Side-by-Side Comparison of Construction Delivery Formats

	Hard Bid	CM- Agency	CMAR / CM/GC	Design- Build	Integrated
Format is well known and easy to understand. Format is relatively simple to understand and/or is more widely known.	✓	✓	×	×	×
Format encourages competitive pricing. Competitive pricing among contractors, subcontractors and suppliers results in a lower overall project cost.	✓	✓	✓	✓	 Image: A start of the start of
Owner retains cost savings. If the project comes in under budget, the owner retains some or all of the cost savings.	*	 ✓ 	✓	 ✓ 	✓
Contractor holds trade contracts directly. The contractor manages financial risk on behalf of the owner by contracting directly with subs and suppliers. This arrangement also gives the contractor more leverage when working with trade contractors.	~	×	~	~	~
Format requires less work from the owner. Contractor guidance and project management from start to finish means fewer headaches for the owner.	×	maybe	✓	✓	~
Contractor's main motivation is serving the owner's needs. The fee arrangement motivates the contractor to provide the best quality and value for his client, not to enhance his own fee.	×	✓	✓	✓	~
Format encourages teamwork. <i>Relationships between owner, architect and contractor are strong and productive, not adversarial.</i>	×	✓	✓	✓	~
Format allows the owner to choose the contractor. The owner selects a contractor based on qualifications, reputation, past experience, etc.—not on price alone.	×	✓	✓	✓	~
Format minimizes the risk of hiring an unqualified contractor. Ensures that only qualified firms/individuals who can meet the owner's needs will serve as the contractor.	×	×	✓	✓	~
Format allows the contractor to qualify subs & suppliers. Contractor prequalification of subcontractors and suppliers maximizes quality and minimizes financial risk.	×	✓	✓	✓	~
Format allows contractor to provide input during design phase. <i>Early involvement allows the contractor to provide valuable input about methods, schedules, cost, ongoing owner operations, safety, phasing, etc. during the design phase, all of which</i>	×	~	~	~	~
• reduces change orders. Fewer changes during construction reduces costs and keeps the project on schedule.	×	✓	✓	 ✓ 	<
• allows for early purchasing. Early purchasing of materials means construction can start sooner.	×	✓	✓	 ✓ 	 ✓
• allows for schedule fast-tracking. A fast-tracked schedule means the project gets completed sooner.	×	 ✓ 	✓	 ✓ 	 ✓
Format encourages financial transparency. <i>Open-book accounting practices mean the owner knows exactly how and where money is spent.</i>	×	✓	✓	✓	~
Format provides a Guaranteed Maximum Price in the contract. <i>Including a GMP up front, in the contract means the owner knows the absolute maximum price of the project.</i>	×	×	✓	✓	~
Format takes advantage of on-site quality-control measures. Contractor provides dedicated on-site personnel to ensure quality of all work and materials.	maybe	✓	✓	✓	~
Formats allows for integrated use of BIM by the entire team. <i>Early contractor involvement means BIM can be used by the entire team (owner, architect, contractor and subs) throughout the project.</i>	×	✓	✓	✓	✓
Format allows contractor to assist with sustainability goals. If the owner wishes to incorporate green/sustainable features and/or pursue third-party green certification (e.g. LEED® or Green Globes®) for the project, the contractor can assist with increasing value, determining the best ways to achieve the owner's sustainability goals, and applying for certification.	×	~	~	~	~

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