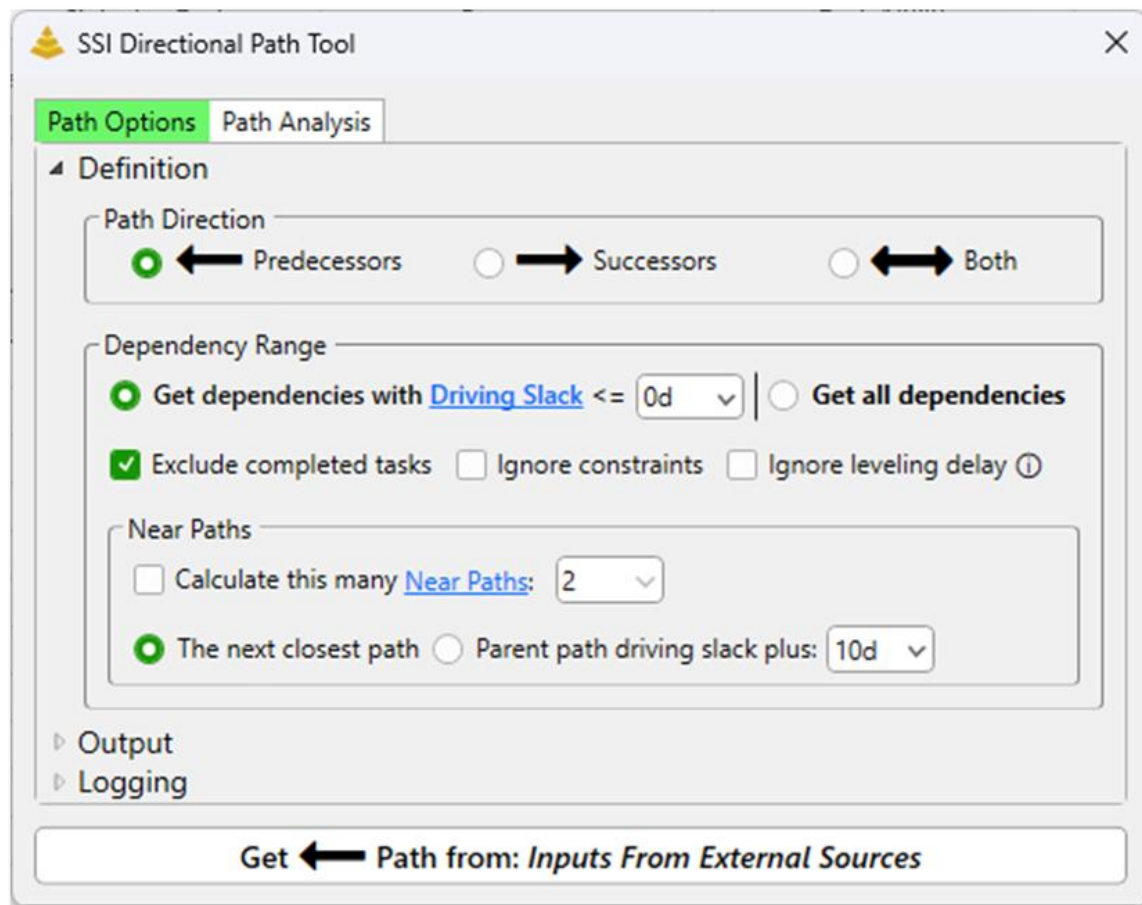
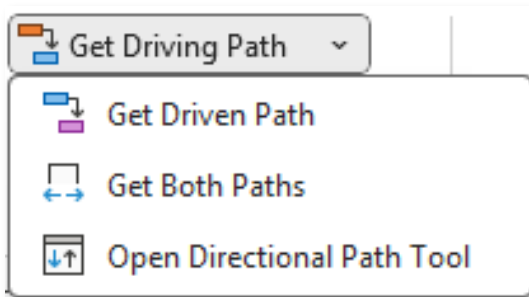


Table of Contents

SSI's Directional Path Tool	2
Overview	2
Understanding Driving Slack.....	3
Other Definitions	5
How Does the Directional Path Tool Calculate a Driving Path?	12
What About the Constraint/Deadline Method?	13
Using the SSI Directional Path Tool.....	15
Using the Quick Access Buttons	15
Setting the Trace Log on First Use.....	18
Class Exercise – Using the Directional Path Tool Quick Access Buttons.....	19
Using the Directional Path Tool Form	22
Class Exercise – Setting Path Options and Running Directional Path Analyses	35
Class Exercise – Using the Path Analysis Tab	53

SSI's Directional Path Tool



Overview

SSI's Directional Path Tool allows users to trace chains of dependencies in either a backward (predecessors) or forward (successors) **direction**, starting from a designated focus point. This enables clear visualization of how activities in the schedule are influenced by upstream drivers or how they impact downstream successors.

Understanding Driving Slack

Driving Slack is the amount of **schedule flexibility** (also known as **slack** or **float**) activities in a dependency chain have before they would begin to drive a designated **focus point**. In other words, it is the amount of time an activity's Start or Finish (depending on the dependency type) can be delayed before it begins to drive the focus point's **current** Start or Finish dates. A **focus point** refers to any task or milestone in the schedule that is selected as the starting point for analysis.

Unlike **Free Slack** or **Total Slack**, Driving Slack is *not* calculated or displayed by Microsoft Project. However, it is a meaningful and measurable concept that can be derived by analyzing the logical relationships between connected activities. Evaluating Driving Slack is the most accurate method for identifying true driving activities.

Understanding the differences between **Driving Slack**, **Free Slack**, and **Total Slack** is essential knowledge for any project scheduler to accurately interpret activity flexibility and schedule impacts.

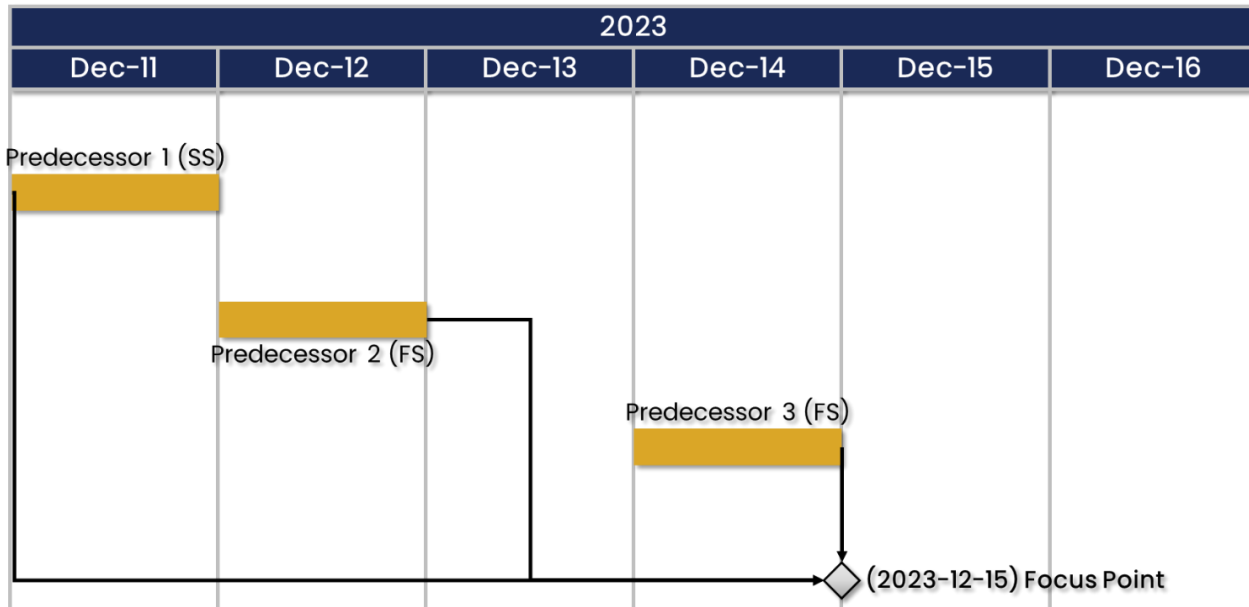
- **Driving Slack** – The amount of schedule flexibility activities logically connected to a **focus point** have before they would begin to drive it to its **current** dates. The “focus point” can be any task or milestone in the schedule and is determined at the time of the analysis. Activities *not* logically connected to the focus point will not have a driving slack value.
- **Free Slack** refers to the amount of schedule flexibility a task has relative to its nearest successor. Unlike Driving Slack, Free Slack does not account for whether the successor is part of a chain leading to the analysis focus point. As a result, a task's nearest successor may have no logical connection to the focus point.

Task Name	Free Slack
Perform Design Validation and Verification	0 d
Develop Deployment Plan	5 d

- **Total Slack** represents the amount of schedule flexibility a task has before it affects either a downstream task with a defined **deadline** or, if no deadlines exist in the workstream, the final task in the project. Total slack is useful for measuring how much time activities can be delayed without impacting critical deliveries or the end date of the project.

Task Name	Total Slack
Conduct User Acceptance Testing	0 d
Conduct Security Test and Evaluation	13 d

Understanding how Driving Slack is calculated is key to understanding how SSi's Dependency Analysis Tools work.



In the diagram above, a **milestone** is being used as the **focus point**. To calculate **Driving Slack**, the distance (in time) between the _____ of the **predecessor task** and the _____ of the **focus point** is measured. The blanks are filled with either **Start** or **Finish** based on the dependency type.

- **Predecessor 1** has a **Start-to-Start** relationship with the milestone, so Driving Slack is calculated by measuring the time between the start of **Predecessor 1** and the start of **the milestone**. This gives a Driving Slack value of **4 days**.
- **Predecessor 2** has a **Finish-to-Start** relationship with the milestone. Therefore, Driving Slack is the time between the finish of **Predecessor 2** and the start of **the milestone**, which is **2 days**.
- **Predecessor 3** also has a **Finish-to-Start** relationship with the milestone. Since Predecessor 3 finishes at the same time the milestone is scheduled to start, the Driving Slack is **0 days**.

When a task has **0 days of Driving Slack** to a focus point, it means the task is **directly driving** the start or finish of that activity—any delay in that task will immediately delay the focus point as well.

SSi's **Directional Path Tool** calculates and relies on **Driving Slack** to conduct its analyses. It intentionally avoids using **Free Slack** or **Total Slack**, as those values can often be inaccurate or misleading in complex schedules.

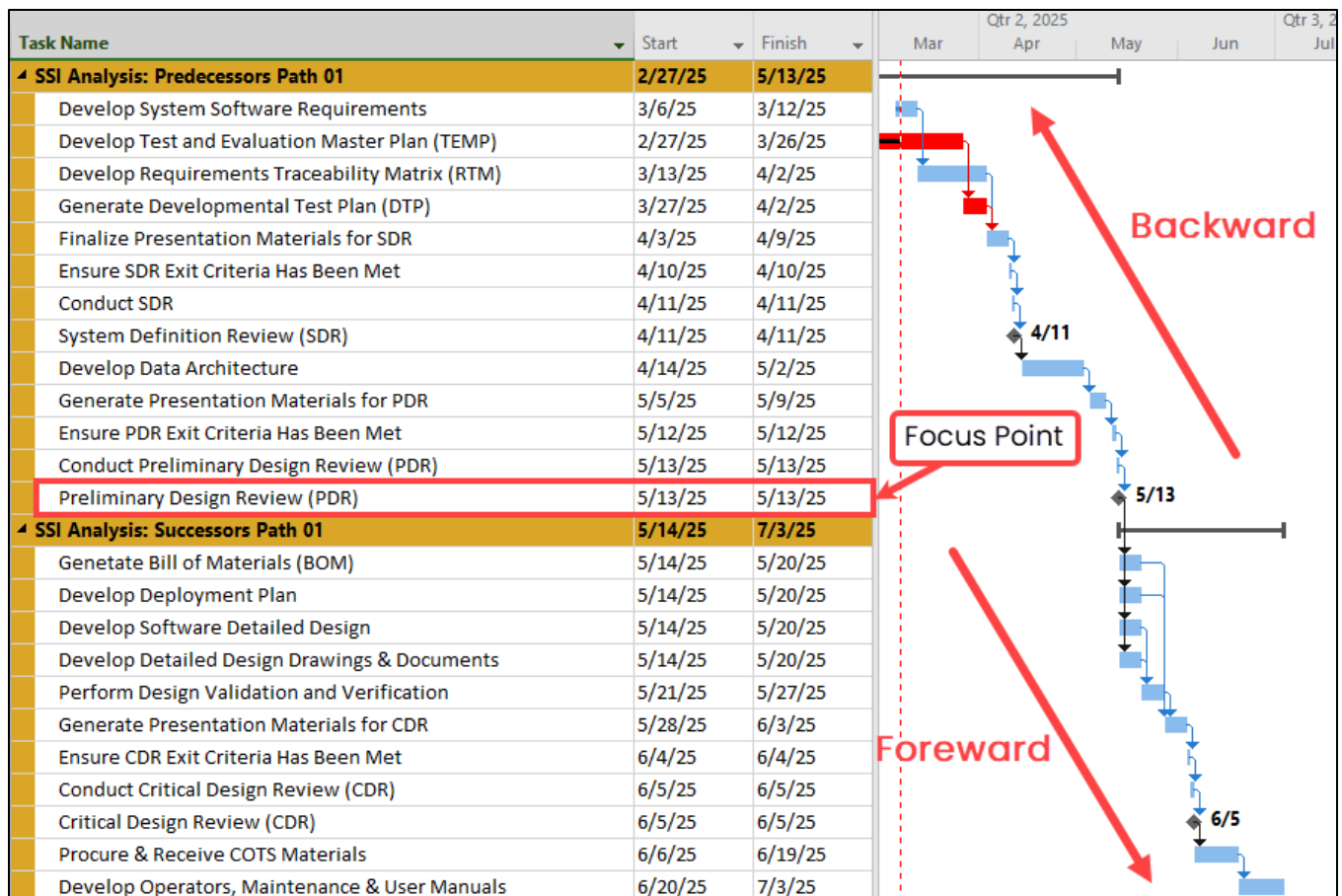
Other Definitions

Focus Point

In this document, a **focus point** refers to any task or milestone in the schedule that is selected as the starting point for a directional path analysis at the time the analysis is conducted.

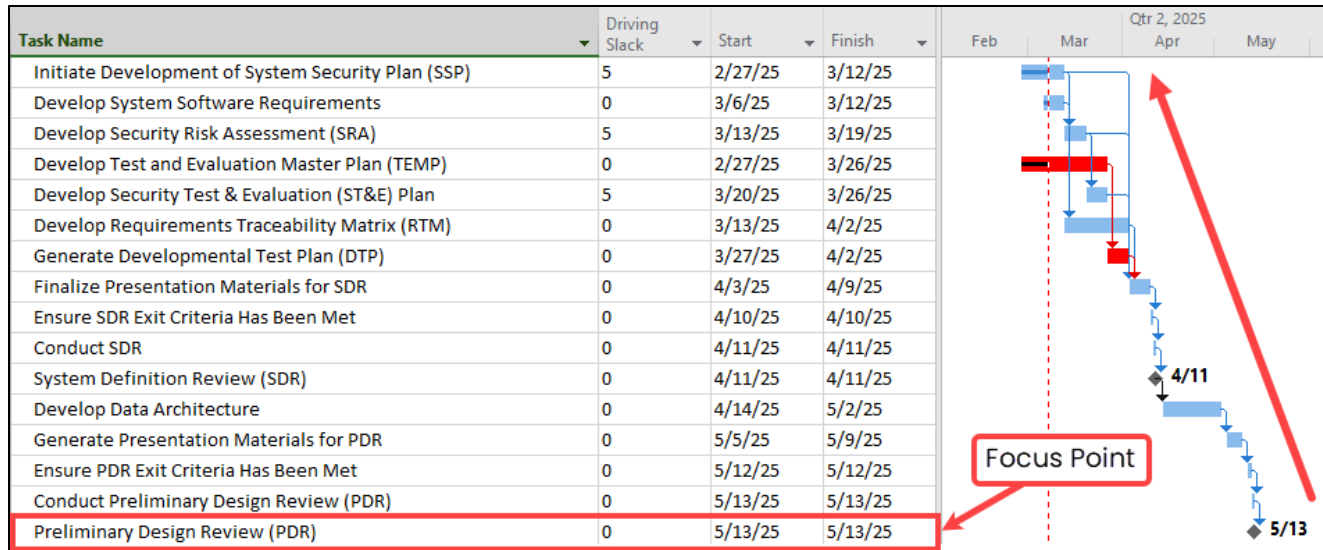
Directional Path

SSI defines a **Directional Path** as a sequence of logically connected activities that extend from a designated focus point in a single direction—either backward to preceding tasks or forward to succeeding ones.



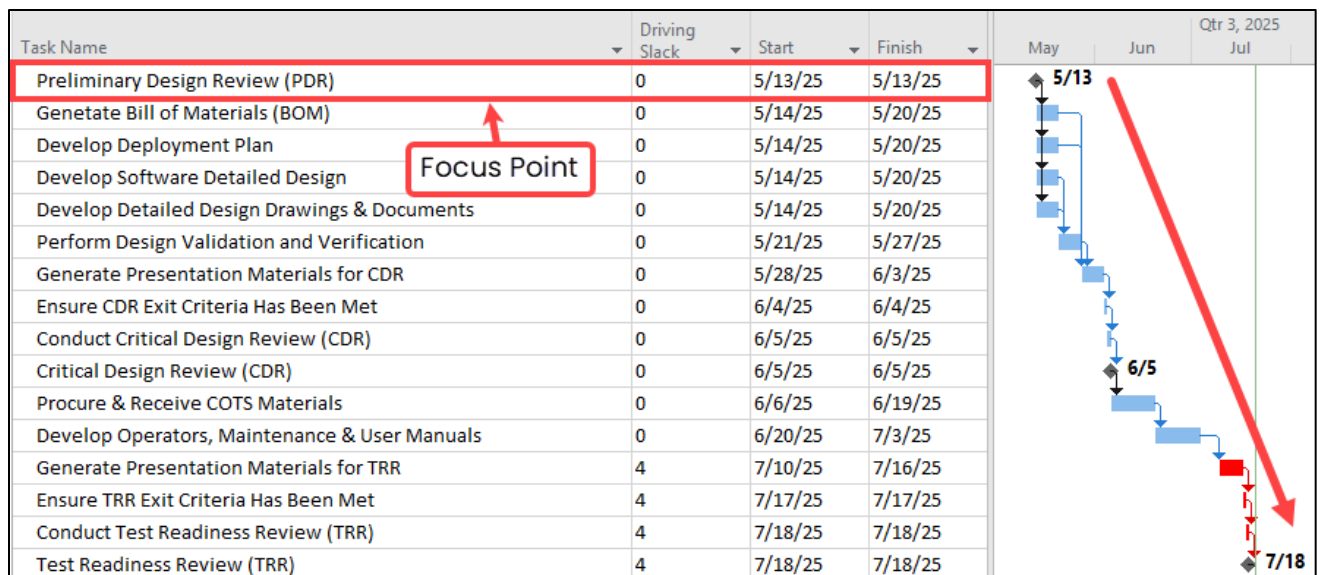
Backward Path

SSI defines a **Backward Path** as a set of activities that precede and are logically linked to a focus point. These activities may or may not directly drive the focus point and can possess any amount of Driving Slack relative to it. A Backward Path can be configured to include either **all** preceding activities or only those within a specified Driving Slack threshold.



Forward Path

SSI defines a **Forward Path** as a set of activities that succeed and are logically connected to a focus point. The focus point itself may or may not drive these successor activities and can have any amount of Driving Slack relative to them. A Forward Path can be configured to include either **all** succeeding activities or only those within a specified Driving Slack threshold.



Near Backward Path

SSI defines a **Near Backward Path** as a set of activities that possess limited schedule flexibility before they begin to qualify as part of the Primary Backward Path. These tasks have one or more days of Driving Slack beyond the Driving Slack threshold defined for the Primary Backward Path.

Near Backward Paths can only exist when the Primary Backward Path is configured with an upper limit on allowable Driving Slack. A Near Backward Path may be configured either as the group of tasks most immediately adjacent to the Primary Backward Path or as any set of activities falling within a specified range of Driving Slack values. For example, tasks with 1 to 10 days of Driving Slack beyond the Primary Backward Path threshold.

The first Near Backward Path beyond the Primary is referred to as the **Secondary Backward Path**, while the next is known as the **Tertiary Backward Path**.

Near Forward Path

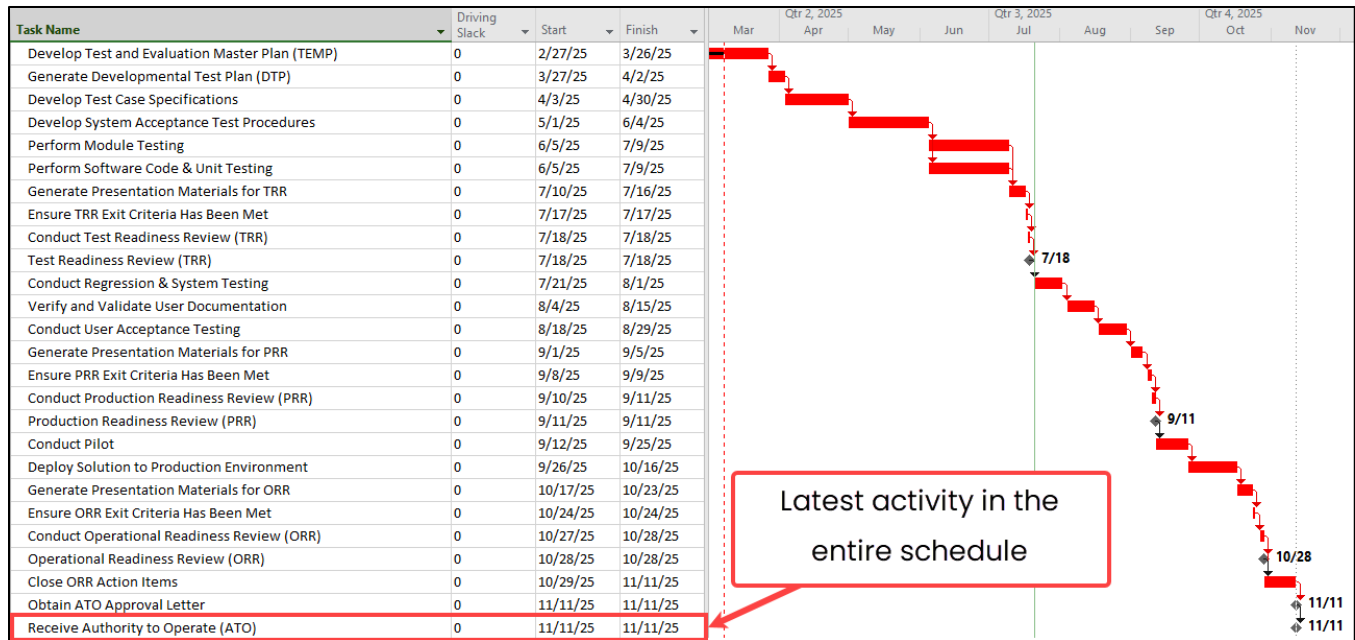
SSI defines a **Near Forward Path** as a set of activities to which the focus point has limited schedule flexibility beyond those included in the Primary Forward Path. The focus point has one or more days of Driving Slack to these activities beyond the Driving Slack threshold defined for the Primary Forward Path.

Near Forward Paths can only exist when the Primary Forward Path is configured with an upper limit on allowable Driving Slack. A Near Forward Path may be configured either as the group of tasks most immediately adjacent to the Primary Forward Path or as any set of activities to which the focus point's Driving Slack falls within a specified range of values. For example, tasks where the focus point has 1 to 10 days of Driving Slack to them beyond the Primary Forward Path threshold.

The first Near Forward Path beyond the Primary is referred to as the **Secondary Forward Path**, while the next is known as the **Tertiary Forward Path**.

