# Digital Twins

As Enablers of Service Delivery Modernizations

**CDAO Canada Public Sector 2025** 

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- 01 The Dilemma
- 02 The Opportunity
- 03 Barriers & Breaking Through
- 04 So What?

## Of Challenges within Construction



Inefficiencies during how we build public assets, will cascade into how the assets are eventually experienced.

<sup>&</sup>lt;u>RICS, National Bank of Canada</u>

### 1 The Economic Burden

Lost Wages & Productivity Cost<sup>1</sup>

Per Hour in Lost Productivity<sup>2</sup>

\$50B

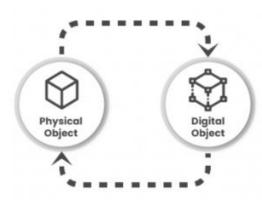
Healthcare Access Gaps<sup>3</sup>

The persistence of these challenges carries a significant economic toll, impacting all facets of life and industry.

<sup>2.</sup> MacMillan Supply Chain Group

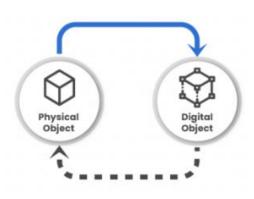
What If we could see, simulate, and solve problems **before** they happen?

## 02 What are Digital Twins?



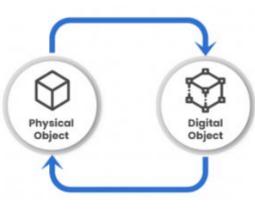
### **Digital Model**

A digital replication of physical object(s), requiring manual updates of the digital model to accurately reflect status changes of the physical object



### **Digital Shadow**

Digital object ingests information from physical object automatically to reflect changes, but requires manual updates to the physical objects

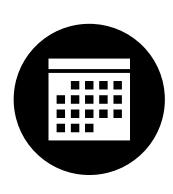


### **Digital Twin**

An automated information exchange between the physical and digital objects, enabling each to reflect or affect status changes of the other

When we see our systems differently, we can design them differently.

## Value Levers of Digital Twins



#### Schedule Efficiencies

Predictive planning and real-time monitoring can reduce delays by identifying issues early and optimizing workflows. Projects move from reactive firefighting to proactive delivery.



#### **Cost Efficiencies**

Simulating scenarios before committing resources, Digital Twins can help minimize waste, avoid rework, and ensure investments are directed to where they create the most value.



### Improved Risk Mgmt.

Virtual testing environments allow leaders to stress-test decisions before they impact the real world. This reduces exposure to operational risks, strengthens safety outcomes, and improves resilience against disruptions.



#### Increased Collaboration

A common environment supported by standardized information exchange frameworks enables a single source of truth, eliminating information silos, enabling a proactive decisions through real-time collaboration.

