



# Site-Wide Solutions

For this Colorado contractor, stringless concrete paving was just the opening act



Lance Latimer, co-owner of Alpine Civil Construction (ACC), had a vision that started with a stringless slipform paving system but has since grown to include GNSS technology on almost every type of heavy equipment the company operates. That push to GPS — and the reputation it’s helped Alpine earn for fast, accurate work — has led to the company becoming one of the area’s most sought-after contractors.

ACC first made inroads as a slipform paving company. However, based on their success in that area — using a stringless paving solution — they quickly expanded into other areas, including mass excavation, grading and utility work, and employed Topcon GNSS-based machine control solutions there as well. The result, said Latimer, was an across-the-board improvement in the deliverable to the client.

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## Company

Alpine Civil Construction  
Conifer, Colorado

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## Project

Green Valley Ranch  
Aurora, Colorado

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## Topcon Products

Millimeter GPS, X-53i Excavator System,  
3D-MC<sup>2</sup>

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“We’ve sped the process up considerably, using Topcon GPS technology on our excavators, dozers and motor graders,” he said. “Our operator loves it because he know where grade is no matter where he’s at on the site. That makes it easy for him to work alongside a blade, building sub-base for road prep. We believe in the technology and our customers are beneficiaries of that belief.”

Recently, on one of those development projects, a master-planned community called Green Valley Ranch (GVR), a John Deere 210 excavator was at work creating a retention pond — without a grade stake in sight. According to Seth Aberle, ACC’s machine control specialist, excavators with GPS have all but eliminated their need for survey stakes.



“Running off a digital model, this machine he will get to within .1 of a foot,” he said. “Working off his screen, he will do the inlet, the forebays, the e-walls, everything. Early on, a number of our customers were skeptical of our reliance on GPS. But, after verifying us with their own surveyors and seeing how accurate our work is, they’ve become believers.”

That dramatic reduction in survey costs is also realized in the stringless paving operation. Latimer said he regularly points out to new clients how much they save by not having to pay survey to pound hubs and stakes in advance of the stringline crew.

“On larger developments, that savings can be tens of thousands of dollars,” he said. “I tell them they can save that money or put it into contingency — it’s a nice plus.”



Latimer quickly saw the value the stringless solution brought. “We had lightning in a bottle and wanted to be the first in the area to utilize it,” he said. “That was our motivation to pull the trigger on going stringless and we regularly see that we were right in doing so.”

For an example of how much better a GNSS solution can be, Aberle points to a project which involved paving 10,000 linear feet of 5-foot wide sidewalk.



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“This job, done with stringline, would have taken two weeks,” he said. “Using Topcon Millimeter GPS, we were able to get it poured in three days. That much of a reduction in time is huge because it opens up the developer’s window for getting permits and so on. We got on board with GPS early and it’s allowed us to really capitalize on it.”



A [full-length version](#) of this story is on the Topcon website.



Watch a video on [Alpine Civil Construction](#) using Millimeter GPS for curb and gutter work. Visit the [Topcon YouTube channel](#) to watch more videos on technology featured in this TAW. [Concrete paving](#) videos are available here.