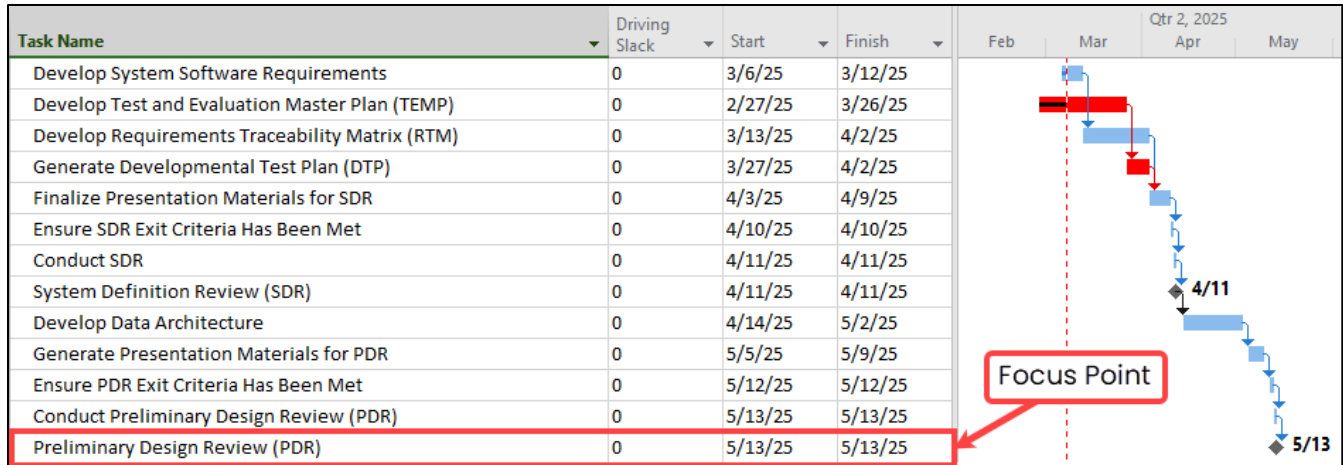
Critical Path

SSi defines the **Critical Path** as the set of activities that directly drive the start or finish of the project's final task or milestone. Each of these tasks have zero days of **Driving Slack** to the latest activity, meaning any delay to these activities will immediately cause a delay to the overall project completion date. A project's critical path is **the same** as a Backward Path with a Driving Slack limit of zero, where the focus point selected is the latest activity in the schedule.



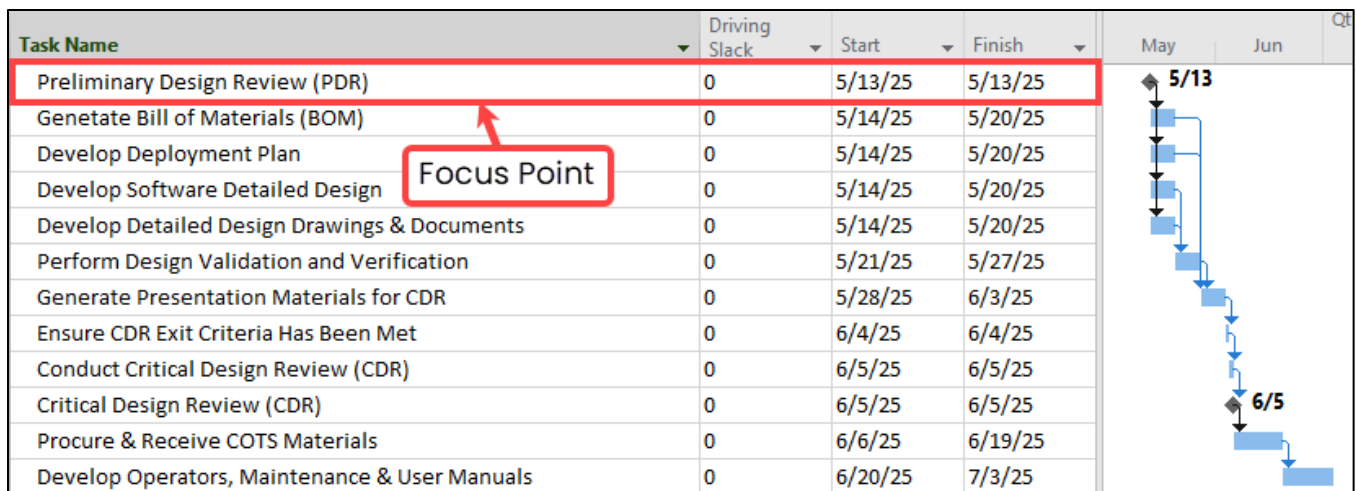
Driving Path

SSI defines A **Driving Path** as the set of activities that are driving a focus point (not necessarily the latest activity) to its **current** start or finish date. Each of these activities have zero days of **Driving Slack** to the focus point, meaning any delay to any of these activities will immediately cause the focus point to be delayed. A Driving Path is equivalent to a Backward Path configured with a Driving Slack limit of zero to focus point. This path may also be referred to as the **Primary Driving Path**.



Driven Path

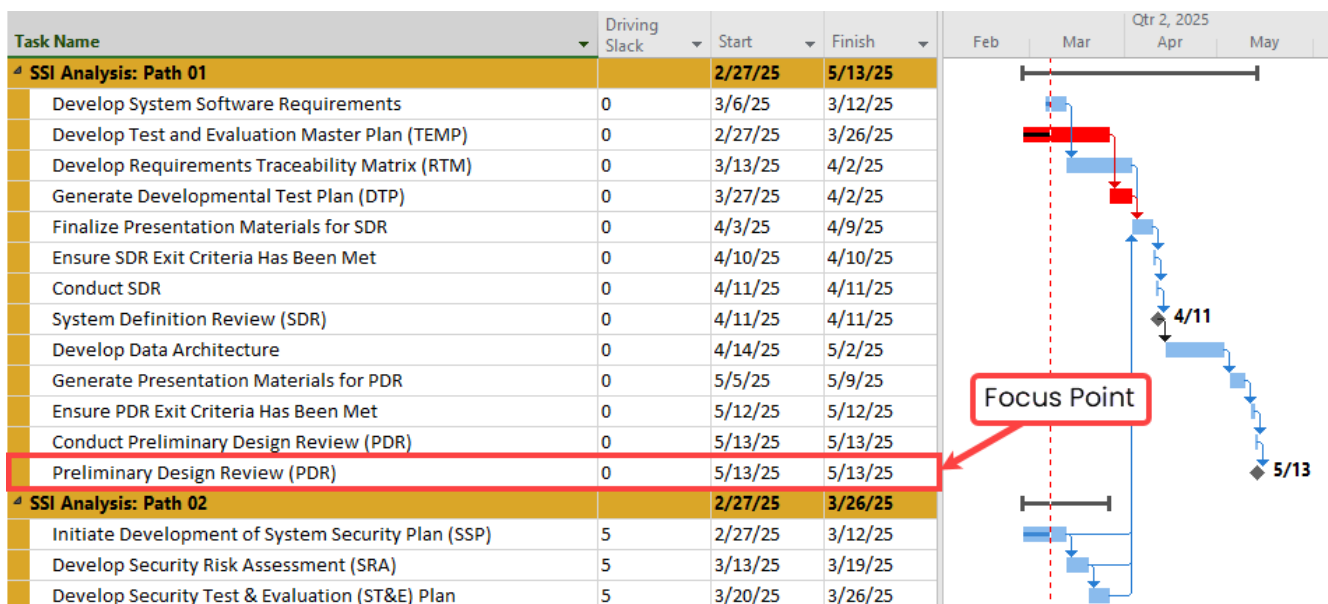
SSI defines A **Driven Path** as the set of activities whose **current** start or finish dates are directly driven by a focus point. The focus point has zero days of **Driving Slack** to each of these activities, meaning any delay to the focus point would immediately cause a delay to each of the activities on the driven path. A Driven Path is equivalent to a Forward Path configured with a Driving Slack limit of zero from the focus point. This path can also be referred to as the **Primary Driven Path**.



Near Driving Path

SSI defines a **Near Driving Path** as a set of activities that have limited schedule flexibility before they begin to directly drive a focus point to its **current** start or finish date. These tasks have one or more days of **Driving Slack** to the focus point, allowing some delay without immediately driving it.

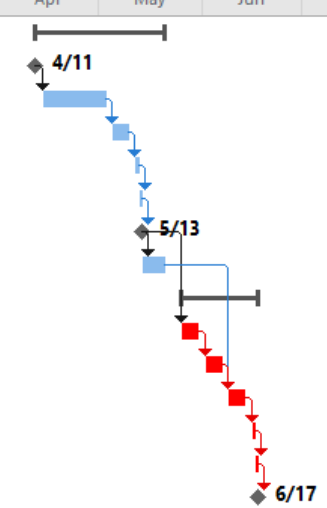
A Near Driving Path may be defined as the set of tasks closest to the Primary Driving Path or prior Near Driving Path, or as any activities falling within a defined range of Driving Slack values. The first Near Driving Path following the **Primary Driving Path** is referred to as the **Secondary Driving Path**, and the one after that is known as the **Tertiary Driving Path**.



Near Driven Path

SSI defines a Near Driven Path as a set of activities which a specific focus has limited schedule flexibility before it begins to drive them to their **current** start or finish dates. The focus point will have one or more days of **Driving Slack** to these activities.

A Near Driven Path may be defined as the set of tasks the focus point is next closest to driving after the Primary Driven Path or prior Near Driven Path, or as any activities that the focus point has a defined range of Driving Slack values to. The first Near Driven Path following the **Primary Driven Path** is referred to as the **Secondary Driven Path**, and the one after that is known as the **Tertiary Driven Path**.

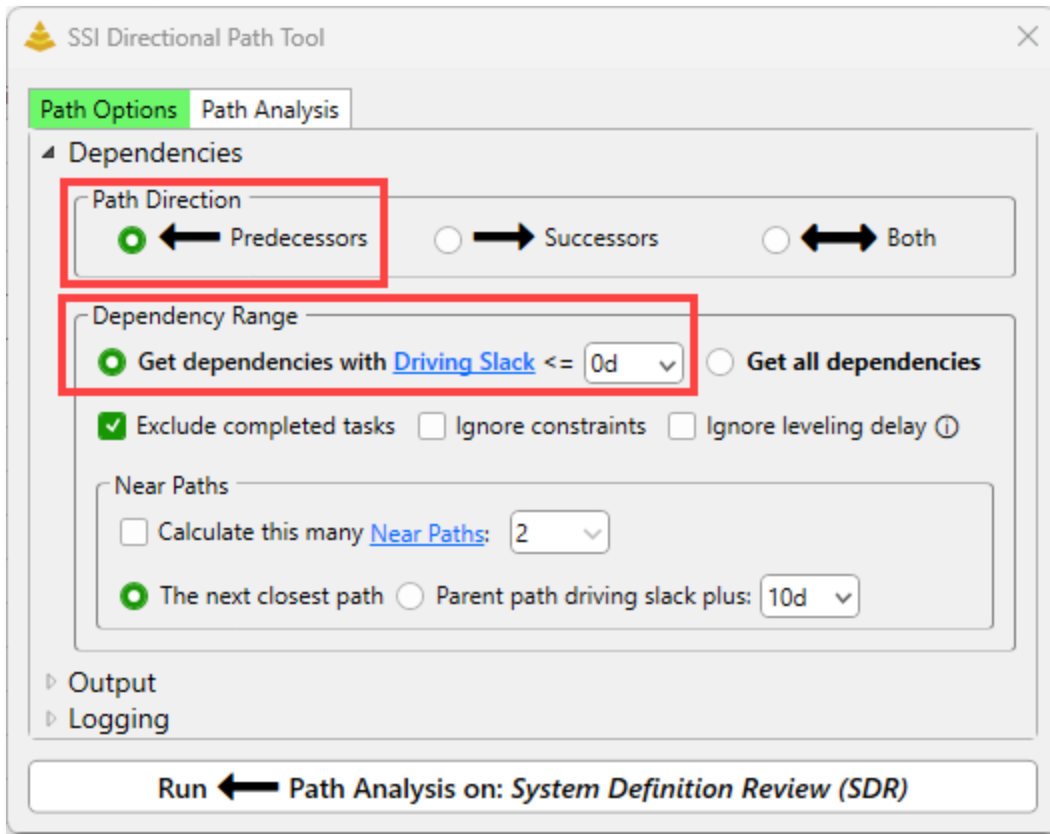
Task Name	Driving Slack	Start	Finish	Qtr 2, 2025 Apr May Jun Q3
SSI Analysis: Path 01		4/11/25	5/20/25	
System Definition Review (SDR)	0	4/11/25	4/11/25	
Develop Data Architecture	0	4/14/25	5/2/25	
Generate Presentation Materials for PDR	0	5/5/25	5/9/25	
Ensure PDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	0	5/12/25	5/12/25	
Conduct Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	0	5/13/25	5/13/25	
Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	0	5/13/25	5/13/25	
Generate Bill of Materials (BOM)	0	5/14/25	5/20/25	
SSI Analysis: Path 02		5/26/25	6/17/25	
Develop Software Detailed Design	8	5/26/25	5/30/25	
Perform Design Validation and Verification	8	6/2/25	6/6/25	
Generate Presentation Materials for CDR	8	6/9/25	6/13/25	
Ensure CDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	8	6/16/25	6/16/25	
Conduct Critical Design Review (CDR)	8	6/17/25	6/17/25	
Critical Design Review (CDR)	8	6/17/25	6/17/25	

Driving Path Drag

SSI defines **Driving Path Drag** as the amount of opportunity (measured in days) an activity on a **Primary Driving Path** has to accelerate the current start or finish of the path's focus point if the activity's remaining duration were cut to zero.

How Does the Directional Path Tool Calculate a Driving Path?

SSI's Directional Path tool can calculate the Driving/Critical path to any activity in a Microsoft Project schedule. To perform this analysis, the Path Direction must be set to **Predecessors** and the Dependency Range must be set to **Get Dependencies with Driving Slack <= 0d**



The **Directional Path Tool** identifies all tasks within the workstream that lead to the selected focus item—specifically, tasks that are linked through logical dependencies. It evaluates each predecessor of the focus item and calculates its **Driving Slack**. Any predecessor with a Driving Slack value of zero is considered a **driver**.

Once the immediate driver(s) are identified, the tool recursively continues this process, moving upstream through the network until it reaches the start of the path. At every step, it determines which tasks are contributing directly to the focus item's current schedule. As with other analyses in the tool, this method does not rely on Microsoft Project's **Free Slack** or **Total Slack**, as those values are not focus-item specific and may be unreliable.

What About the Constraint/Deadline Method?

You may be familiar with the **constraint/deadline method** for calculating the driving path of an activity in Microsoft Project. This approach recommended to many organizations by the **Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA)**. According to DCMA guidance, the method works as follows:

1. Filter out all completed and summary tasks.
2. Remove all hard constraints. Additionally, in Microsoft Project, remove all deadlines, because they can act like hard constraints. (Deadlines do not act like hard constraints in Microsoft Project)
3. Identify the “final” task, the one that represents the project’s completion (or any interim task).
4. Add a “finish no later than” constraint to that task, with a constraint date six months earlier than its baseline finish.
5. Sort the total float column in ascending order. A set of tasks will be tied for the smallest total float, which should be a large negative number. Using a custom column (e.g., Text12 in MS Project), mark those tasks as “constraint method critical.”

The problem with this method is that it often *does not* accomplish its goal in identifying all the tasks that have no schedule flexibility to be delayed without impacting the focus item because it relies on MS Project’s calculation of **Total Slack**, and many factors can determine the value of total slack in MS Project. **Total Slack** is calculated at the Project level, it’s not designed to be calculated to a focus item chosen by a user.

Here are some things that can factor into the Total Slack Calculation:

- Deadlines
- Elapsed Duration
- Constraints
- Resources
- Calendars
- Resource Calendars
- Dependency types other than Finish-to-Start

DCMA has recognized in the past that this method does not always produce an accurate result:



Open Plan – Critical Path

Metric 06A401a – DCMA Critical Path

- For sites that uses Open Plan, DCMA has an internal work instruction on verifying the contractor provided program critical path with the DCMA constraint method critical path.
 - Concerns were identified when the contractors Open Plan schedule used multiple calendars. Sometimes these calendars were causing differences with the constraint method critical path.
 - DCMA worked with various parties to identify a way to verify the provided critical path is valid. The following will show the concept DCMA is using to ensure the critical path is valid.



ACQUISITION INSIGHT  GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



Open Plan – Critical Path continued

Step 1 – Run the DCMA Constraint Method critical path

Step 2 – Compare the DCMA Constraint Method critical path to the Contractor provided critical path.

Step 3 – If these match the test is complete, if not proceed to Step 4.

Step 4 – Verify if multiple calendars are used in the schedule, if so, proceed to step 5. If no multiple calendars, document the results from step 2 for follow-up.

Step 5 – Change the calendars in the schedule to just one. Use the most common calendar in schedule.

When starting Step 4 ensure you have the originally provided schedule open.

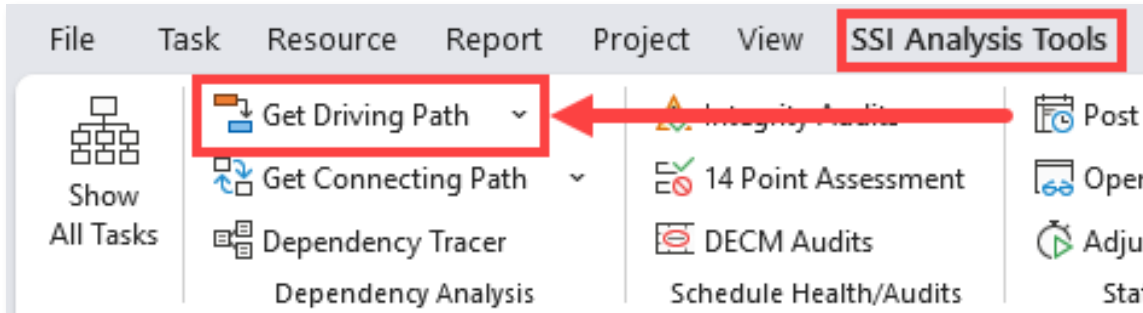


ACQUISITION INSIGHT  GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT

In this instance, they have recognized that the result may be inaccurate if a schedule is using multiple calendars. Their proposed solution (Step 5 of the second picture) is **still problematic** because it can cause unintended consequences in the schedule.

Using the SSI Directional Path Tool

The Connecting Path Tool can be accessed through the **Dependency Analysis Group** of the **SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon**.



There are two ways to use the Directional Path Tool to produce Directional Paths:

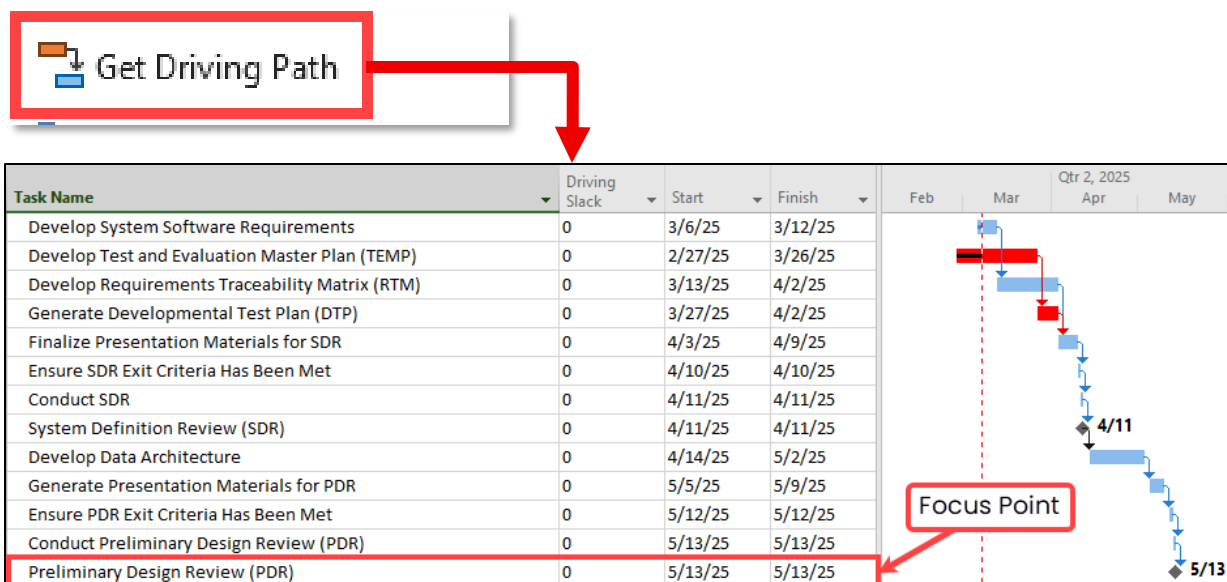
1. Using Quick Access Button
2. Using Directional Path Tool form

Using the Quick Access Buttons

The **Directional Path Quick Access buttons** are the buttons on the SSI Analysis Tools ribbon that will allow you to run a Directional Path without needing to open or configure a UI.