## Real-World Examples of Digital Twins

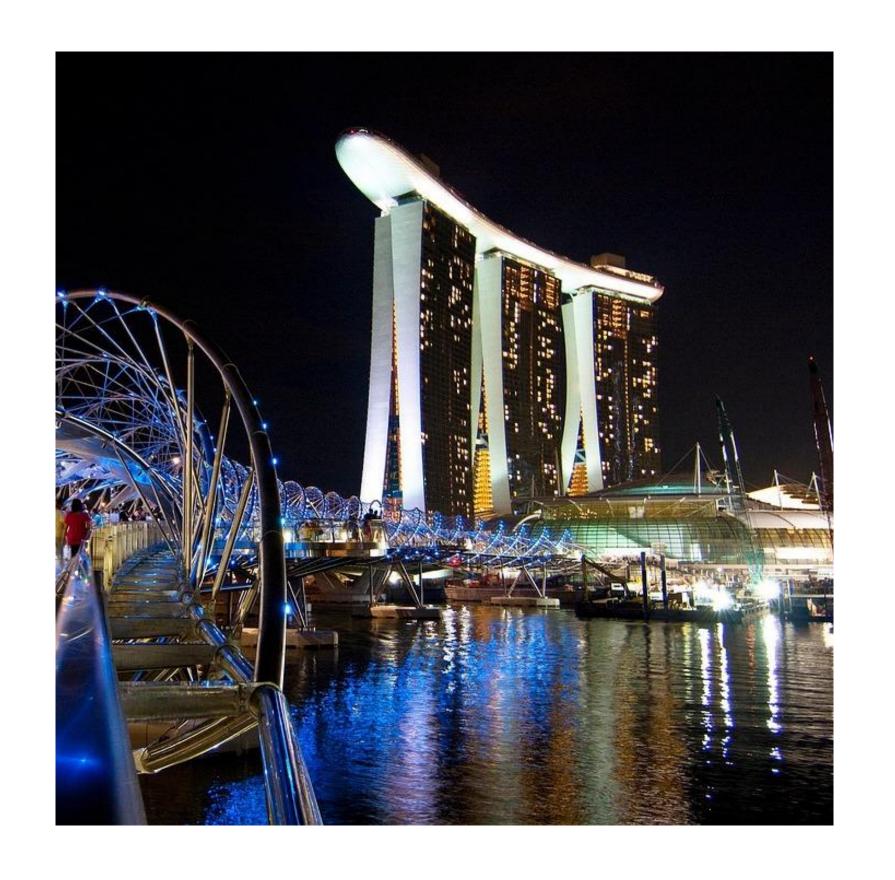
## Virtual Singapore

### Singapore

A city-wide 3D digital twin of Singapore for urban planning and resource management.

**Application of Digital Twins:** Modeled population growth, traffic, and environmental impacts to optimize land and infrastructure use.

Reduced infrastructure costs and enabling more efficient changes to future planning and development within the country.



## <sup>02</sup> Real-World Examples of Digital Twins

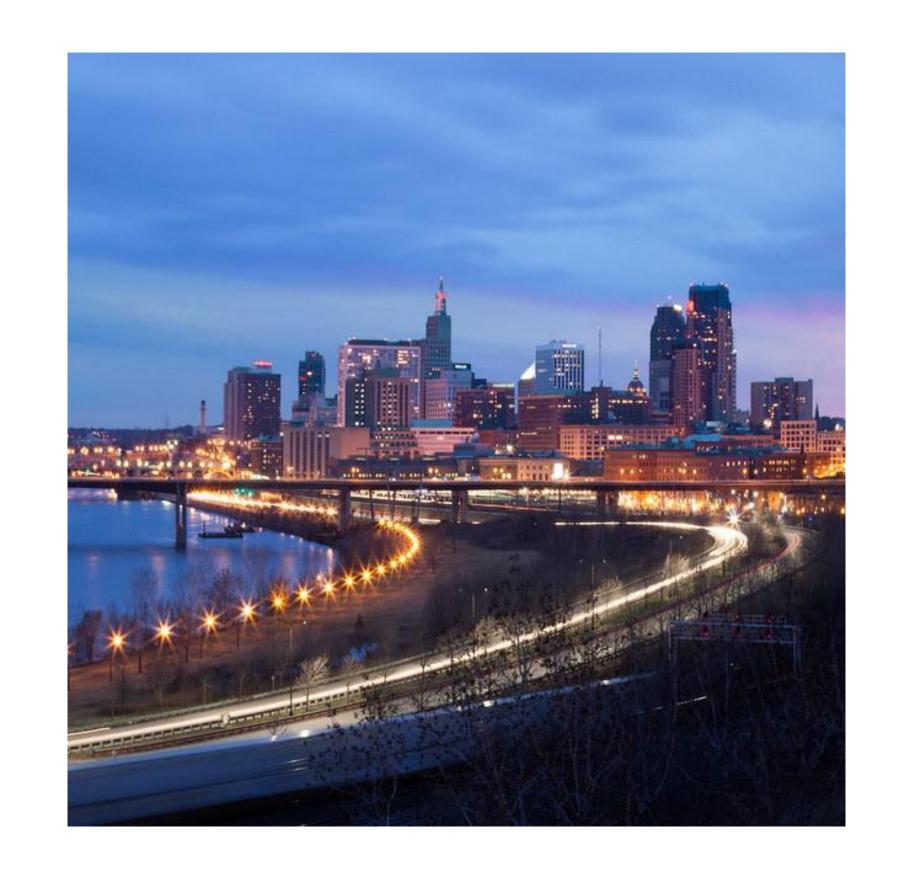
### TH 169 Freeway

### Minnesota, USA

Conversion of 2.8 miles of Trunk Highway 169 into a freeway in Minnesota to improve traffic flow.

**Application of Digital Twins:** Simulated traffic patterns, interchange designs, and construction impacts to optimize planning.

Saved \$15M by optimizing designs, and reduced disruptions.



## Page 12 Real-World Examples of Digital Twins

## Rail Track Corporation

#### **Australia**

Management of a 9,000 KM rail network across Australia.

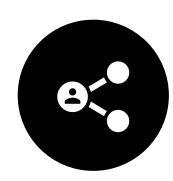
**Application of Digital Twins:** Predicted maintenance needs and optimized routing to enhance planning efficiency.

