promoted by many state and local agencies.

- **Keep Projects on Schedule** - providing virtual access to job-site information will aid in keeping projects on schedule. It helps prevent jobs from shutting down and causing project delays which often have severe financial impacts on project participants as well as those further downstream.

- **Minimal Disruption in the Field** - Field documentation services can often be performed with minimal personnel (sometimes even as few as one)

- **OSHA Standards and Directives provide guidance to protect workers** - Many of today's virtualization technologies are non-contact utilizing lasers and photo imagery.   Proper use of PPE and implementation of recommended procedures as outlined by OSHA Standards and Requirements apply to prevent occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 for both building occupants and field technicians

- **On-Demand Access** - Virtualization of job-sites provide a means for holding "on-demand" virtual job-walks by all project stakeholders

- **Risk Reduction and Lower Price Bids** - Virtual access lower bidder's risk resulting in smaller contingencies and lower-priced bids for GC's and Owners

- **Reduced Financial Risk** - Keeping project teams working by giving access to critical job-site information helps to reduce the financial risk of those who would otherwise be negatively impacted through work stoppages. This not only can affect individuals and companies, but also society which ultimately assumes the burden of layoffs in the form of unemployment claims.

Other Considerations:

- **A Key Component in Government Agency Strategy** - Government Agencies should consider incorporating virtualization of job-sites as a critical component in the roll-out of their Return-to-work strategy as it allows for a gradual and safe "return-to-normal" for the AECO/O Industry participants

- **Ideal Conditions** - In most cases, buildings with few or no occupants provide ideal conditions for faster and better documentation of job-sites

- **Liability Protection** - Even while job-sites are shut down, digital documentation and virtualization can provide a record of where work stopped helping to limit liability and mitigate stakeholder claims and disagreements regarding site conditions at the time of the work stoppage