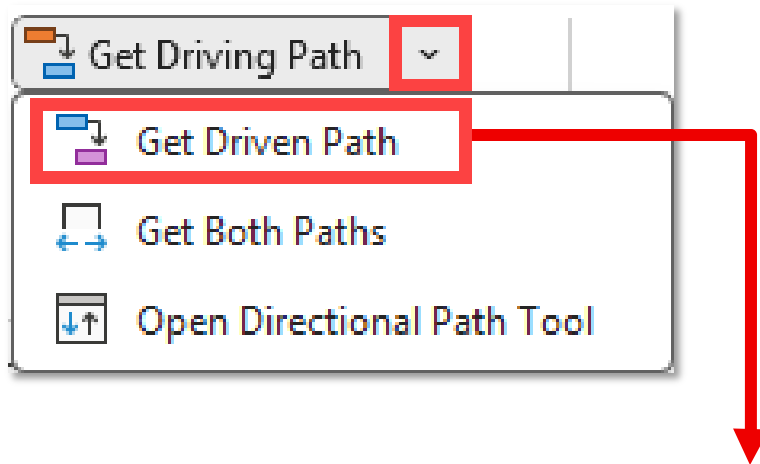
Using the "Get Driving Path" Button

Clicking the **Get Driving Path** button in the **SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon** instantly runs a **Driving Path** to the activities(s) currently selected in the schedule. The Driving Path of the first activity selected will automatically be displayed in the Gantt Chart after the button is clicked



Using the "Get Driven Path" Button

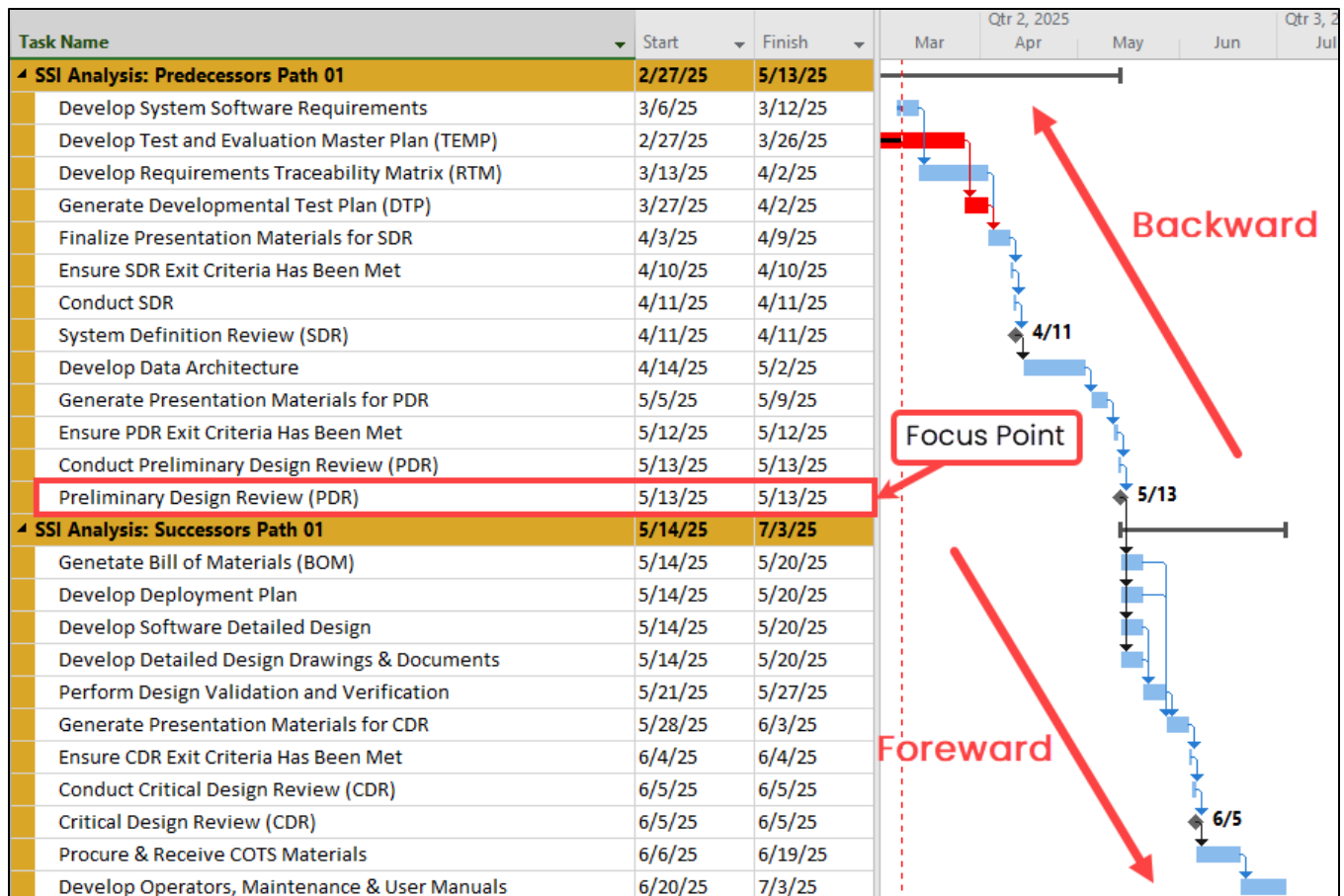
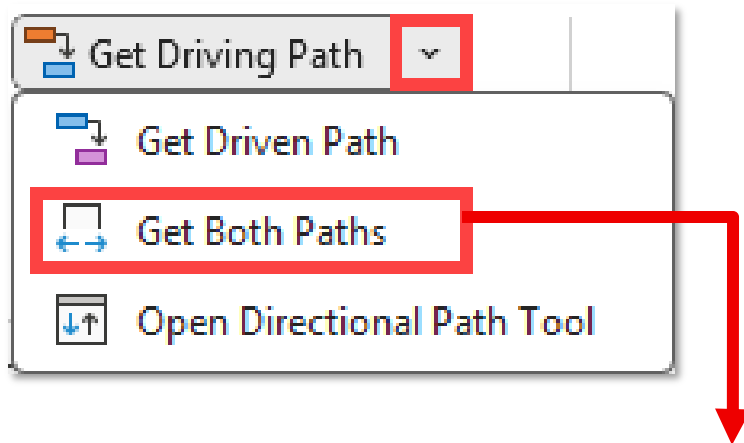
Clicking the **Get Driven Path** button in the **Directional Tools Menu** instantly runs a **Driven Path** from the activity(s) currently selected in the schedule. The Driven Path from the first activity selected will automatically be displayed in the Gantt Chart after the button is clicked.



Task Name	Driving Slack	Start	Finish	May	Jun	Qt
Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	0	5/13/25	5/13/25	5/13		
Genetate Bill of Materials (BOM)	0	5/14/25	5/20/25			
Develop Deployment Plan	0	5/14/25	5/20/25			
Develop Software Detailed Design	0	5/14/25	5/20/25			
Develop Detailed Design Drawings & Documents	0	5/14/25	5/20/25			
Perform Design Validation and Verification	0	5/21/25	5/27/25			
Generate Presentation Materials for CDR	0	5/28/25	6/3/25			
Ensure CDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	0	6/4/25	6/4/25			
Conduct Critical Design Review (CDR)	0	6/5/25	6/5/25			
Critical Design Review (CDR)	0	6/5/25	6/5/25			
Procure & Receive COTS Materials	0	6/6/25	6/19/25			
Develop Operators, Maintenance & User Manuals	0	6/20/25	7/3/25			

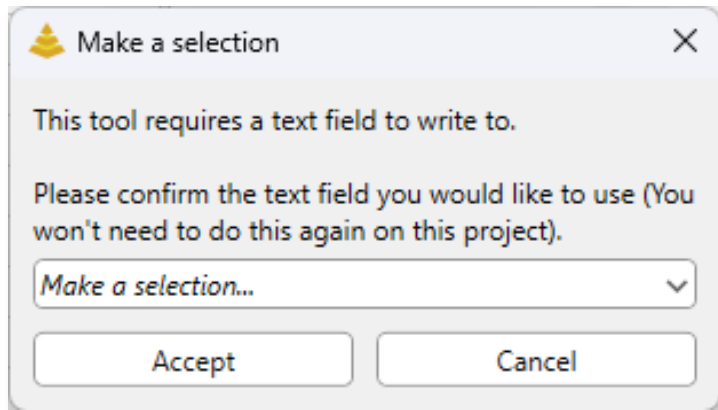
Using the “Get Both Paths” Button

Clicking the **Get Both Paths** button in the **Directional Tools Menu** instantly runs both a **Driving Path** and a **Driven Path** of the activity(s) currently selected in the schedule. The Paths of the first activity selected will automatically be displayed in the Gantt Chart after the button is clicked

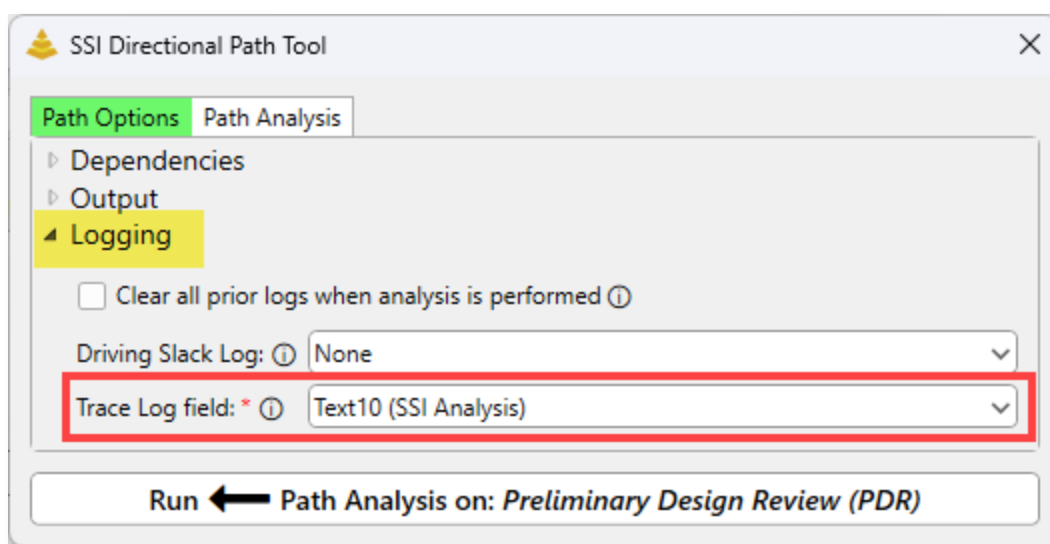


Setting the Trace Log on First Use

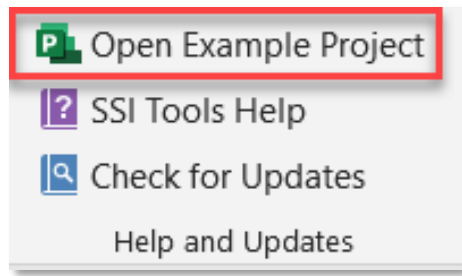
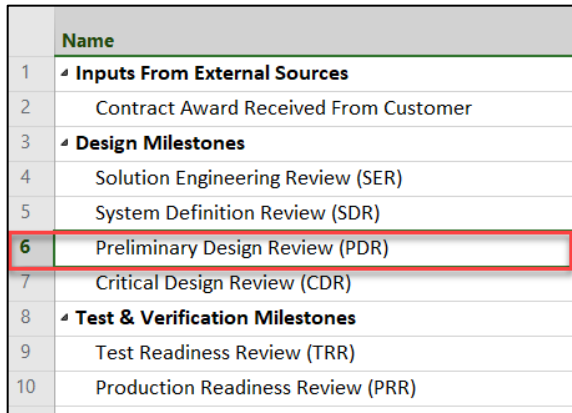
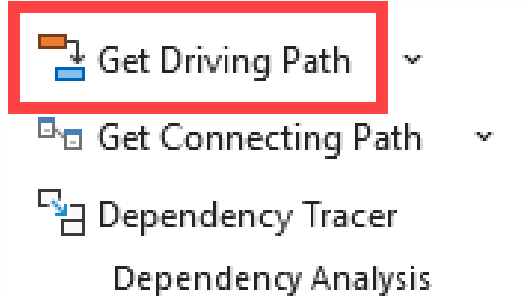
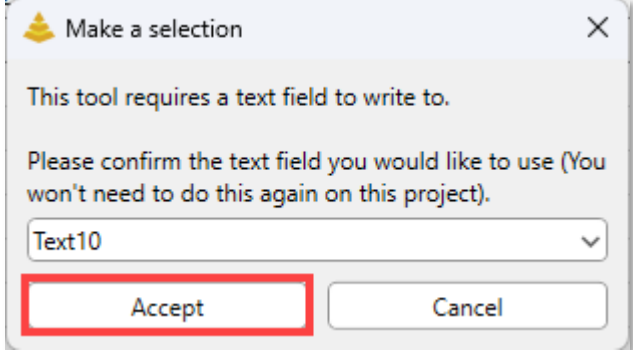
If you click the **Get Driving Path**, **Get Driven Path**, or **Get Both Paths** buttons or attempt to open the **Directional Path Tool** form in a project where the Directional Path Tool has not yet been used, a dialog will appear informing you that the tool requires a **Text field** to write results into. You'll be prompted to select which text field you'd like to use. No Directional Path analysis can be run until a valid text field has been assigned for output.

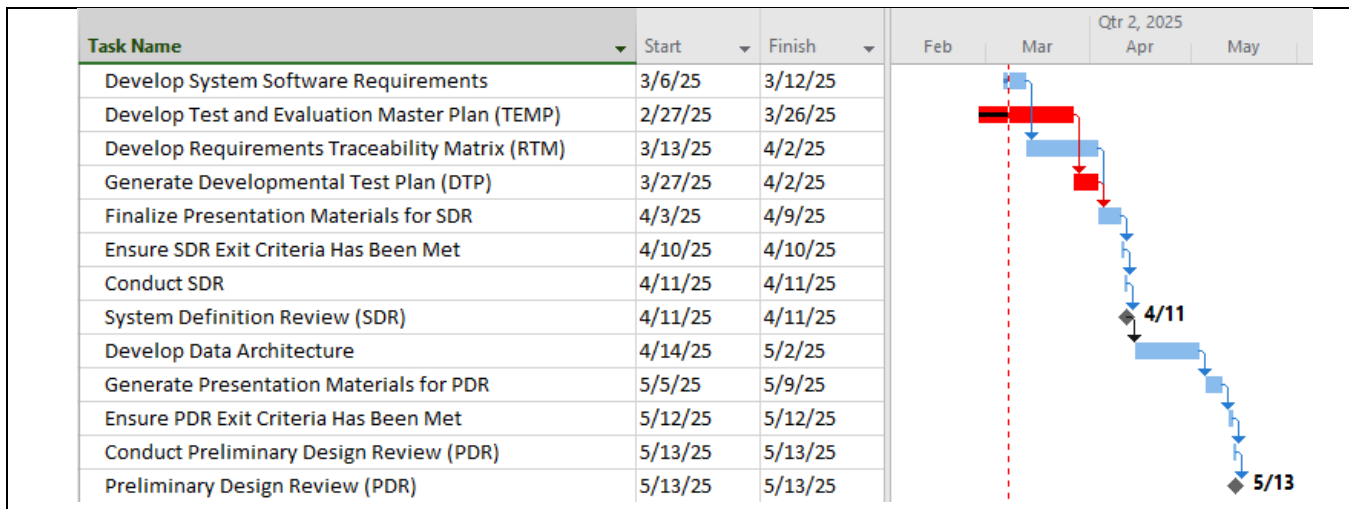


Once you click **Accept** after selecting a Text field, your selection is saved to the project. As long as the project file is saved, you will not be prompted with this dialog again when using the **Directional Path Tool** in that project. You can change the Text field saved to the project by changing the **Trace Log Field** within the **Logging** section of the Directional Path Tool form:

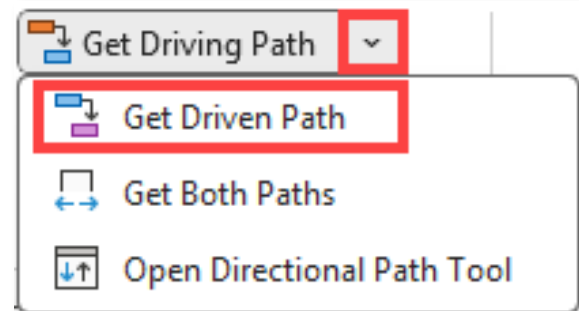


Class Exercise – Using the Directional Path Tool Quick Access Buttons

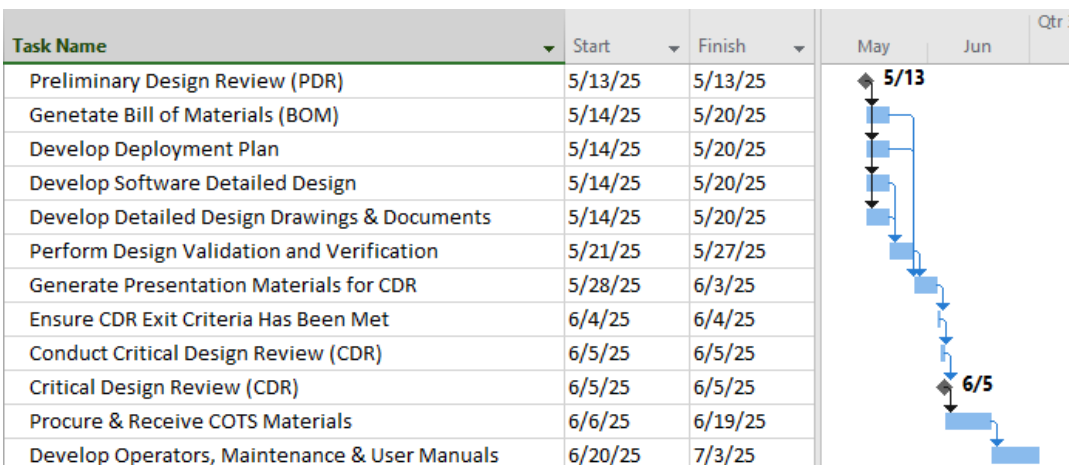
1. Open the SSI Example Project file in Microsoft Project by clicking the Open Example Project button on the far right side of the SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon (if needed, download the Example Project at: Example Project for Trace Tools Exercises)																							
2. Select row 6, Preliminary Design Review (PDR) in the Gantt table.	 <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Name</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>Inputs From External Sources</td></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>Contract Award Received From Customer</td></tr> <tr><td>3</td><td>Design Milestones</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>Solution Engineering Review (SER)</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>System Definition Review (SDR)</td></tr> <tr><td>6</td><td>Preliminary Design Review (PDR)</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>Critical Design Review (CDR)</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>Test & Verification Milestones</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>Test Readiness Review (TRR)</td></tr> <tr><td>10</td><td>Production Readiness Review (PRR)</td></tr> </tbody> </table>		Name	1	Inputs From External Sources	2	Contract Award Received From Customer	3	Design Milestones	4	Solution Engineering Review (SER)	5	System Definition Review (SDR)	6	Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	7	Critical Design Review (CDR)	8	Test & Verification Milestones	9	Test Readiness Review (TRR)	10	Production Readiness Review (PRR)
	Name																						
1	Inputs From External Sources																						
2	Contract Award Received From Customer																						
3	Design Milestones																						
4	Solution Engineering Review (SER)																						
5	System Definition Review (SDR)																						
6	Preliminary Design Review (PDR)																						
7	Critical Design Review (CDR)																						
8	Test & Verification Milestones																						
9	Test Readiness Review (TRR)																						
10	Production Readiness Review (PRR)																						
3. Click the Get Driving Path button in the Dependency Analysis Group of the SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon.																							
4. If prompted, select a Text field that the Directional Path tool can write to, then click Accept																							
5. Observe the result in the Gantt Chart:																							



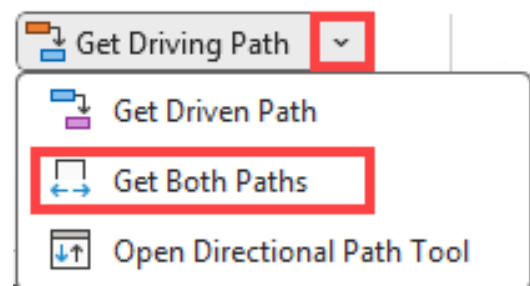
6. With row 6, **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** still selected, click the down arrow next to the text “Get Driving Path” to reveal the Directional Path Tools Menu. Click the **Get Driven Path** button.



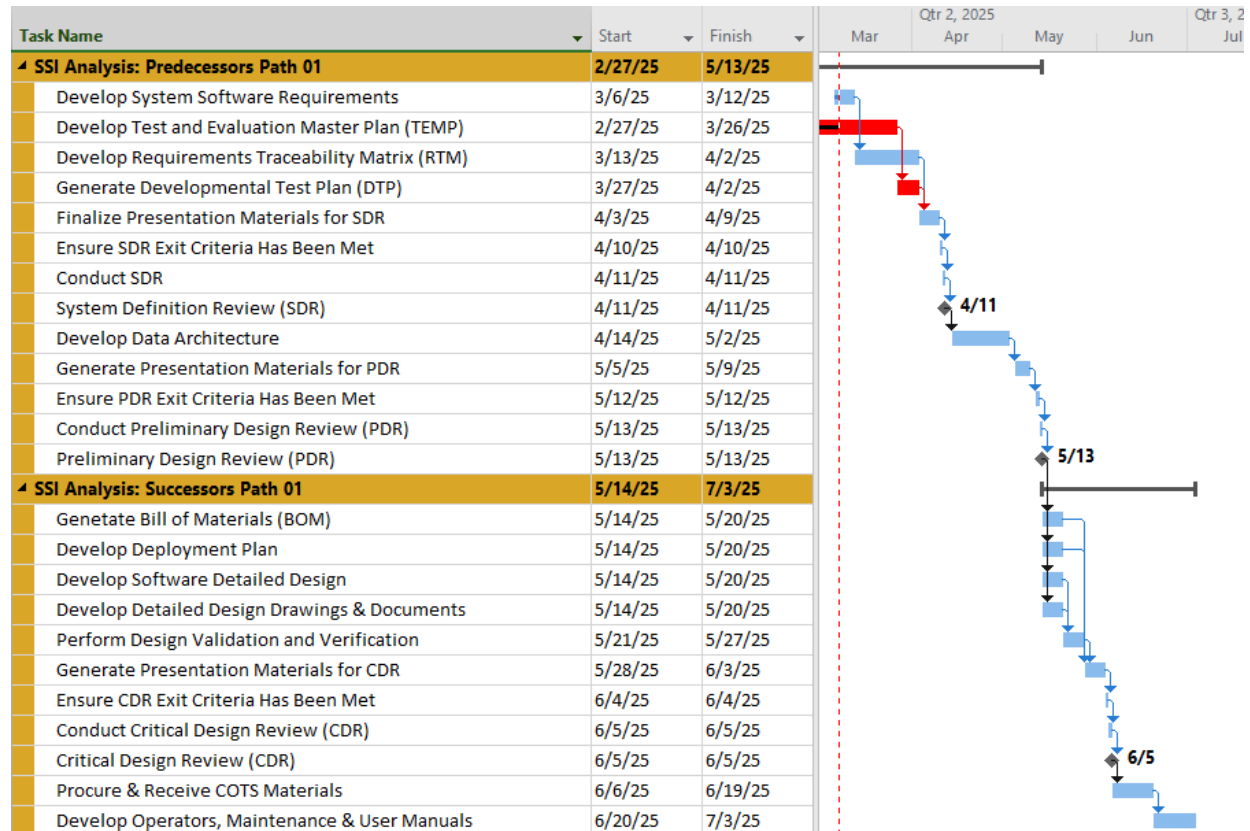
7. Observe the result in the Gantt Chart:



8. With row 6, **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** still selected, click the down arrow next to the text “Get Driving Path” to reveal the Directional Path Tools Menu. Click the **Get Both Paths** button.