Resulted in 20% increase in efficiency, 51% increase in train reliability.



This isn't just about a tech transformation, but a deliberate focus towards an experienced-based service modernization

## Ceilings Impeding Complete Value Realization



### **Change Management**

This isn't just a technology shift, but a cultural one. Without strong change management, adoption stalls, silos persist, and the benefits remain unrealized.



### Readiness Gap

Both internal and external (market) readiness is required to drive adoption and evolve from pilots to larger twins that can deliver on the potential.



### **Public Space Innovation**

Outdated or conflicting practices, policies, or regulations can block innovation, even when the technology is ready. Aligning incentives, funding models, and governance frameworks is critical to unlock innovations, scale, & drive long-term value.

Value optimization is dependent on scale achieved through broader buy-in.

Scale is dependent on crafting the right narratives that frame the value potential and costs of inaction.

Innovation without scale will reduce realized value.

## Revisiting Real-World Examples of Digital Twins

## Virtual Singapore

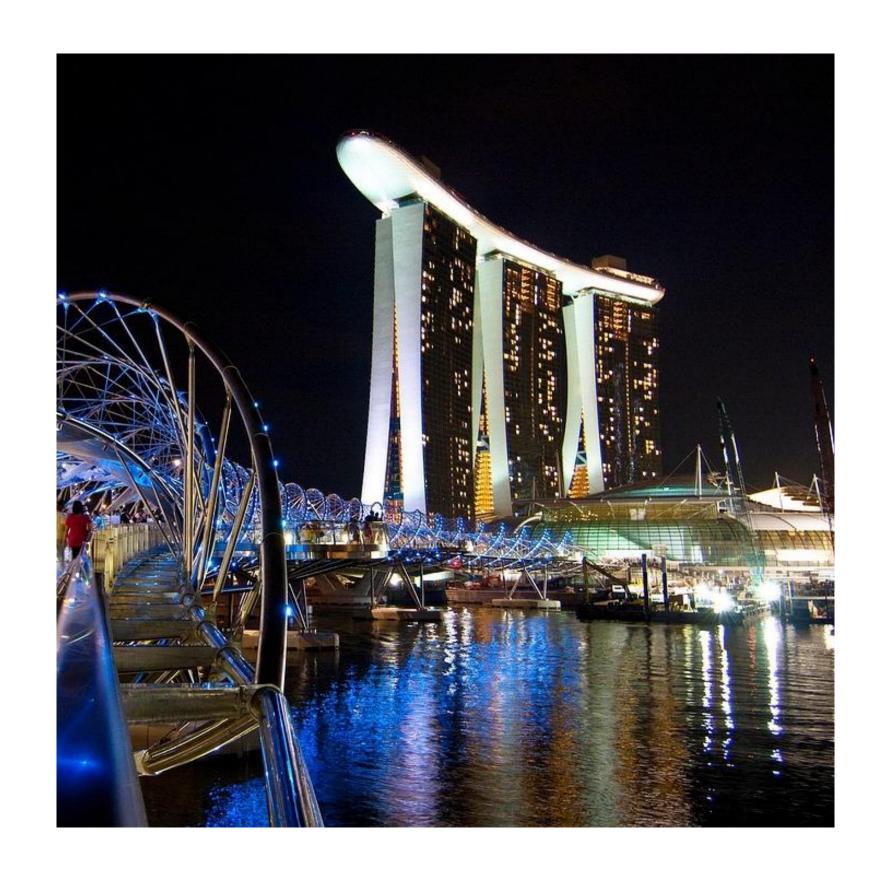
**Singapore**A city-wide 3D digital twin of Singapore for urban planning and resource management.

#### **Barriers:**

- Data availability (collecting real-time urban data)
- Interoperability (integrating diverse systems)
- Public-Private Coordination (aligning stakeholders)

#### **Breakthrough Approaches:**

- ✓ Improved data availability through mandating data sharing
- Used open standards to enable interoperability
- ✔ Focused on improving public-private coordination by leveraging government authority and embedding incentives