9. Observe the result in the Gantt Chart:

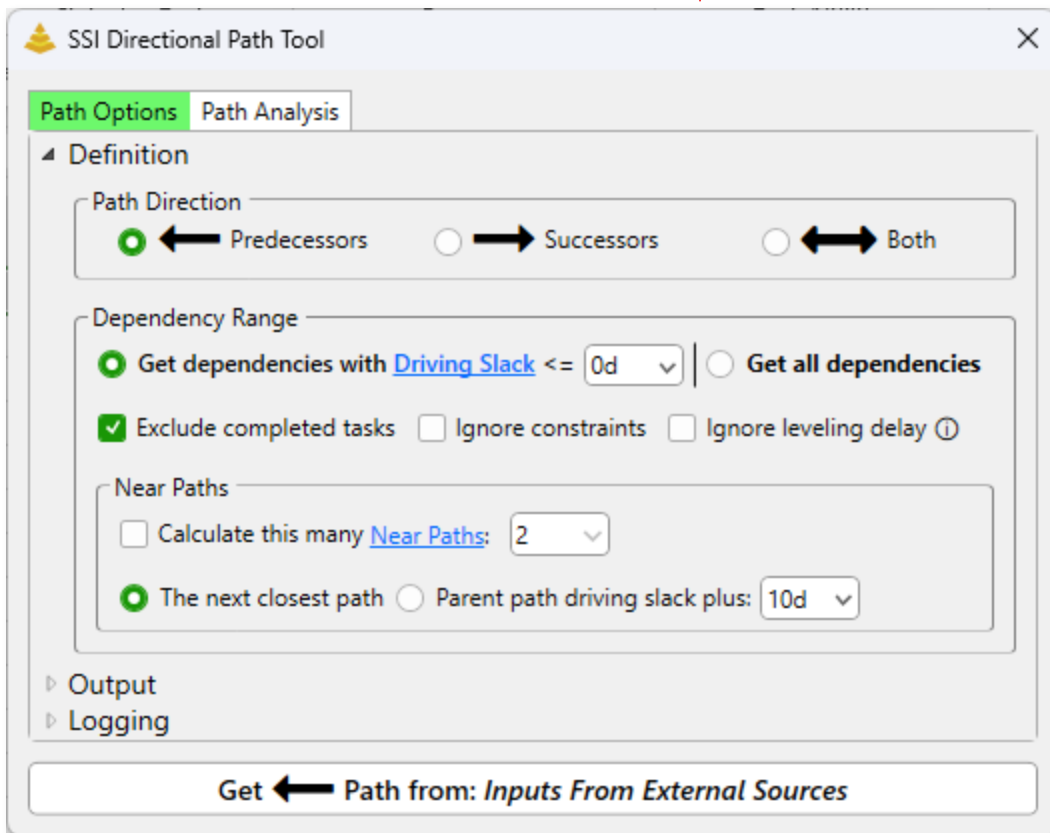
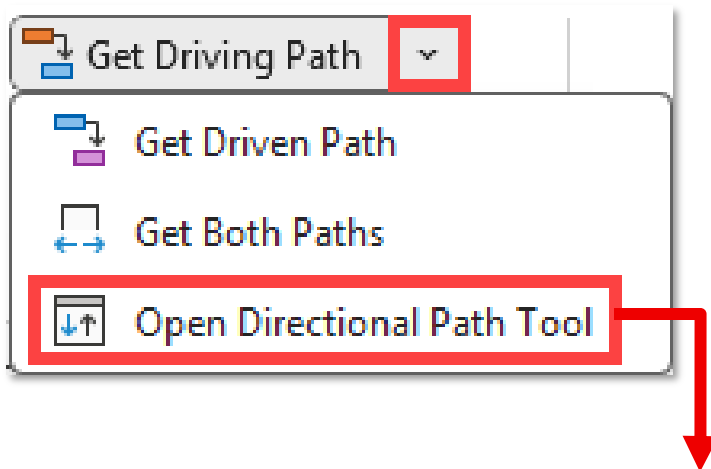


End of Practice Exercise

Using the Directional Path Tool Form

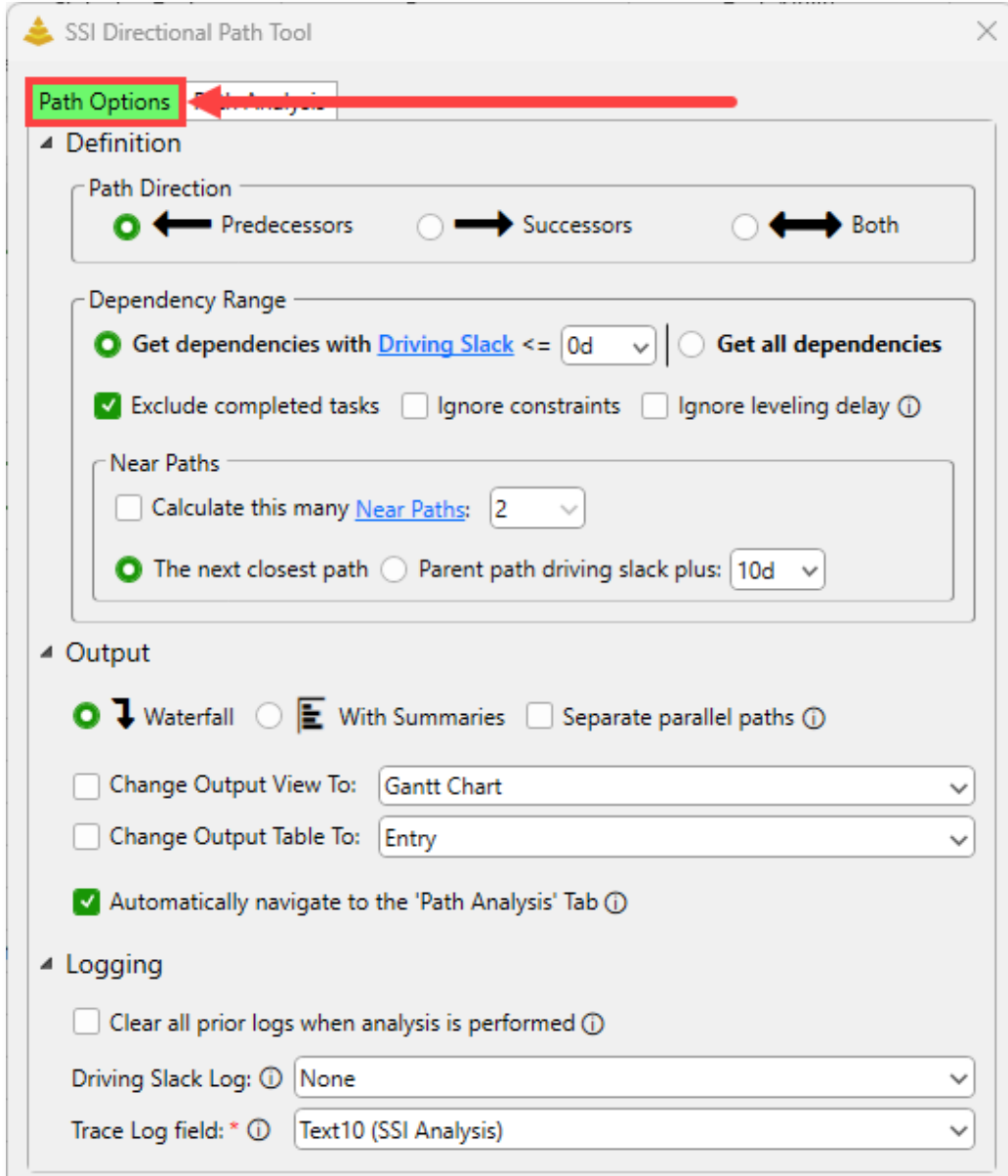
The Directional Path Tool form allows you to perform Directional Path analyses on schedule activities and configure options that control how those paths are defined and displayed.

To open the Directional Path Tool form, click the **down arrow** next to the Get Driving Path button in the SSI Analysis Tools ribbon to reveal the Directional Path Tools menu. Then click **Open Directional Path Tool**.



The Path Options Tab

The **Path Options** tab of the Directional Path Tool allows you to customize the directional path options.



SSI Directional Path Tool

Path Options

Definition

Path Direction

☒ Predecessors ☐ Successors ☐ Both

Dependency Range

☒ Get dependencies with **Driving Slack** <= 0d ☐ Get all dependencies

☒ Exclude completed tasks ☐ Ignore constraints ☐ Ignore leveling delay ⓘ

Near Paths

☐ Calculate this many **Near Paths**: 2 ☐ The next closest path ☐ Parent path driving slack plus: 10d

Output

☒ Waterfall ☐ With Summaries ☐ Separate parallel paths ⓘ

☐ Change Output View To: Gantt Chart

☐ Change Output Table To: Entry

☒ Automatically navigate to the 'Path Analysis' Tab ⓘ

Logging

☐ Clear all prior logs when analysis is performed ⓘ

Driving Slack Log: ⓘ None

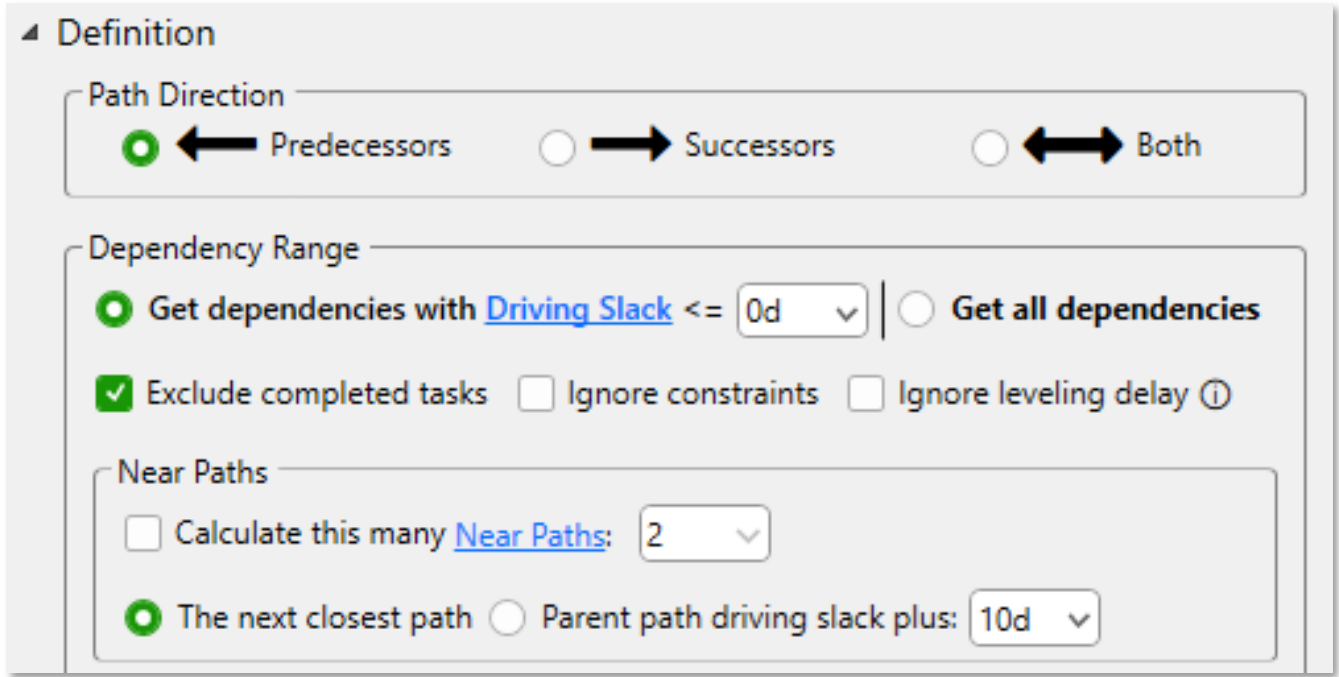
Trace Log field: * ⓘ Text10 (SSI Analysis)

The options on this tab are broken down into three sections that can be expanded or collapsed to show or hide their controls:

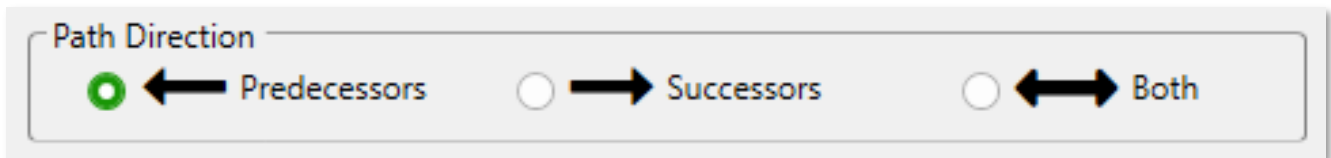
- **Dependencies** – These options control the direction and range of the directional path
- **Output** – These options control how directional paths are displayed in the Gantt Chart
- **Logging** – These options control the Microsoft Project fields the tool will be able to write into.

The Definition Group

The controls in the **Definition group** all you to configure how the Directional Path to activities will be defined, including its direction and range. Options in this group can be mixed and matched to allow you full control over the analysis.



Path Direction



This setting determines the direction of the dependency chain that will be analyzed from the selected focus point. Choose from the following options:

- **Predecessors:** Instructs the tool to analyze activities that precede the focus point (a Backward Path).
- **Successors:** Instructs the tool to analyze activities that succeed the focus point (a Forward Path).
- **Both:** Instructs the tool to analyze activities that both precede and succeed the focus point. When the Both option is selected and the analysis is run, the output will be displayed in a grouped view in the Gantt Chart to make it easy to understand which set of tasks represent which direction.

The Dependency Range Option

☒ Get dependencies with Driving Slack ≤ 0d | ☐ Get all dependencies

The **Dependency Range** option allows you to select between two options:

Get dependencies with Driving Slack ≤ [value]

☒ Get dependencies with Driving Slack ≤ 0d

This option will instruct the tool to only include dependencies that are within the selected Driving Slack threshold in the Directional Path. The maximum value the threshold can be set to 99 days.

It's important to understand that the value you specify serves as the **upper limit** for Driving Slack—not the exact value an activity must have to be included in the path.

For example, when the Driving Slack limit is set to **5 days**, activities are selected based on whether the Driving Slack calculated falls within that range, not exactly 5 days:



For a Backward Path, the analysis includes only those activities that have Driving Slack values greater than or equal to 0 and less than 5 days to the focus point.

For a Forward Path, the analysis only includes those activities to which the focus point has between 0 and 5 days of Driving Slack.

Get all dependencies

☐ Get all dependencies

This option will instruct the tool include **all** activities that are logically connected to the focus point in the Directional Path, regardless of how much Driving Slack is calculated

For a Backward Path, the analysis will include every single activity that precedes and is logically connected to the focus point through some chain.

For a Forward Path, the analysis will include every single activity that succeeds and is logically connected to the focus point through some chain.

Exclusions and Ignores

☒ Exclude completed tasks
 ☐ Ignore constraints
 ☐ Ignore leveling delay ⓘ

Exclude completed tasks

☒ Exclude completed tasks

Checking this option instructs the tool to exclude any 100% complete activities from the Directional Path. By default, this option will be **tuned on**.

Ignore constraints

☐ Ignore constraints

Checking this option instructs the tool to treat activities with an applied [Constraint Date](#) as if they are scheduled **As Soon As Possible** during the analysis. Normally, if a dependency being analyzed falls outside of the established Driving Slack threshold, the analysis ceases on that dependency chain. If this option is checked, the analysis will continue, as if the constraint does not exist. Checking this option does not remove constraints from activities.

Consider the following example from a Backward Directional Path Analysis with a Driving Slack threshold of 0, where the milestone **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** is the focus point:

Task Name	Constraint Date	Start	Finish	Mar	Qtr 2, 2025	Apr	May	Ju
Develop System Software Requirements	NA	3/6/25	3/12/25					
Develop Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP)	NA	2/27/25	3/26/25					
Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	NA	3/13/25	4/2/25					
Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	NA	3/27/25	4/2/25					
Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	NA	4/3/25	4/9/25					
Ensure SDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	NA	4/10/25	4/10/25					
Conduct SDR	NA	4/11/25	4/11/25					
System Definition Review (SDR)	NA	4/11/25	4/11/25					
Develop Data Architecture	4/25/25	4/25/25	5/15/25					
Generate Presentation Materials for PDR	NA	5/16/25	5/22/25					
Ensure PDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	NA	5/23/25	5/23/25					
Conduct Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	NA	5/26/25	5/26/25					
Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	NA	5/26/25	5/26/25					

The activity **Develop Data Architecture** is being driven by its constraint date of 4/25/2025, not any of its predecessors. With the Ignore Constraints option **turned off**, the analysis would stop at that point. With the Ignore Constraints option **turned on**, the analysis continues through the dependency chain as if the constraint was not there, resulting in a larger set of activities being included in the path.

Ignore leveling delay

☐ Ignore leveling delay ⓘ

Checking this option instructs the tool to treat activities with an applied [Leveling Delay](#) as if they are scheduled **As Soon As Possible** with no delay. During the analysis. By default, if the Driving Slack value calculated for a dependency with a Leveling delay is outside of the established Driving Slack threshold, the analysis ceases on that dependency chain. If this option is checked, the analysis will continue, as if the Leveling Delay does not exist.

Checking this option does not remove Leveling Delays from activities.

Consider the following example from a Backward Directional Path Analysis with a Driving Slack threshold of 0, where the milestone **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** is the focus point:

Task Name	Leveling Delay	Start	Finish	Mar	Qtr 2, 2025	Apr	May	Ju
Develop System Software Requirements	0 ed	3/6/25	3/12/25					
Develop Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP)	0 ed	2/27/25	3/26/25					
Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	0 ed	3/13/25	4/2/25					
Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	0 ed	3/27/25	4/2/25					
Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	0 ed	4/3/25	4/9/25					
Ensure SDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	0 ed	4/10/25	4/10/25					
Conduct SDR	0 ed	4/11/25	4/11/25					
System Definition Review (SDR)	0 ed	4/11/25	4/11/25					
Develop Data Architecture	15 ed	4/29/25	5/19/25					
Generate Presentation Materials for PDR	0 ed	5/20/25	5/26/25					
Ensure PDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	0 ed	5/27/25	5/27/25					
Conduct Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	0 ed	5/28/25	5/28/25					
Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	0 ed	5/28/25	5/28/25					

The activity **Develop Data Architecture** is being driven by its 15 elapsed day Leveling Delay, not any of its predecessors. With the Ignore Leveling Delay option **turned off**, the analysis would stop at that point. With the Ignore Leveling Delay option **turned on**, the analysis continues through the dependency chain as if the Leveling Delay was not there, resulting in a larger set of activities being included in the path.

Note: If the Dependency Range is set to Get all dependencies, the options to Ignore Constraints and Ignore Leveling Delay will be unavailable as they are only applicable when analyzing a Directional Path using a specified Driving Slack threshold

Near Paths

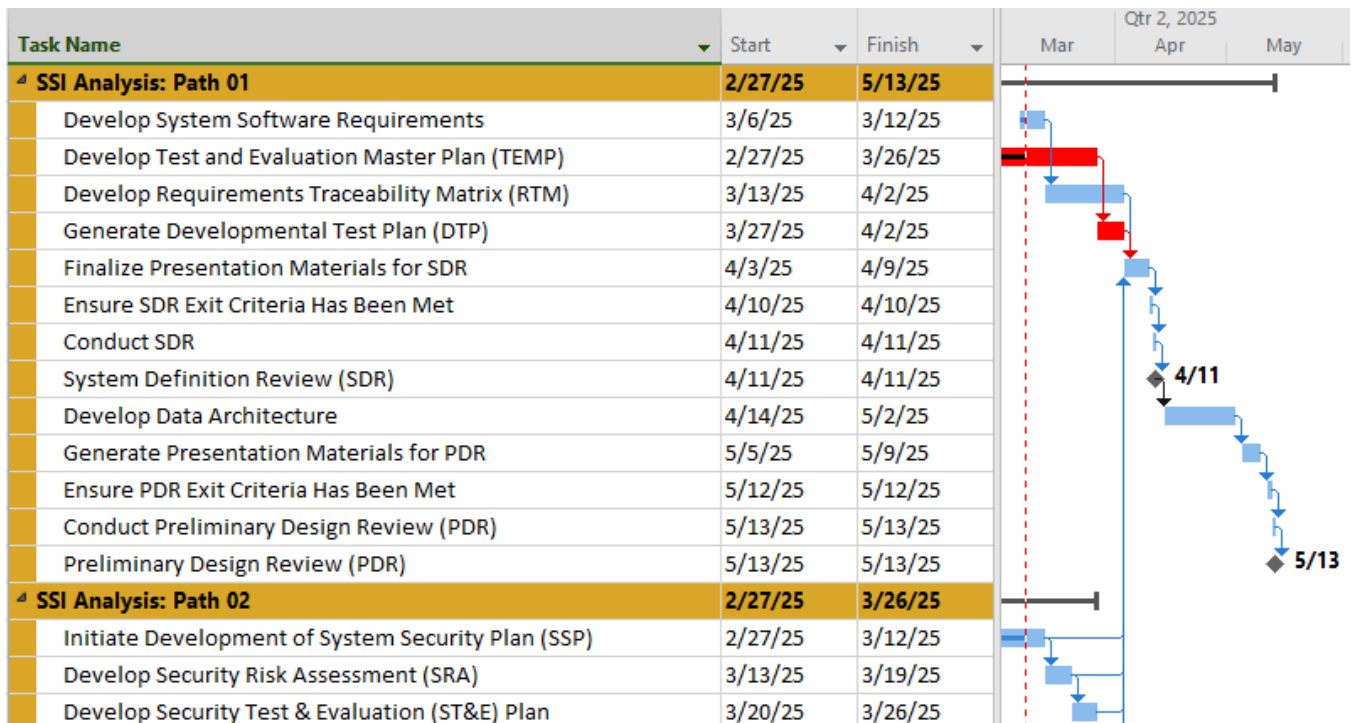
Near Paths

☐ Calculate this many [Near Paths](#):

☒ The next closest path
☐ Parent path driving slack plus:

Within the Dependency Range Group, the option to calculate and define **Near Paths** is available. A **Near Path** is a set of activities that fall outside the driving slack limit of the primary directional path.

Directional Paths with Near Paths are always displayed in grouped views:



The Primary Directional Path is always coded as **Path 01**. Each subsequent Near Path will be coded as **Path 02, 03, 04...** etc.

Calculate this many Near Paths Option

☐ Calculate this many [Near Paths](#):

Checking this option will instruct the tool to calculate Near Paths in its analysis. Use the drop-down menu to specify how many Near Paths to calculate. A maximum of 9 Near Paths can be calculated.

Defining Near Paths

A Near Path can be defined one of two ways:

The Next Closest Path

☒ The next closest path

This option tells the tool to define each Near Path—starting with the first—as the next closest group of activities just beyond the Driving Slack threshold set for the Primary Directional Path. The tool automatically identifies these tasks, so you don't need to specify how far they are from the threshold.

Parent path Driving Slack plus: [value]

☐ Parent path driving slack plus: 10d ▼

This option allows you to define Near Paths using a fixed Driving Slack range added to the threshold of the parent path. Rather than identifying the next closest path automatically, this method lets you explicitly set how far beyond the current path's Driving Slack limit each Near Path can extend.

Consider an example of a Primary Backwards Path with a Driving Slack limit of **zero**. In this case, only activities that have zero days of Driving Slack to the focus point will be included in this path.

If the tool is configured to calculate **2 Near Paths**, and the **Parent path driving slack plus** value is set to **10 days**:

The first Near Path would include any activities that have a Driving Slack greater 0 but less than or equal to 10 days to the focus point:



The second Near Path would include any activities that have a Driving Slack greater than 10 but less than or equal to 20 days to the focus point:



The Output Group

Output

☒ Waterfall
 ☐ With Summaries
 ☐ Separate parallel paths ⓘ

☐ Change Output View To: Gantt Chart

☐ Change Output Table To: Entry

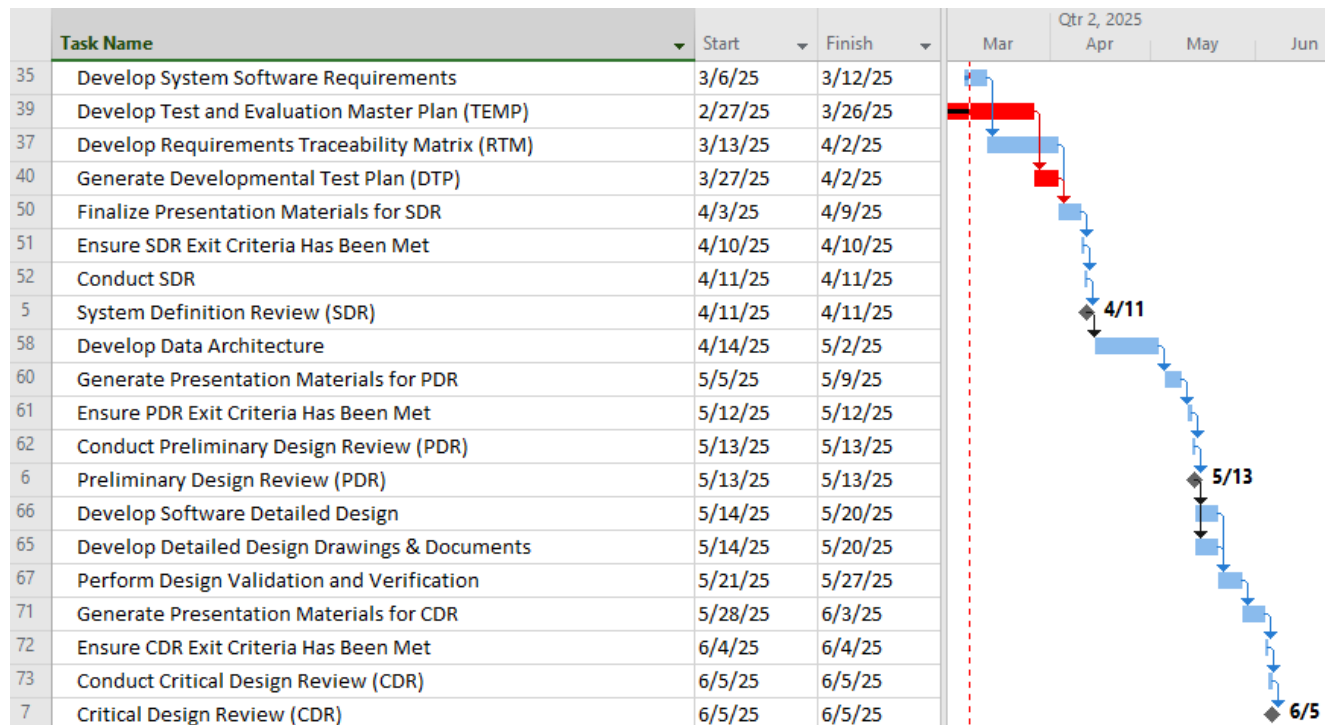
☒ Automatically navigate to the 'Path Analysis' Tab ⓘ

The **Output Group** on the Path Analysis tab primarily controls how Directional Paths are displayed in the Gantt Chart in Microsoft Project

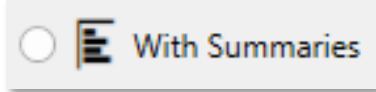
Waterfall



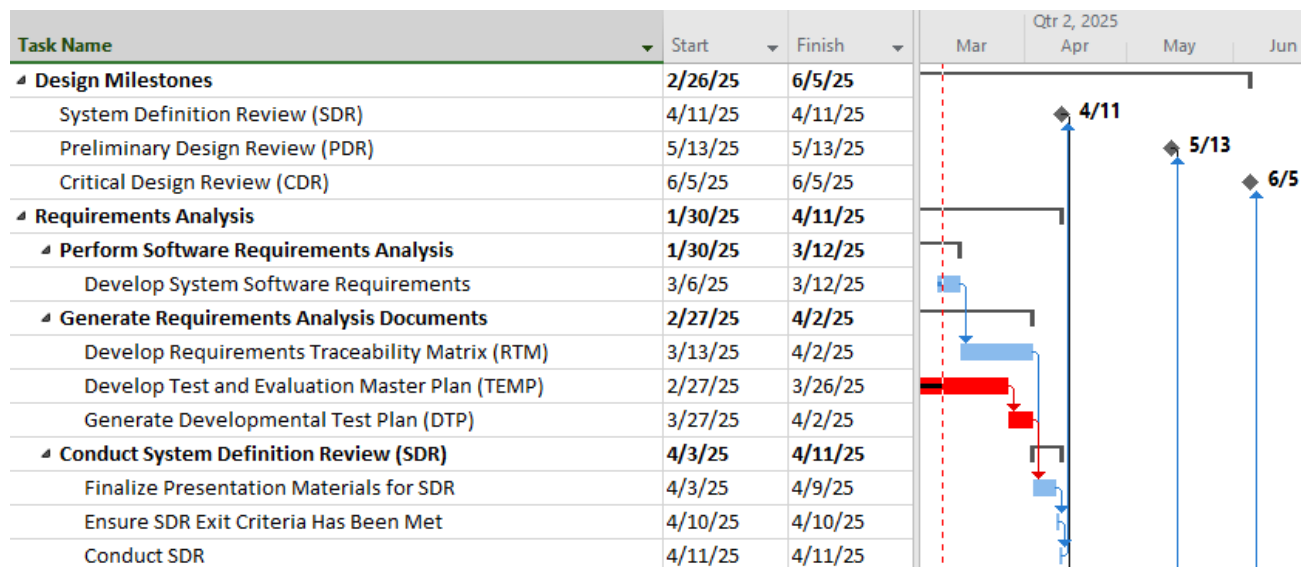
If this option is selected, activities in a Directional Path will be displayed in a Waterfall style. Specifically, activities in the path will be sorted by their Finish dates, then Start dates, then ID or Row Numbers.



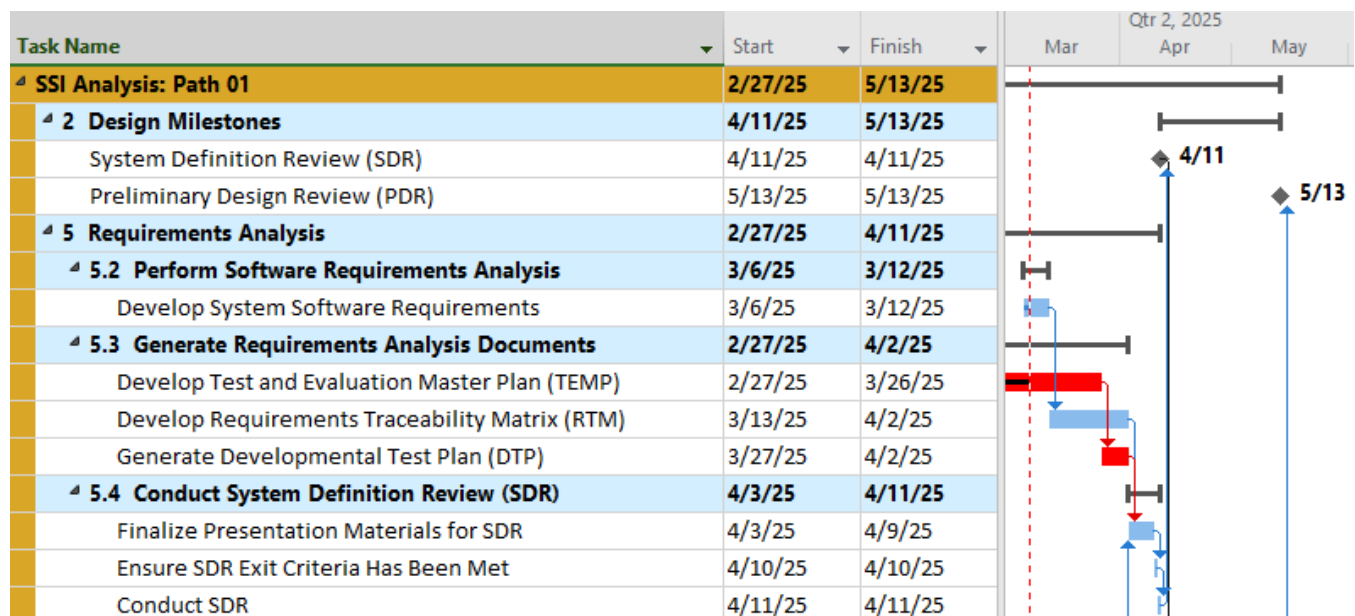
With Summaries



If this option is selected, activities in a Directional Path will be displayed within the existing outline structure of the schedule.



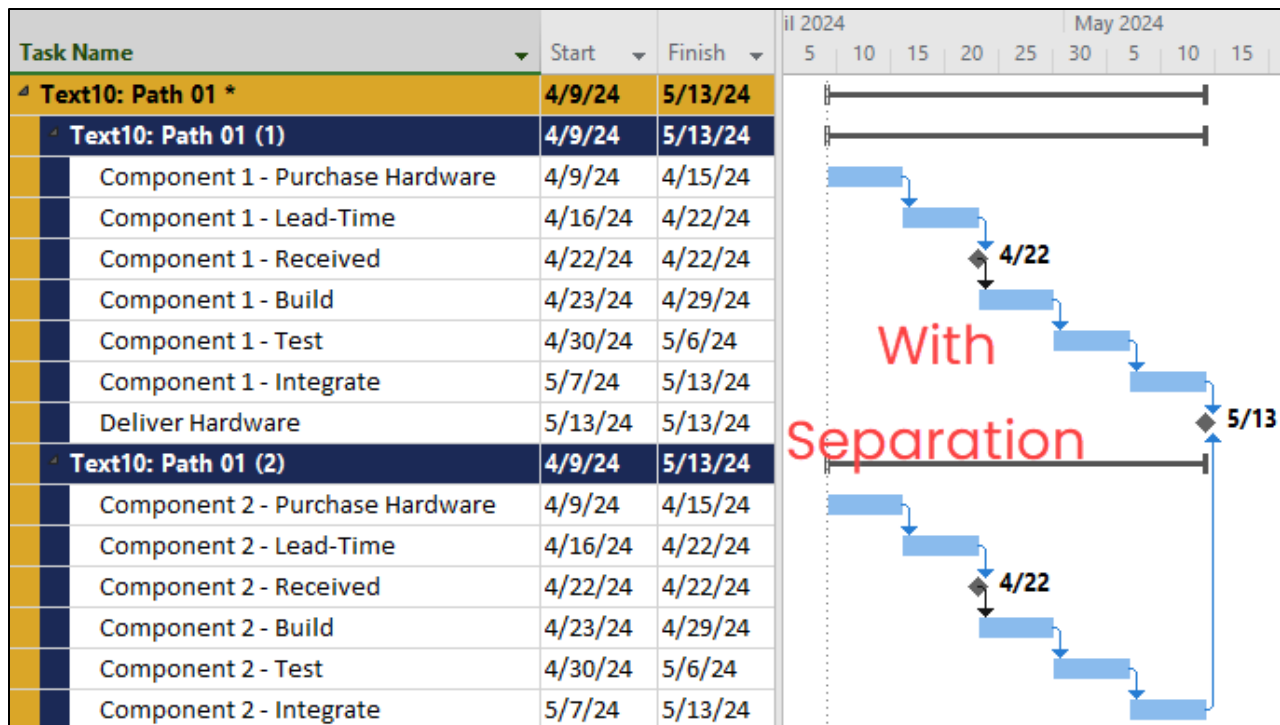
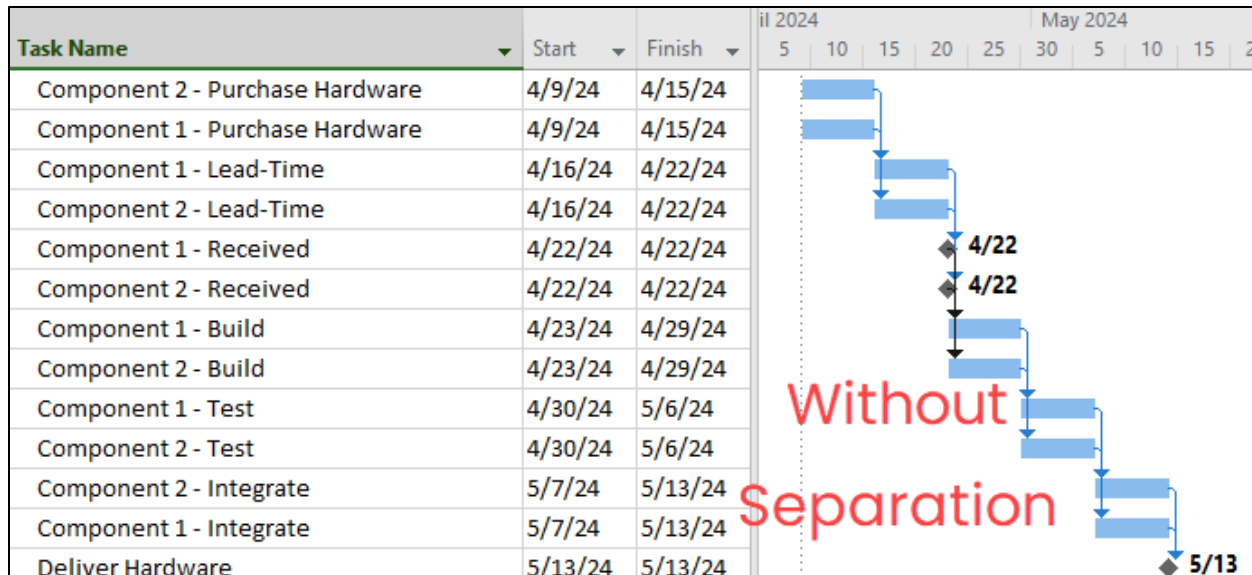
If the Directional Path tool groups the result of a Directional Path, such as in analyses that include Near Paths, The **With Summaries** option will instruct the tool to include summary tasks within the group structure.



Separate Parallel Paths

☐ Separate parallel paths ⓘ

This option will instruct the tool to visually separate any parallel paths in a Directional Path in the Gantt Chart. This option is nothing more than a visual aid. Observe the following example without and then with this option enabled:



Change Output View

☐ Change Output View To: Gantt Chart

Checking this option will instruct the tool to change the current [Task View](#) applied to the Task View selected when the Directional Path is displayed.

Change Output Table

☐ Change Output Table To: Entry

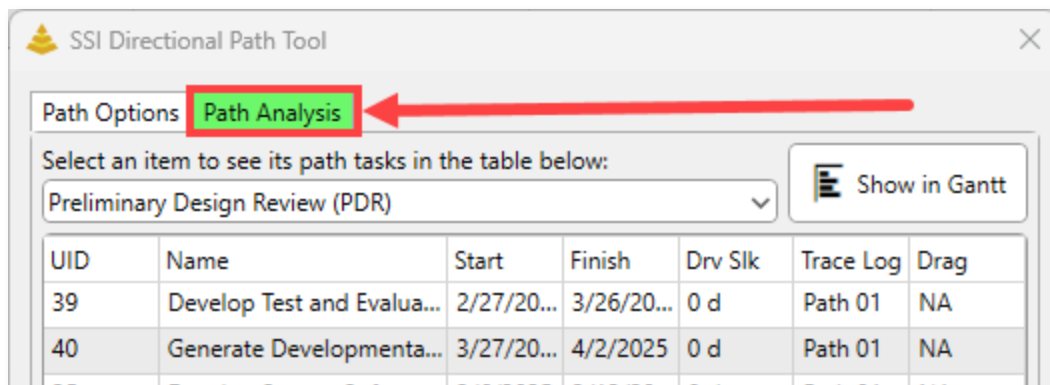
Checking this option will instruct the tool to change the current Task Table applied to the Task View selected when the Directional Path is displayed.

A Task table is a defined set of fields displayed in the sheet portion of a view as columns and rows.

Automatically Navigate to the 'Path Analysis Tab'

☒ Automatically navigate to the 'Path Analysis' Tab ⓘ

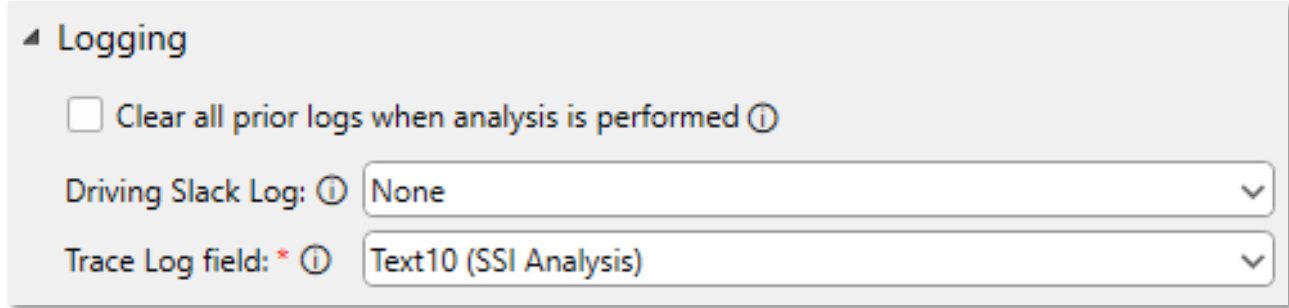
Checking this option will instruct the Directional Path Tool to automatically switch to the 'Path Analysis' Tab anytime a Directional Path analysis is run. The Path Analysis tab displays a table showing the analysis results and provides additional options for Directional Paths after they have been calculated.



This option does not change how Directional Paths are calculated by the tool or how they appear in the Gantt Chart; it simply offers an additional way to view the results.

Note: When a Directional Path is calculated for multiple activities at once, the tool will always navigate to the Path Analysis tab automatically, even if the Automatically Navigate to 'Path Analysis' Tab option is unchecked.

The Logging Group



Logging

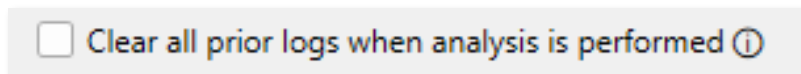
☐ Clear all prior logs when analysis is performed ⓘ

Driving Slack Log: ⓘ None ▼

Trace Log field: * ⓘ Text10 (SSI Analysis) ▼

The **Logging Group** on the Path Analysis tab primarily controls where the Directional Path tool will write data into.

Clear All Prior Logs when Analysis is Performed



☐ Clear all prior logs when analysis is performed ⓘ

If this option is checked, the tool will clear out existing values from the selected **Driving Slack** and **Trace Log** fields from *all* activities in the schedule before the result of the next Directional Path analysis run is displayed. Be aware that this option may increase processing time particularly in large project files with many activities.

Driving Slack Log

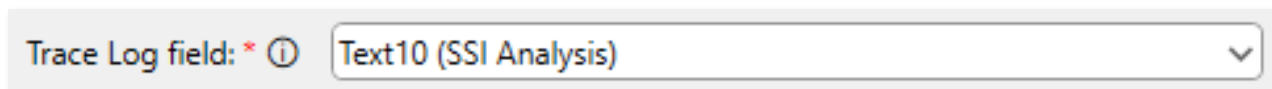


Driving Slack Log: ⓘ None ▼

This option determines which field the calculated **Driving Slack** values will be written to. You can choose any custom **Text** or **Number** field.

Writing Driving Slack values is optional. If you prefer not to store them, select **None** from the drop-down list (the first option). However, **SSI strongly recommends** reserving a field for this purpose, as Driving Slack offers valuable insights into task flexibility and schedule drivers that are not available through standard Microsoft Project fields.

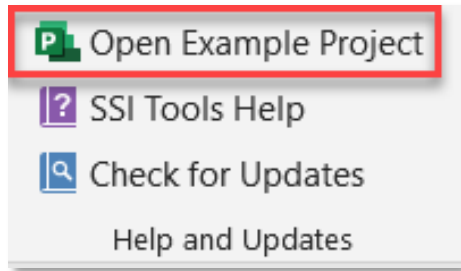
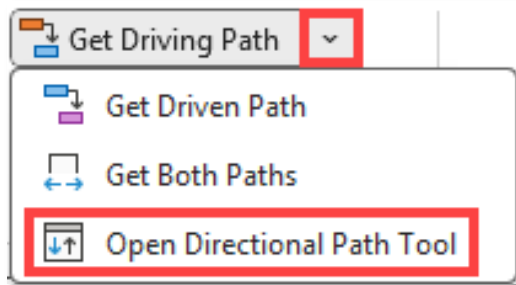
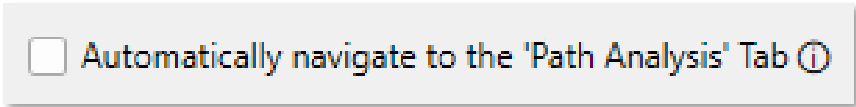
Trace Log Field



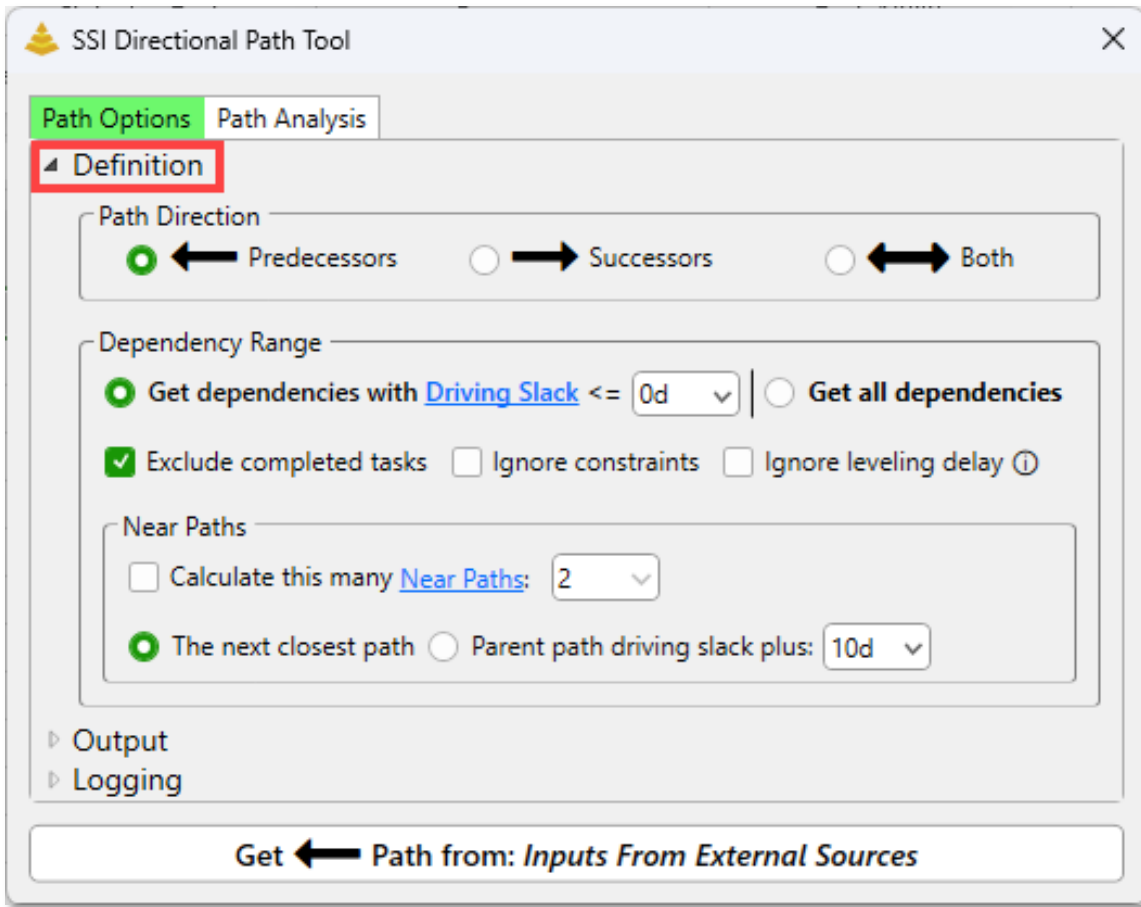
Trace Log field: * ⓘ Text10 (SSI Analysis) ▼

This option specifies the custom **Text** field where **Trace Log** values will be written. Trace Log values are descriptive notes generated by the Directional Path Tool for activities on the Directional Path. This setting is **required** and must be assigned in order for the tool to display Directional Paths in the Gantt Chart.