## Revisiting Real-World Examples of Digital Twins

### TH 169 Freeway

#### Minnesota

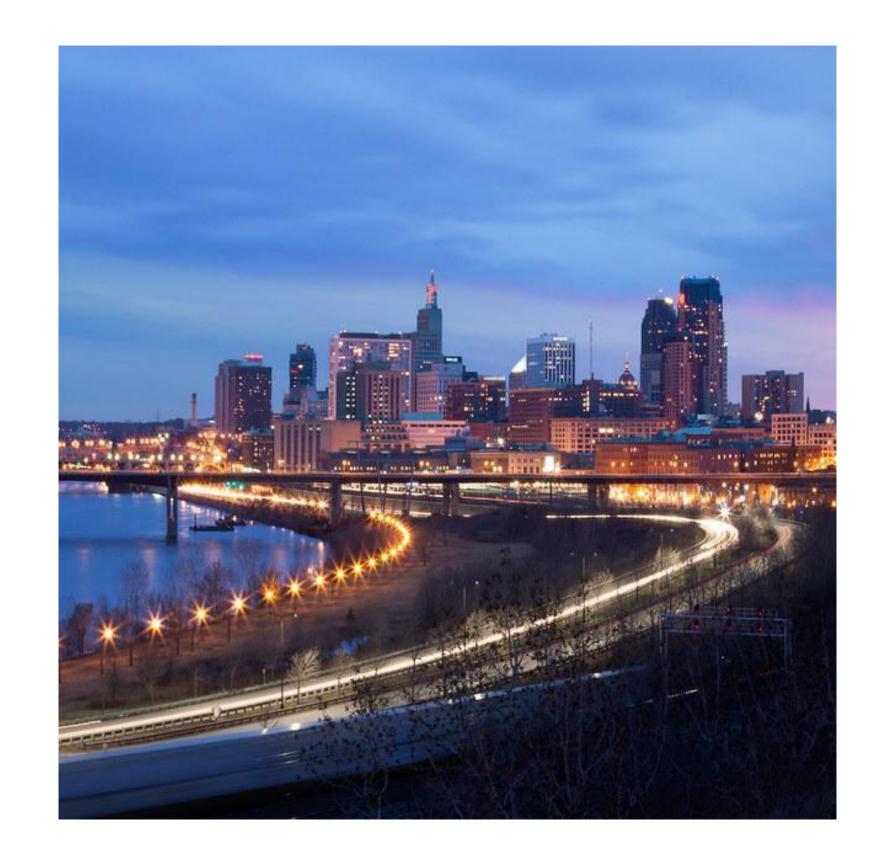
Conversion of 2.8 miles of Trunk Highway 169 into a freeway in Minnesota to improve traffic flow.

#### **Barriers:**

- Data Silos (disparate traffic and geotechnical data)
- Cost Justification (high upfront costs)
- Technical Skills (limited in-house skills)

#### **Breakthrough Approaches:**

- Mitigated data silos by adopting federated data management approaches
- Developed a strong business case demonstrating healthy ROI
- ✓ Using strategic sourcing approaches to compensate for technical skill gaps



2. WSB

## Revisiting Real-World Examples of Digital Twins

## Rail Track Corporation

#### **Australia**

Management of a 9,000 KM rail network across Australia.

#### **Barriers:**

- Legacy systems (older rail data incompatibility)
- Geographic Scale (managing a vast network)
- Funding (securing investments)

#### **Breakthrough Approaches:**

- ✓ Used middleware to bridge data between the legacy and more modern systems
- Leveraged cloud platforms to unlock greater elasticity and enable remote management
- ✓ Identified a fixed funding model that leveraged both federal grants and other mechanisms



## O3 Design Principles



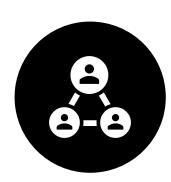
#### Standards as Foundations

Establishing common data standards and engagement frameworks ensures every twin can scale seamlessly across projects, services, and jurisdictions reducing duplication and accelerating adoption.



### **Embedded Partnerships**

Collaboration must be engineered into the design and enforced through commercial requirements to break down information silos and ensure twins can deliver the most value.



#### Human at the Core

The twins reflect and influence based on how users experience the assets. Experiential design, focused on users ensures solutions are intuitive, accessible, and trusted.



### A 'Horizons' Approach

Taking a-multi horizon view establishes foundational capabilities and then shifts to maturing those over time allowing continuous improvement and better risk management.

Change, Readiness, and Regulatory Innovations will be the levers that will determine how much value can be realized

- Digital twins aren't only about improving the efficiency of how we build, but offer a methodology to embed the 'experience' at the heart of how we design and build assets
- Abstracted, Digital Twins represents a capability focused on improving how decisions are made by ensuring focus on 'known unknowns' and 'unknown unknowns'
- Digital Twins aren't a silver bullet. However maximal value can only be unlocked by shifting the focus away from digital twin enabled projects, but towards digital twin enabled systems which adopt collaboration and governance models across wider set of stakeholders