Class Exercise – Setting Path Options and Running Directional Path Analyses

1. Open the SSI Example Project file in Microsoft Project if you do not currently have it open by clicking the Open Example Project button on the far-right side of the SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon.	
2. Open the Directional Path Tool form by clicking the down arrow to the right of the Get Driving Path Quick Access button in the SSI Analysis Tools ribbon. In the drop-down menu, click Open Directional Path Tool.	
3. Expand the Output group if it is not already expanded on the form:	
4. Uncheck the Automatically navigate to the 'Path Analysis Tab' option if it is checked:	
	

5. Expand the **Definition** group if it is not already expanded on the form:



SSI Directional Path Tool

Path Options Path Analysis

Definition

Path Direction

☒ Predecessors ☐ Successors ☐ Both

Dependency Range

☒ Get dependencies with Driving Slack <= 0d ☐ Get all dependencies

☒ Exclude completed tasks ☐ Ignore constraints ☐ Ignore leveling delay ⓘ

Near Paths

☐ Calculate this many Near Paths: 2 ☒ The next closest path ☐ Parent path driving slack plus: 10d

Output

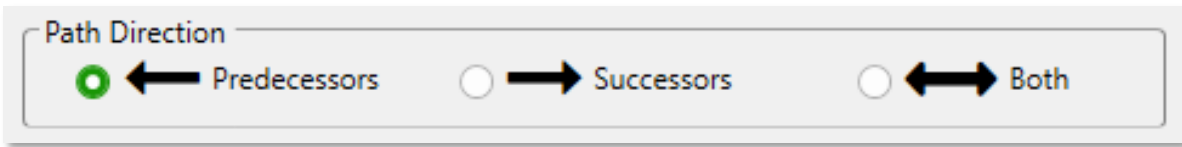
Logging

Get  Path from: *Inputs From External Sources*

6. Select row 6, **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** in the Gantt table.

	Name
1	Inputs From External Sources
2	Contract Award Received From Customer
3	Design Milestones
4	Solution Engineering Review (SER)
5	System Definition Review (SDR)
6	Preliminary Design Review (PDR)
7	Critical Design Review (CDR)
8	Test & Verification Milestones
9	Test Readiness Review (TRR)
10	Production Readiness Review (PRR)

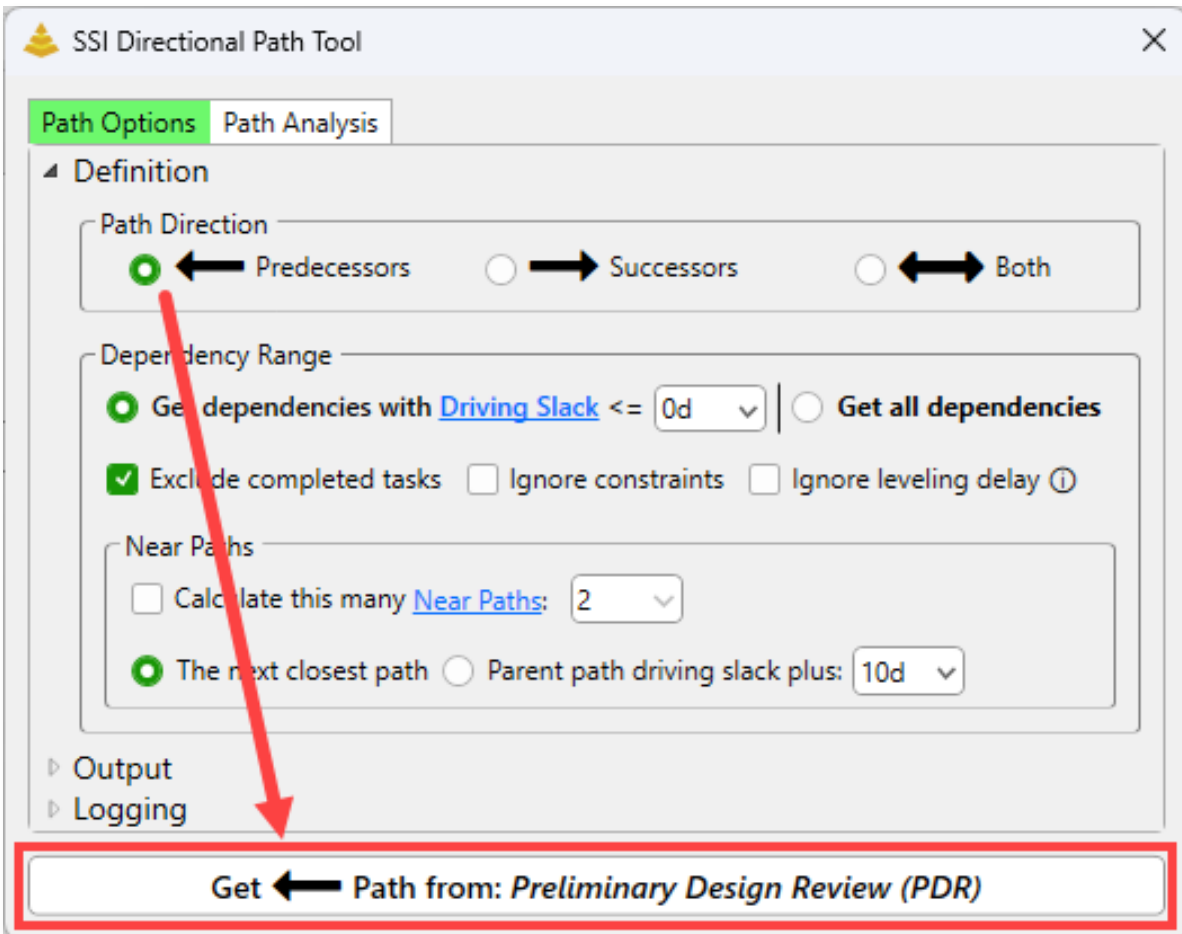
7. Set the Path Direction to **Predecessors**:



Path Direction

☒ ← Predecessors ☐ → Successors ☐ ↔ Both

8. With **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** still selected, Click the **Get Directional Path button** at the bottom of the Directional Path Tool:



SSI Directional Path Tool

Path Options | Path Analysis

Definition

Path Direction

☒ ← Predecessors ☐ → Successors ☐ ↔ Both

Dependency Range

☒ Get dependencies with Driving Slack ≤ 0d ▾ | ☐ Get all dependencies

☒ Exclude completed tasks ☐ Ignore constraints ☐ Ignore leveling delay ⓘ

Near Paths

☐ Calculate this many Near Paths: 2 ▾

☒ The next closest path ☐ Parent path driving slack plus: 10d ▾

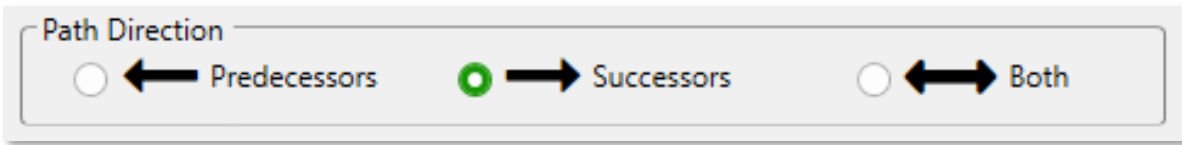
Output

Logging

Get ← Path from: Preliminary Design Review (PDR)

9. Observe the Backward Path in the Gantt Chart.

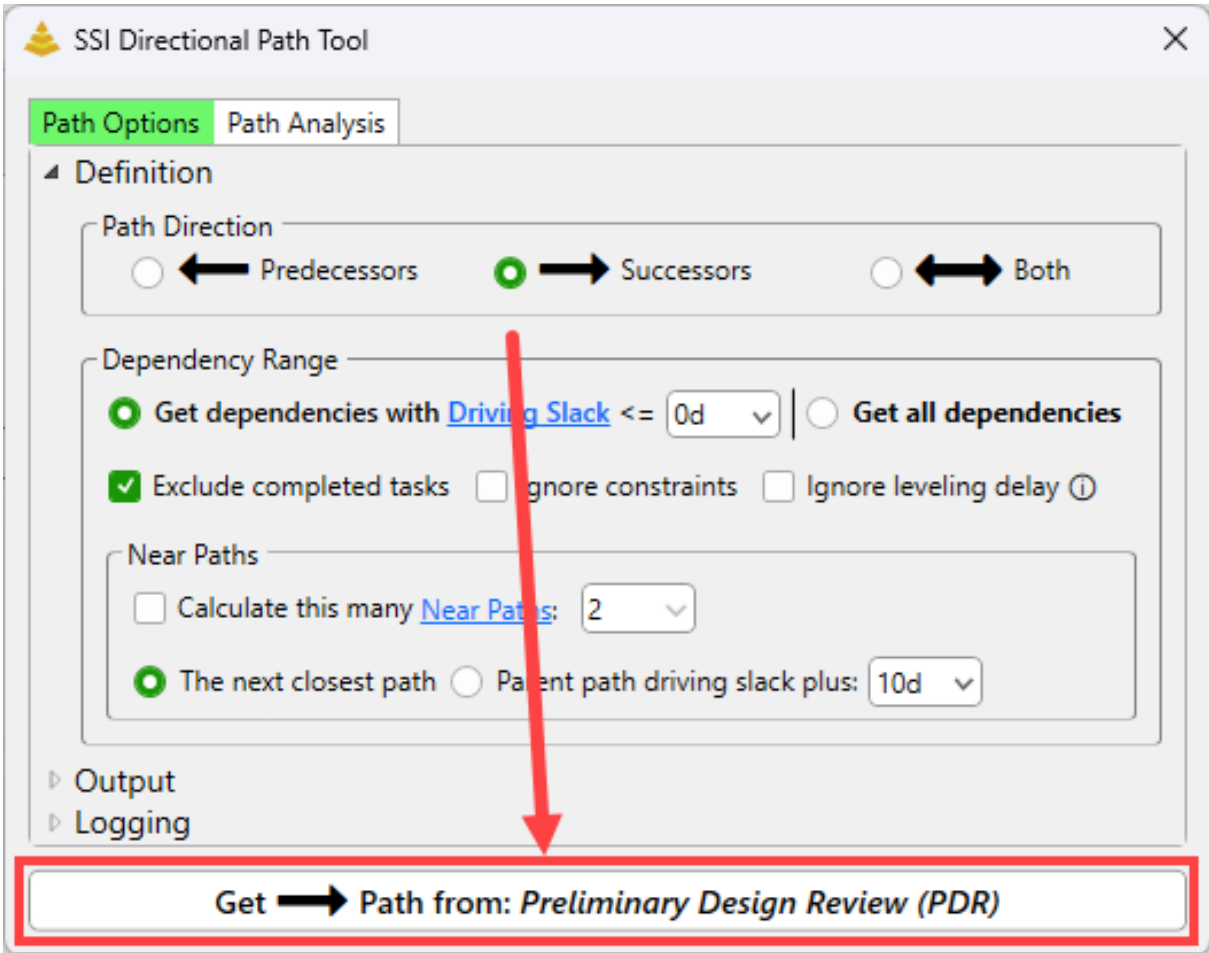
10. Set the Path Direction to **Successors**:



Path Direction

☐ ← Predecessors
 ☒ → Successors
 ☐ ↔ Both

11. With **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** still selected, Click the **Get Directional Path button** at the bottom of the Directional Path Tool:



SSi Directional Path Tool

Path Options | Path Analysis

Definition

Path Direction

☐ ← Predecessors
 ☒ → Successors
 ☐ ↔ Both

Dependency Range

☒ Get dependencies with Driving Slack ≤ 0d ▼
 ☐ Get all dependencies

☒ Exclude completed tasks
 ☐ Ignore constraints
 ☐ Ignore leveling delay ⓘ

Near Paths

☐ Calculate this many Near Paths: 2 ▼
 ☒ The next closest path
 ☐ Parent path driving slack plus: 10d ▼

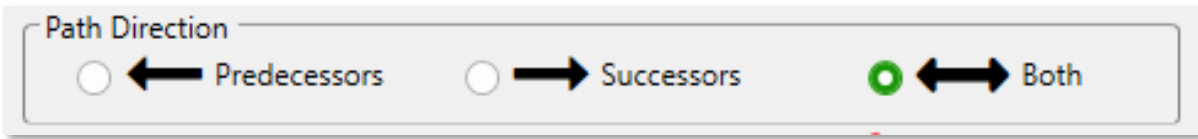
Output

Logging

Get → Path from: *Preliminary Design Review (PDR)*

12. Observe the Forward Path in the Gantt Chart.

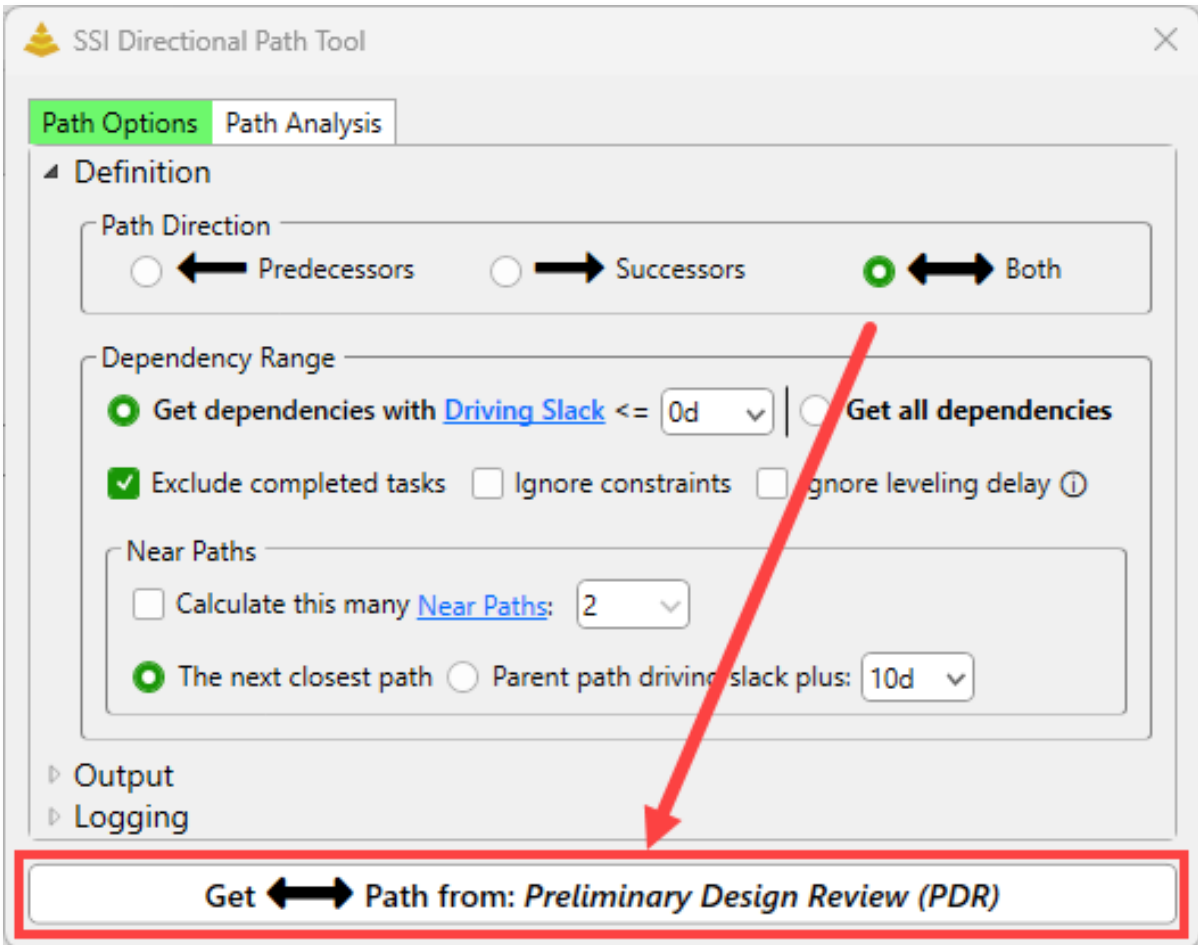
13. Set the Path Direction to **Both**:



Path Direction

☐ ← Predecessors
 ☐ → Successors
 ☒ ↔ Both

14. With **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** still selected, Click the **Get Directional Path** button at the bottom of the Directional Path Tool:



SSi Directional Path Tool

Path Options | Path Analysis

Definition

Path Direction

☐ ← Predecessors
 ☐ → Successors
 ☒ ↔ Both

Dependency Range

☒ Get dependencies with Driving Slack ≤ 0d
 ☐ Get all dependencies

☒ Exclude completed tasks
 ☐ Ignore constraints
 ☐ Ignore leveling delay ⓘ

Near Paths

☐ Calculate this many Near Paths: 2
 ☒ The next closest path
 ☐ Parent path driving slack plus: 10d

Output

Logging

Get ↔ Path from: *Preliminary Design Review (PDR)*

15. Observe the result in the Gantt Chart.

16. Change the Driving Slack limit to **5d**:

 Get dependencies with **Driving Slack** <= **5d** ▼

17. Expand the Logging Group and set the **Driving Slack Log** to an available Number or Text field. Display this field in the Gantt Chart.

► Output
▲ Logging

☐ Clear all prior logs when analysis is performed ⓘ

Driving Slack Log: ⓘ **Number2 (Driving Slack)** ▼

Trace Log field: * ⓘ **Text10 (SSI Analysis)** ▼

Get ← Path from: *Preliminary Design Review (PDR)*

18. Repeat steps 6-12. Notice how the output of each directional path contains more activities than when the Driving Slack limit was 0d.

19. Reset the Driving Slack limit to **0d**:

 Get dependencies with **Driving Slack** <= **0d** ▼

20. Set a **Finish no Earlier Than** Constraint on **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** for a date one month later than it's current start date:

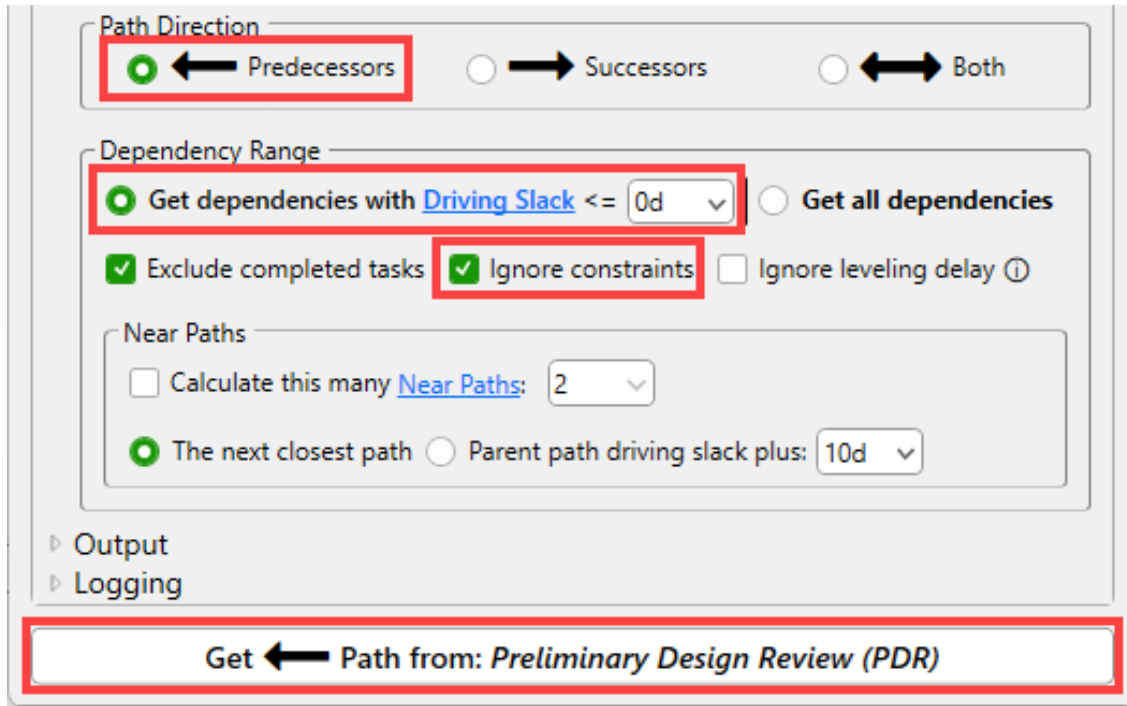
	Task Name ▼	Constraint Type ▼	Constraint Date ▼	Start ▼	Finish ▼
6	Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	Finish No Earlier Than	6/13/25	6/13/25	6/13/25

21. Attempt to run a Backwards (Predecessor) Path from **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)**. Notice that the only activity returned in the result is **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** itself.

22. Check the **Ignore Constraints** option.

 **Ignore constraints**

23. With **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)** still selected, Click the **Get Directional Path** button at the bottom of the Directional Path Tool:



Path Direction

☒ Predecessors ☐ Successors ☐ Both

Dependency Range

☒ Get dependencies with Driving Slack <= 0d ☐ Get all dependencies

☒ Exclude completed tasks ☒ Ignore constraints ☐ Ignore leveling delay ⓘ

Near Paths

☐ Calculate this many Near Paths: 2

☒ The next closest path ☐ Parent path driving slack plus: 10d

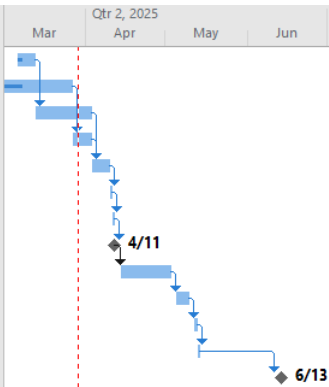
► Output

► Logging

Get ← Path from: *Preliminary Design Review (PDR)*

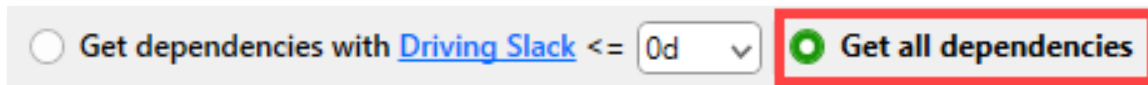
24. Notice the result displays a full path, even though PDR is driven by its constraint date, not its predecessors:

Task Name	Constraint Type	Constraint Date	Start	Finish	Mar	Qtr 2, 2025	Apr	May	Jun
Develop System Software Requirements	As Soon As Possible	NA	3/6/25	3/12/25					
Develop Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP)	As Soon As Possible	NA	2/27/25	3/26/25					
Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	As Soon As Possible	NA	3/13/25	4/2/25					
Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	As Soon As Possible	NA	3/27/25	4/2/25					
Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	As Soon As Possible	NA	4/3/25	4/9/25					
Ensure SDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	As Soon As Possible	NA	4/10/25	4/10/25					
Conduct SDR	As Soon As Possible	NA	4/11/25	4/11/25					
System Definition Review (SDR)	As Soon As Possible	NA	4/11/25	4/11/25					
Develop Data Architecture	As Soon As Possible	NA	4/14/25	5/2/25					
Generate Presentation Materials for PDR	As Soon As Possible	NA	5/5/25	5/9/25					
Ensure PDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	As Soon As Possible	NA	5/12/25	5/12/25					
Conduct Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	As Soon As Possible	NA	5/13/25	5/13/25					
Preliminary Design Review (PDR)	Finish No Earlier Than	6/13/25	6/13/25	6/13/25					



25. Set **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)**'s Constraint Type back to **As Soon As Possible**.

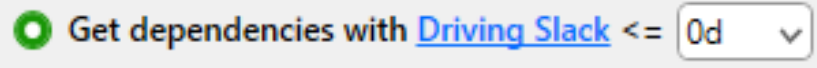
26. Change the Dependency Range Option to **Get all Dependencies**:



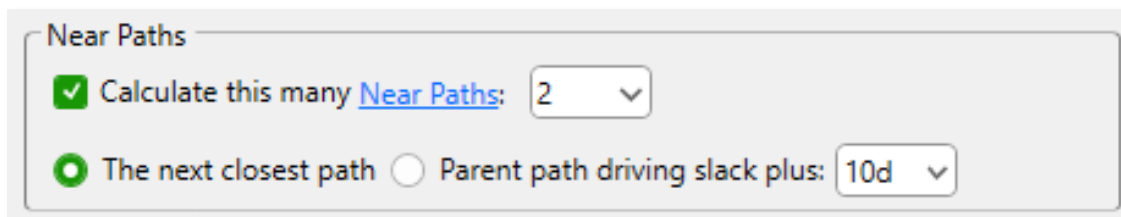
☐ Get dependencies with Driving Slack <= 0d ☒ **Get all dependencies**

27. Repeat steps 6-12 with the **Get all Dependencies** option selected. Observe how the results of each Directional Path now includes every activity logically connected to **Preliminary Design Review (PDR)**.

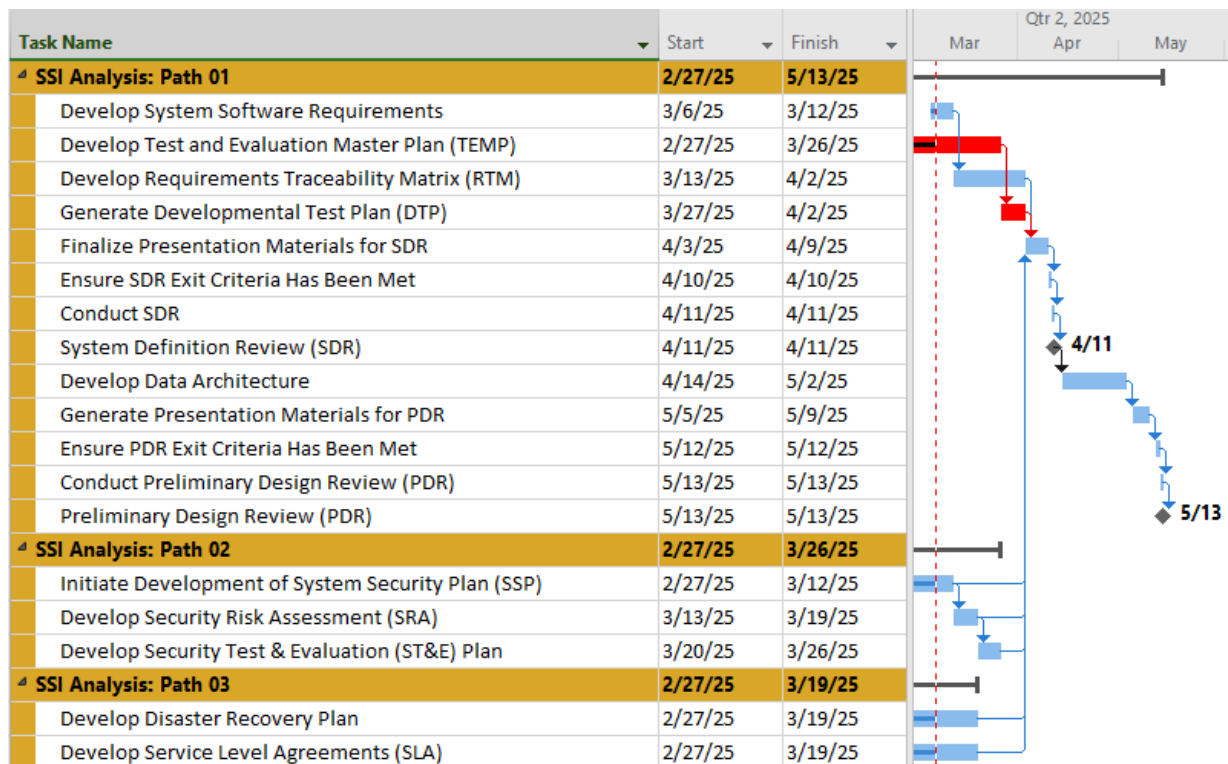
28. Set The Dependency Range option back to **Get dependencies with Driving Slack ≤ 0d**



29. Check the option to calculate 2 **Near Paths**. Set the Near Path Definition to **The next closest path**:



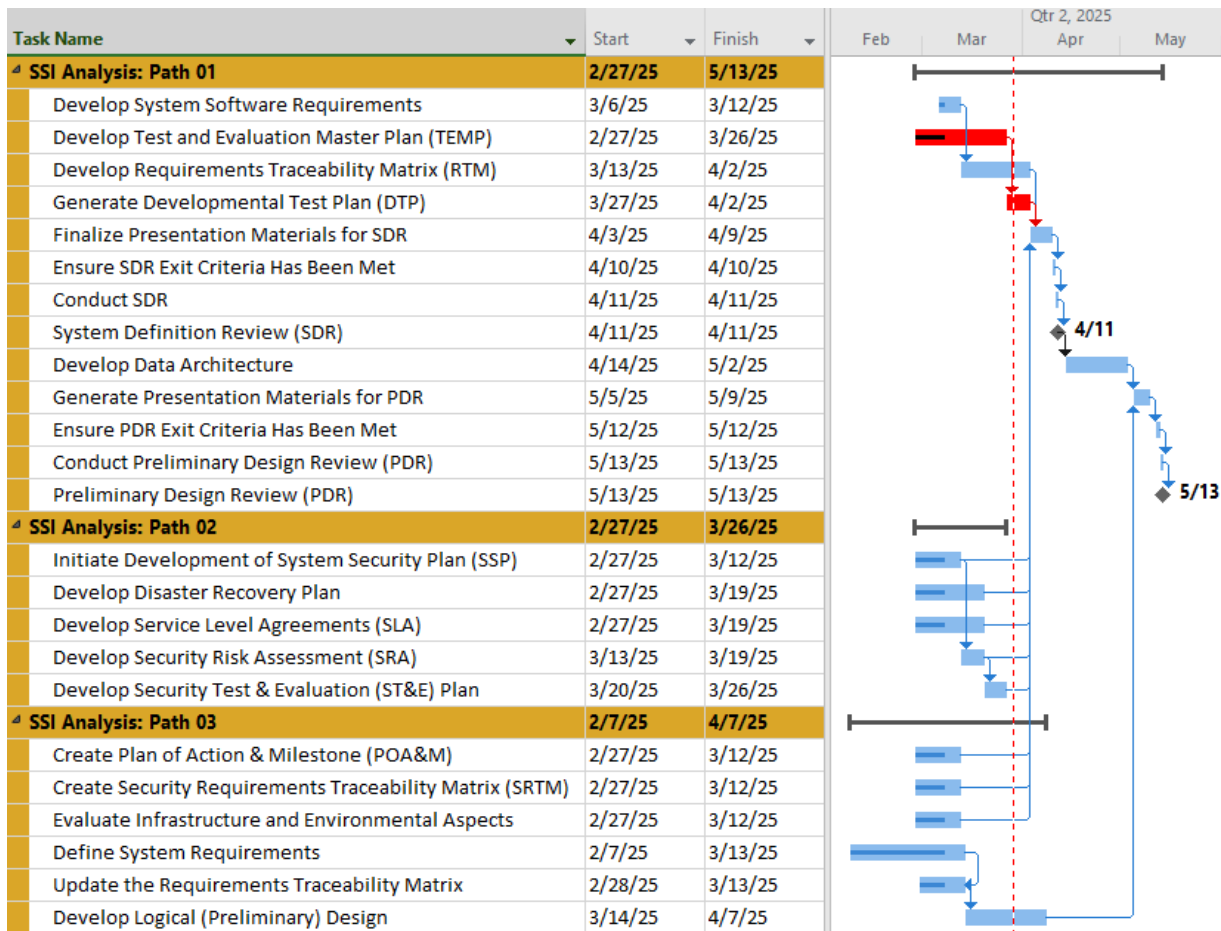
30. Repeat steps 6-12. While having the option to calculate Near Paths turned on. You will observe results like the image below:



31. Change the Near Path definition to **Parent path Driving Slack plus 10d**:

☒ Parent path driving slack plus: 10d ▼

32. Repeat steps 6–9 and observe how the result was different than when the Near Paths were defined as the next closest path:



33. Set the Near Path Definition back to Next Closest Path and turn off Near Path calculations:

Near Paths

☐ Calculate this many **Near Paths**: 2 ▼

☒ The next closest path ☐ Parent path driving slack plus: 10d ▼

34. Expand the **Output** group on the form:

Output

☒  Waterfall
 ☐  With Summaries
 ☐ Separate parallel paths ⓘ

☐ Change Output View To: Gantt Chart

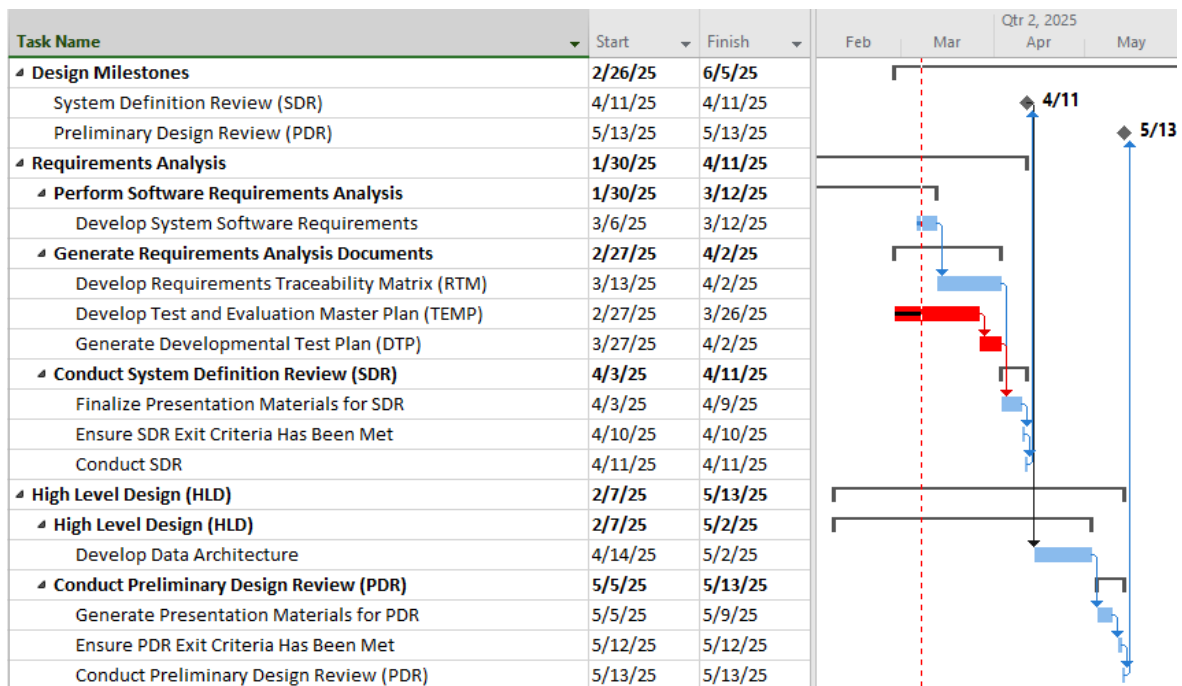
☐ Change Output Table To: Entry

☐ Automatically navigate to the 'Path Analysis' Tab ⓘ

35. Turn the **Show with Summaries** option on:

☒  With Summaries

36. Repeat steps 6–15. Observe the results of the Directional Paths within the summary structured of the project:



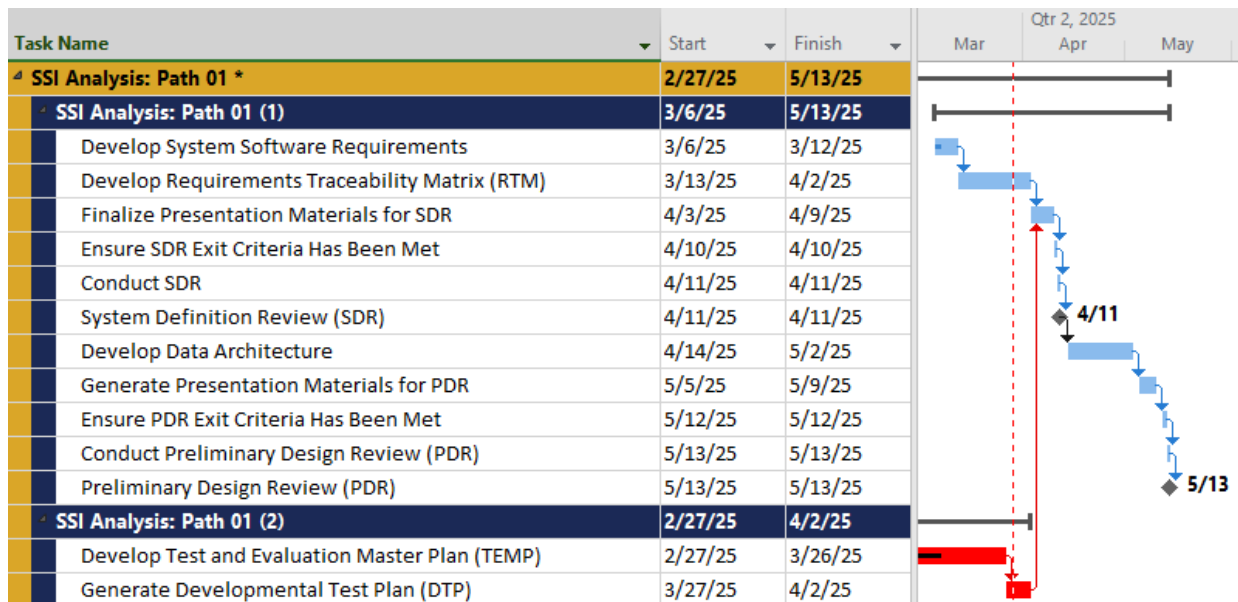
37. Turn the **Waterfall** option back on:

☒  Waterfall

38. Turn the **Separate parallel paths** option on:

☒ **Separate parallel paths** ⓘ

39. Repeat steps 6-15 and observe the parallel paths within each Directional Path visually separated:

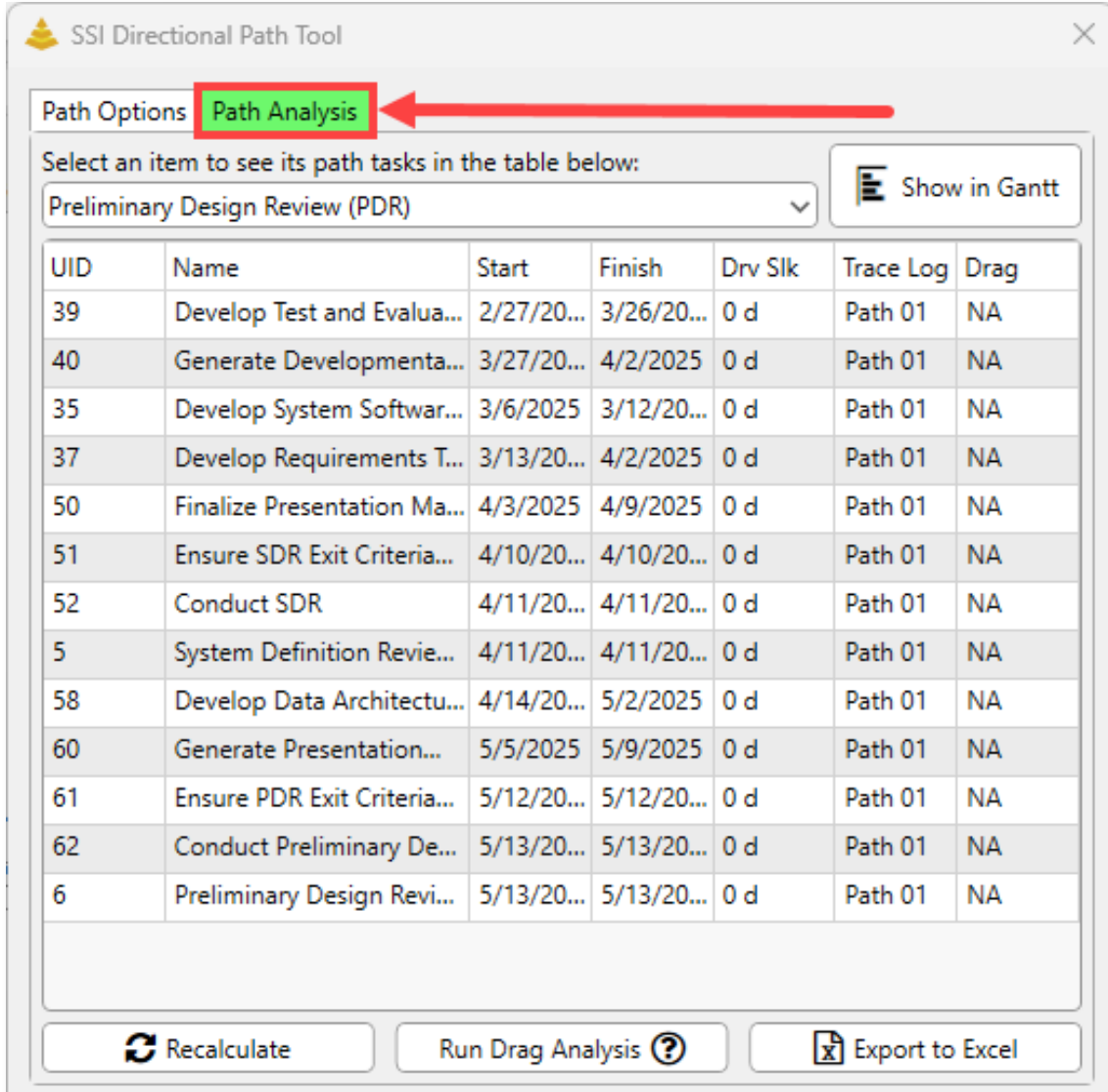


40. Experiment freely with the options in both the **Definition** and **Output** groups by running Directional Path analyses on any activities in the **SSI Example Project**. Continue exploring until you feel confident using the available settings.

End of Practice Exercise

The Path Analysis Tab

The Path Analysis tab of the Directional Path Tool form is designed to provide you with additional options after a Directional Path Analysis has been ran.



SSI Directional Path Tool

Path Options **Path Analysis**

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Preliminary Design Review (PDR) Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
39	Develop Test and Evalua...	2/27/20...	3/26/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
40	Generate Developmenta...	3/27/20...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
35	Develop System Softwar...	3/6/2025	3/12/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
37	Develop Requirements T...	3/13/20...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
50	Finalize Presentation Ma...	4/3/2025	4/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
51	Ensure SDR Exit Criteria...	4/10/20...	4/10/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
52	Conduct SDR	4/11/20...	4/11/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
5	System Definition Revie...	4/11/20...	4/11/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
58	Develop Data Architectu...	4/14/20...	5/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
60	Generate Presentation...	5/5/2025	5/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
61	Ensure PDR Exit Criteria...	5/12/20...	5/12/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
62	Conduct Preliminary De...	5/13/20...	5/13/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
6	Preliminary Design Revi...	5/13/20...	5/13/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA

Recalculate
Run Drag Analysis ?
Export to Excel

If the **Automatically Navigate to the 'Path Analysis tab** option is checked in the **Output group** of the **Path Options tab** is checked, The Directional Path tool will automatically display the Path Analysis Tab after each Directional Path analysis is performed.

☒ **Automatically navigate to the 'Path Analysis' Tab** ⓘ

If this option is unchecked, you can still access the full features of the Path Analysis tab at any time by manually navigating to it after a Directional Path analysis has been run.

The Directional Path Tool can perform analyses on up to **10 focus points** at once. When multiple focus points are analyzed, you can select and view the results for each one using the first drop-down menu on the **Path Analysis** tab.

Path Options

Path Analysis

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Critical Design Review (CDR)
System Definition Review (SDR)
Preliminary Design Review (PDR)
Critical Design Review (CDR)
Test Readiness Review (TRR)
Production Readiness Review (PRR)
Operational Readiness Review (ORR)
Receive Authority to Operate (ATO)

Show in Gantt

Trace Log	Drag
Path 01	NA
Path 01	NA
Path 01	NA
Path 01	NA
Path 01	NA

When a focus point is selected from this list, the table below will automatically display the activities that were calculated as part of that path at the time the analysis was performed.

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

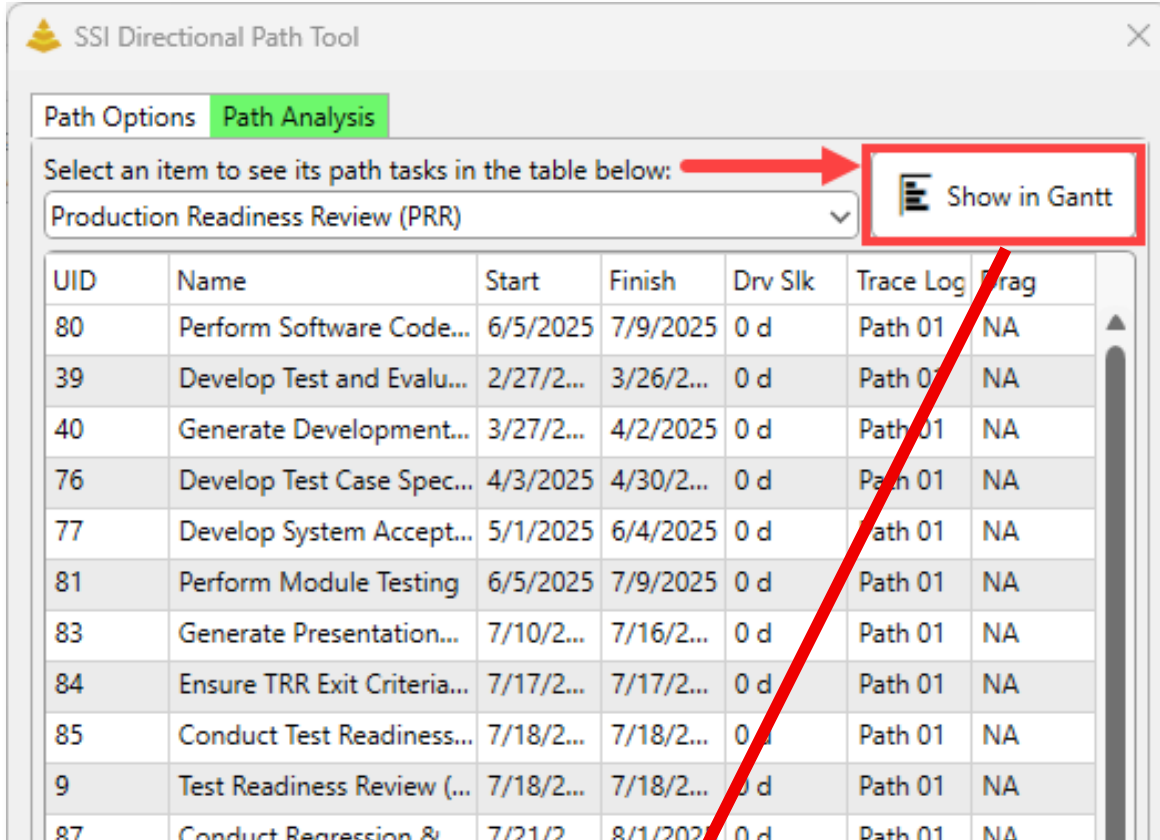
Test Readiness Review (TRR)

Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
80	Perform Software Code...	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
39	Develop Test and Evalua...	2/27/20...	3/26/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
40	Generate Developmenta...	3/27/20...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
76	Develop Test Case Speci...	4/3/2025	4/30/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
81	Perform Module Testing	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/20...	7/16/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/20...	7/17/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/20...	7/18/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
9	Test Readiness Review (T...	7/18/20...	7/18/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA

Within the table, you can see the Unique ID, Name, Start, Finish, Driving Slack, Trace Log, and Drag values each activity in the Directional Path has, regardless if those columns are visible in the Gantt Chart.

The **Show in Gantt** button will filter the Microsoft Project Gantt Chart for the selected Directional Path.



SSI Directional Path Tool

Path Options Path Analysis

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Production Readiness Review (PRR)

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
80	Perform Software Code...	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
39	Develop Test and Evalu...	2/27/2...	3/26/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
40	Generate Development...	3/27/2...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
76	Develop Test Case Spec...	4/3/2025	4/30/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
81	Perform Module Testing	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/2...	7/16/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/2...	7/17/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
9	Test Readiness Review (...)	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
87	Conduct Regression &...	7/21/2...	8/1/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA

Show in Gantt

Task Name	Start	Finish
Develop Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP)	2/27/25	3/26/25
Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	3/27/25	4/2/25
Develop Test Case Specifications	4/3/25	4/30/25
Develop System Acceptance Test Procedures	5/1/25	6/4/25
Perform Module Testing	6/5/25	7/9/25
Perform Software Code & Unit Testing	6/5/25	7/9/25
Generate Presentation Materials for TRR	7/10/25	7/16/25
Ensure TRR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	7/17/25	7/17/25
Conduct Test Readiness Review (TRR)	7/18/25	7/18/25
Test Readiness Review (TRR)	7/18/25	7/18/25
Conduct Regression & System Testing	7/21/25	8/1/25
Verify and Validate User Documentation	8/4/25	8/15/25
Conduct User Acceptance Testing	8/18/25	8/29/25
Generate Presentation Materials for PRR	9/1/25	9/5/25
Ensure PRR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	9/8/25	9/9/25
Conduct Production Readiness Review (PRR)	9/10/25	9/11/25
Production Readiness Review (PRR)	9/11/25	9/11/25

1, 2025 Half 2, 2025

F M A M J J A S O

7/18

9/11

Recalculating a Directional Path

The data displayed in the Directional Path table does not automatically update when changes are made to activities within the selected path in Microsoft Project. To refresh the analysis, click the **Recalculate** button below the table.

Path Options
Path Analysis

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Production Readiness Review (PRR)
Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
80	Perform Software Code...	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
39	Develop Test and Evalu...	2/27/2...	3/26/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
40	Generate Development...	3/27/2...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
76	Develop Test Case Spec...	4/3/2025	4/30/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
81	Perform Module Testing	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/2...	7/16/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/2...	7/17/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
9	Test Readiness Review (...)	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
87	Conduct Regression &...	7/21/2...	8/1/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
88	Verify and Validate Use...	8/4/2025	8/15/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
89	Conduct User Acceptan...	8/18/2...	8/29/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
93	Generate Presentation...	9/1/2025	9/5/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
94	Ensure PRR Exit Criteria...	9/8/2025	9/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA

Recalculate

Run Drag Analysis ?

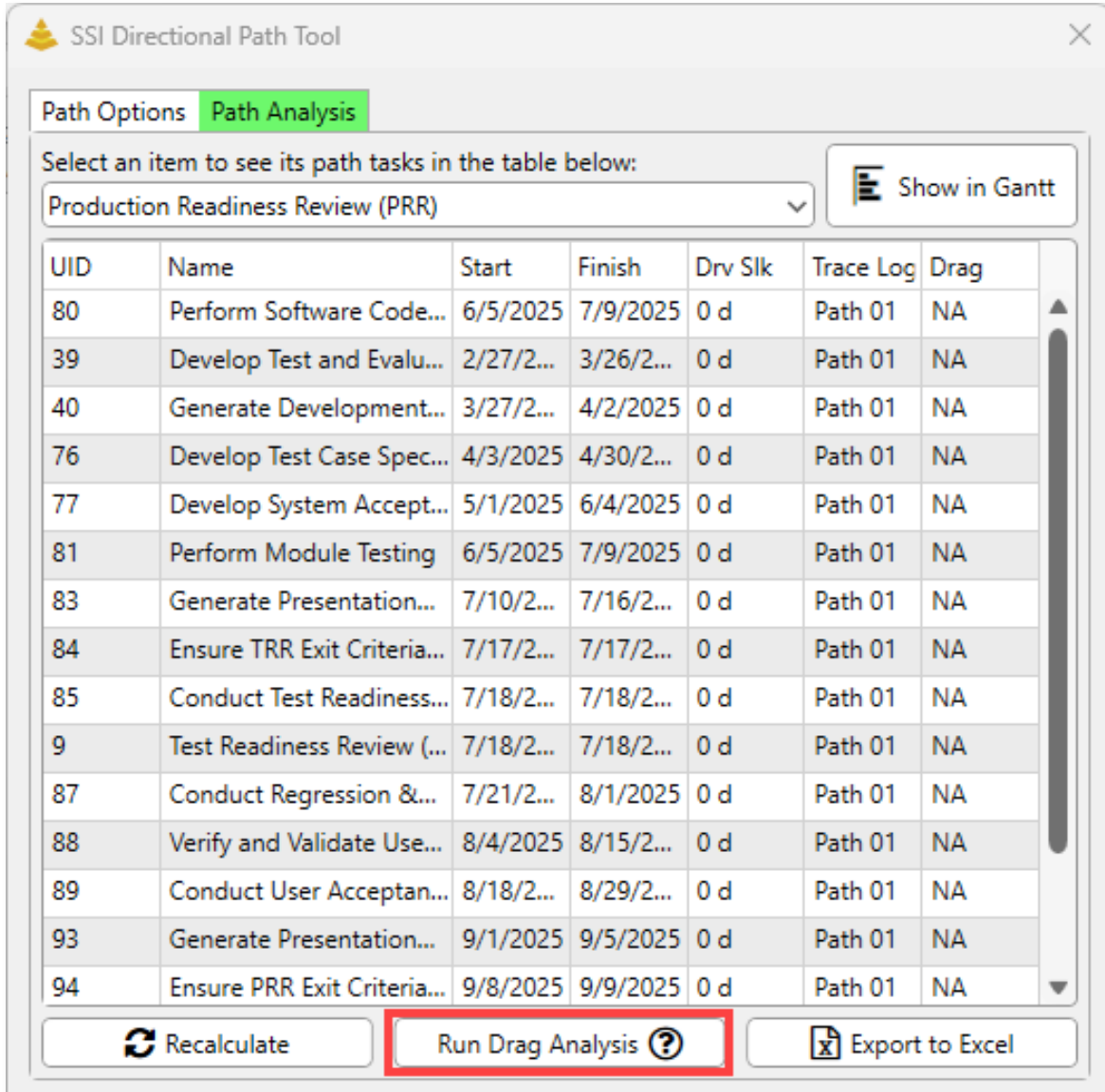
Export to Excel

This will prompt the Directional Path Tool to recalculate the currently selected path using the latest settings from the Path Options tab. The focus point of the analysis does *not* need to be selected in the Gantt Chart for the recalculation to occur. The newly calculated path will automatically be displayed in the Gantt Chart after this action is performed.

Running a Drag Analysis

Driving Path Drag is the amount of opportunity (measured in days) a driving activities on a Backward Path *could* accelerate the focus point if their remaining duration were cut to zero. You can calculate this automatically to any driving path in your schedule using the Drag Analysis feature on the Directional Path Tool.

The Drag Analysis can be performed by clicking the **Run Drag Analysis** button below the Selected Directional Path table.



SSI Directional Path Tool

Path Options Path Analysis

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Production Readiness Review (PRR) Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
80	Perform Software Code...	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
39	Develop Test and Evalu...	2/27/2...	3/26/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
40	Generate Development...	3/27/2...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
76	Develop Test Case Spec...	4/3/2025	4/30/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
81	Perform Module Testing	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/2...	7/16/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/2...	7/17/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
9	Test Readiness Review (...)	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
87	Conduct Regression &...	7/21/2...	8/1/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
88	Verify and Validate Use...	8/4/2025	8/15/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
89	Conduct User Acceptan...	8/18/2...	8/29/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
93	Generate Presentation...	9/1/2025	9/5/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
94	Ensure PRR Exit Criteria...	9/8/2025	9/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA

Recalculate Run Drag Analysis ? Export to Excel

Once this button is clicked, the tool will begin running the drag analysis.

Note: the larger the project and the more tasks on the driving path, the longer the drag analysis will take to run. At most, the drag analysis may take a couple minutes to complete.

When the drag analysis completes, the results will be shown in the table in a column titled "Drag"

77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	4 d
81	Perform Module Testing	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	0 d
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/2...	7/16/2...	0 d	Path 01	5 d
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/2...	7/17/2...	0 d	Path 01	1 d
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	1 d
9	Test Readiness Review (...)	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	0 d
87	Conduct Regression &...	7/21/2...	8/1/2025	0 d	Path 01	10 d

Performing Drag Analysis...


SSI Directional Path Tool

Path Options
Path Analysis

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Production Readiness Review (PRR)

Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
80	Perform Software Code...	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	0 d
39	Develop Test and Evalu...	2/27/2...	3/26/2...	0 d	Path 01	4 d
40	Generate Development...	3/27/2...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	4 d
76	Develop Test Case Spec...	4/3/2025	4/30/2...	0 d	Path 01	4 d
77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	4 d
81	Perform Module Testing	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	0 d
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/2...	7/16/2...	0 d	Path 01	5 d
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/2...	7/17/2...	0 d	Path 01	1 d
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	1 d
9	Test Readiness Review (...)	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	0 d
87	Conduct Regression &...	7/21/2...	8/1/2025	0 d	Path 01	10 d
88	Verify and Validate Use...	8/4/2025	8/15/2...	0 d	Path 01	10 d
89	Conduct User Acceptan...	8/18/2...	8/29/2...	0 d	Path 01	10 d
93	Generate Presentation...	9/1/2025	9/5/2025	0 d	Path 01	5 d
94	Ensure PRR Exit Criteria...	9/8/2025	9/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	2 d

Recalculate
Run Drag Analysis ?
Export to Excel

Until a Drag analysis is run, values in the Drag column will show "NA". The Drag Analysis only calculates Drag values to the activities that are currently displayed in the Directional Path table.

Exporting Results to Excel

The data in the Directional Path table on the Path Analysis tab can be exported to an Excel worksheet. To export, click the **Export to Excel** button below the table.

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
80	Perform Software Code...	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
39	Develop Test and Evalu...	2/27/2...	3/26/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
40	Generate Development...	3/27/2...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
76	Develop Test Case Spec...	4/3/2025	4/30/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
81	Perform Module Testing	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/2...	7/16/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/2...	7/17/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
9	Test Readiness Review (...)	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
87	Conduct Regression &...	7/21/2...	8/1/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
88	Verify and Validate Use...	8/4/2025	8/15/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
89	Conduct User Acceptan...	8/18/2...	8/29/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
93	Generate Presentation...	9/1/2025	9/5/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
94	Ensure PRR Exit Criteria...	9/8/2025	9/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA

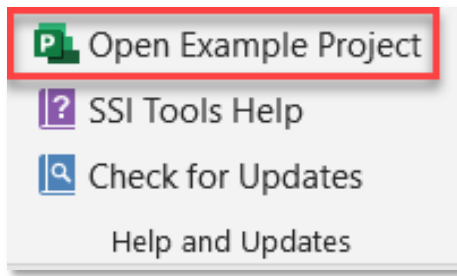
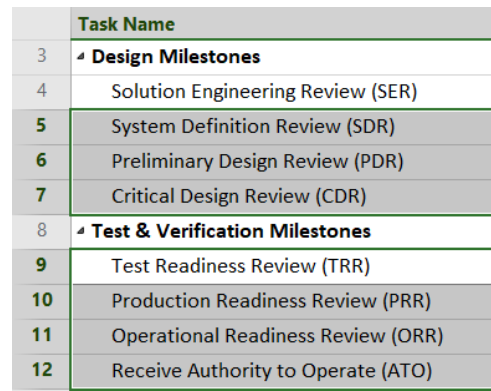
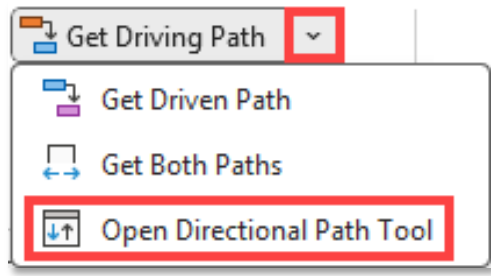
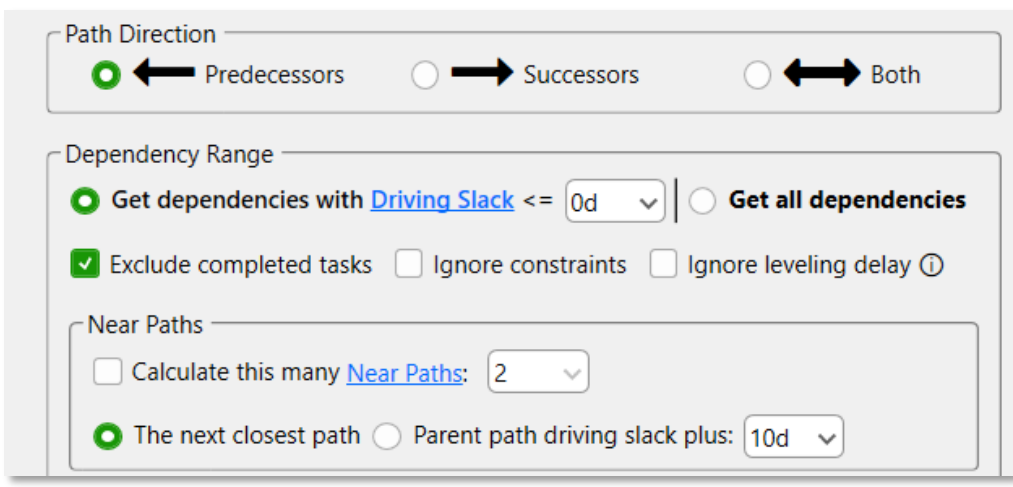
 Recalculate
  Run Drag Analysis ?
  Export to Excel

In addition to the data in the columns displayed in the table, the title of the Project each activity on the Directional Path belongs to is displayed in the spreadsheet.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
1	Focus Task Name	Focus Task UI	Task Name	Unique I	Start	Finish	Driving Slac	Drag	Trace Log Valu	Project
2	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Perform Software Code & Unit Testing	80	2025-06-05	2025-07-09 0 d	0 d	0 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
3	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Develop Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP)	39	2025-02-27	2025-03-26 0 d	4 d	4 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
4	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	40	2025-03-27	2025-04-02 0 d	4 d	4 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
5	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Develop Test Case Specifications	76	2025-04-03	2025-04-30 0 d	4 d	4 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
6	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Develop System Acceptance Test Procedures	77	2025-05-01	2025-06-04 0 d	4 d	4 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
7	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Perform Module Testing	81	2025-06-05	2025-07-09 0 d	0 d	0 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
8	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Generate Presentation Materials for TRR	83	2025-07-10	2025-07-16 0 d	5 d	5 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
9	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	84	2025-07-17	2025-07-17 0 d	1 d	1 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
10	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Conduct Test Readiness Review (TRR)	85	2025-07-18	2025-07-18 0 d	1 d	1 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
11	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Test Readiness Review (TRR)	9	2025-07-18	2025-07-18 0 d	0 d	0 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
12	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Conduct Regression & System Testing	87	2025-07-21	2025-08-01 0 d	10 d	10 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
13	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Verify and Validate User Documentation	88	2025-08-04	2025-08-15 0 d	10 d	10 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
14	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Conduct User Acceptance Testing	89	2025-08-18	2025-08-29 0 d	10 d	10 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
15	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Generate Presentation Materials for PRR	93	2025-09-01	2025-09-05 0 d	5 d	5 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
16	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Ensure PRR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	94	2025-09-08	2025-09-09 0 d	2 d	2 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
17	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Conduct Production Readiness Review (PRR)	95	2025-09-10	2025-09-11 0 d	2 d	2 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
18	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	2025-09-11	2025-09-11 0 d	0 d	0 d	Path 01	ExampleProject

By default, these Excel exports are saved in [SSi_Tools Installation Location]\Exports\Directional Paths. The file name will include the UID of the focus point of the Directional Path and the date and time the export occurred.

Class Exercise – Using the Path Analysis Tab

1. Open the SSI Example Project file in Microsoft Project if you do not currently have it open by clicking the Open Example Project button on the far-right side of the SSI Analysis Tools Ribbon.	
2. Select rows 5–7 and 9–12 in the Gantt Chart.	
3. Open the Directional Path Tool form by clicking the down arrow to the right of the Get Driving Path Quick Access button in the SSI Analysis Tools ribbon. In the drop-down menu, click Open Directional Path Tool.	
4. Set the definition of Directional Paths to match the image shown below: 	

5. Set the Output options to match the image below:

Output

☒ Waterfall
☐ With Summaries
☐ Separate parallel paths ⓘ

☐ Change Output View To: Gantt Chart

☐ Change Output Table To: Entry

☒ Automatically navigate to the 'Path Analysis' Tab ⓘ

6. Click the **Get Directional Path** button at the bottom of the form:

Get ← Path from: Various

7. Observe the output in the **Path Analysis** tab:

SSi Directional Path Tool

Path Options
Path Analysis

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

System Definition Review (SDR)
Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
39	Develop Test and Evalua...	2/27/20...	3/26/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
40	Generate Developmenta...	3/27/20...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
35	Develop System Softwar...	3/6/2025	3/12/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
37	Develop Requirements T...	3/13/20...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
50	Finalize Presentation Ma...	4/3/2025	4/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
51	Ensure SDR Exit Criteria...	4/10/20...	4/10/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
52	Conduct SDR	4/11/20...	4/11/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA
5	System Definition Revie...	4/11/20...	4/11/20...	0 d	Path 01	NA

Recalculate
Run Drag Analysis ⓘ
Export to Excel

8. Change the selected Directional path to **Production Readiness Review**:

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Production Readiness Review (PRR) ▼

System Definition Review (SDR)

Preliminary Design Review (PDR)

Critical Design Review (CDR)

Test Readiness Review (TRR)

Production Readiness Review (PRR)

Operational Readiness Review (ORR)

Receive Authority to Operate (ATO)

9. Observe that the table in the Path Analysis tab now shows the Data for **Production Readiness Review**:

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Production Readiness Review (PRR) ▼

Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
80	Perform Software Code...	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
39	Develop Test and Evalu...	2/27/2...	3/26/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
40	Generate Development...	3/27/2...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
76	Develop Test Case Spec...	4/3/2025	4/30/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
81	Perform Module Testing	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/2...	7/16/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/2...	7/17/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
9	Test Readiness Review (...)	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
87	Conduct Regression &...	7/21/2...	8/1/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
88	Verify and Validate Use...	8/4/2025	8/15/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
89	Conduct User Acceptan...	8/18/2...	8/29/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
93	Generate Presentation...	9/1/2025	9/5/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
94	Ensure PRR Exit Criteria...	9/8/2025	9/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA

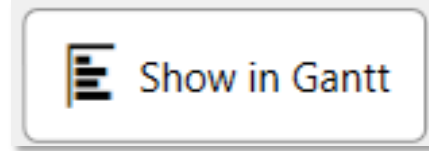
Recalculate Run Drag Analysis ? Export to Excel

But the Gantt Chart remains filtered for System Definition Review:

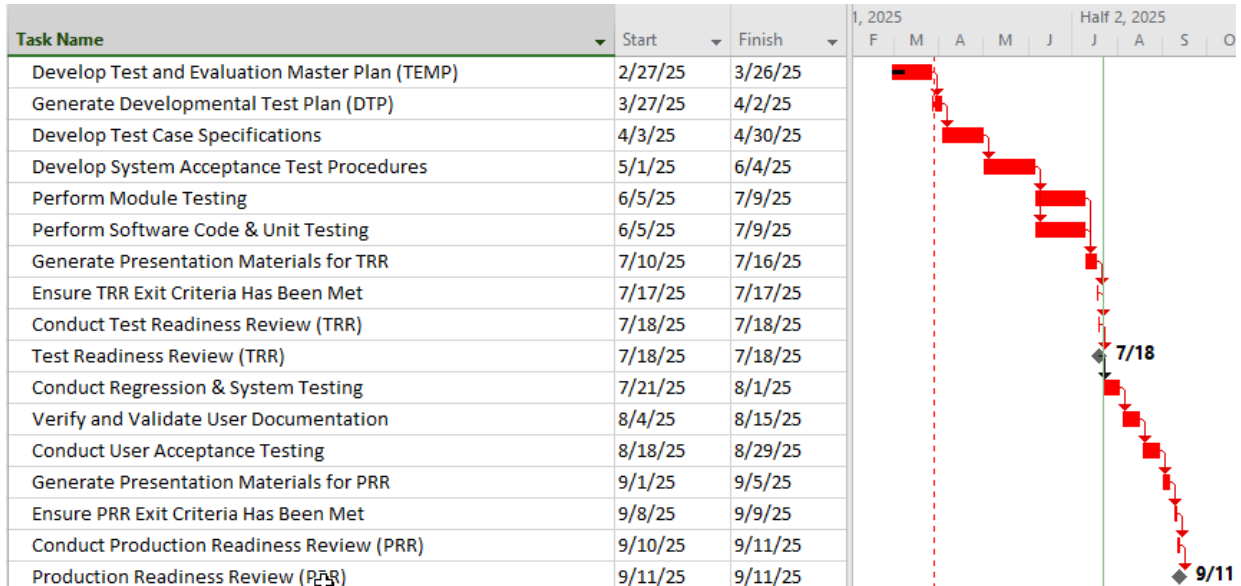
Task Name	Start	Finish	Mar	Qtr 2, 2025	Apr
Develop System Software Requirements	3/6/25	3/12/25			
Develop Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP)	2/27/25	3/26/25			
Develop Requirements Traceability Matrix (RTM)	3/13/25	4/2/25			
Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	3/27/25	4/2/25			
Finalize Presentation Materials for SDR	4/3/25	4/9/25			
Ensure SDR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	4/10/25	4/10/25			
Conduct SDR	4/11/25	4/11/25			
System Definition Review (SDR)	4/11/25	4/11/25			

4/11

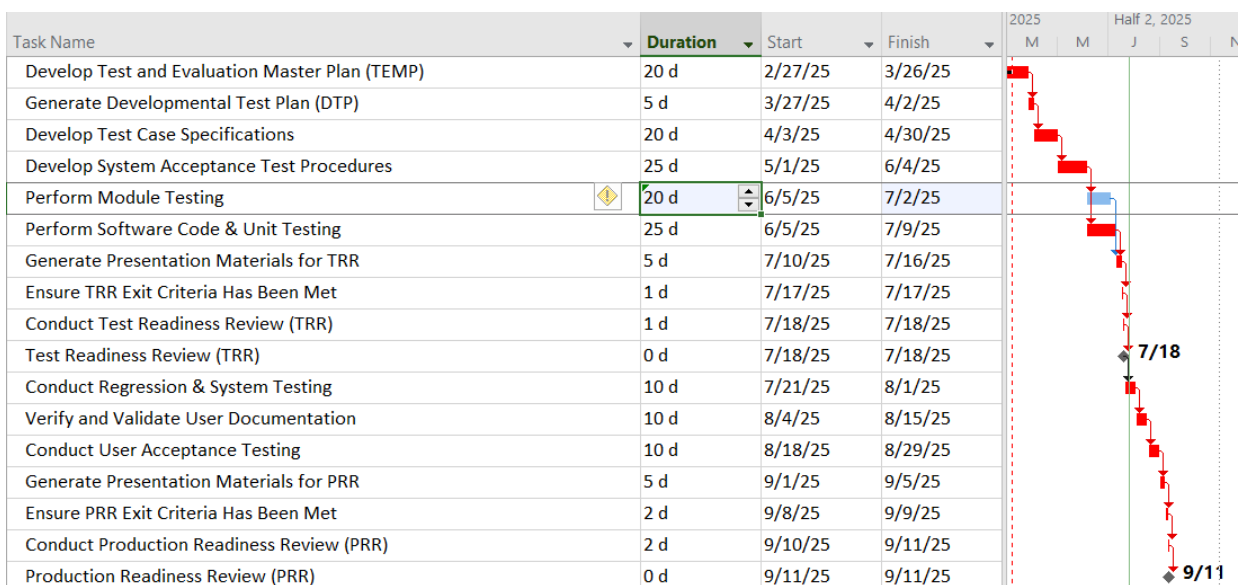
10. Click the **Show in Gantt** button.



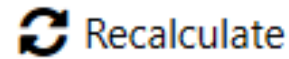
11. Observe the Gantt Chart is now filtered for the path to **Production Readiness Review**:



12. **Reduce** the duration of the task **Perform Module Testing** by 5 days:



13. Click the **Recalculate** button below the Directional Path Table in the form.



14. Notice that Perform Module Testing is no longer part of the path to Production Readiness Review in the Directional Path Table:

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Production Readiness Review (PRR) Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv SIK	Trace Log	Drag
39	Develop Test and Evalu...	2/27/2...	3/26/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
40	Generate Development...	3/27/2...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
76	Develop Test Case Spec...	4/3/2025	4/30/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
80	Perform Software Code...	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/2...	7/16/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/2...	7/17/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
9	Test Readiness Review (...)	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
87	Conduct Regression &...	7/21/2...	8/1/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
88	Verify and Validate Use...	8/4/2025	8/15/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
89	Conduct User Acceptan...	8/18/2...	8/29/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA
93	Generate Presentation...	9/1/2025	9/5/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
94	Ensure PRR Exit Criteria...	9/8/2025	9/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	NA
95	Conduct Production Re...	9/10/2...	9/11/2...	0 d	Path 01	NA

And in the Gantt Chart:

Task Name	Duration	Start	Finish	2025				Half 2, 2025			
				M	M	J	S				
Develop Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP)	20 d	2/27/25	3/26/25								
Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	5 d	3/27/25	4/2/25								
Develop Test Case Specifications	20 d	4/3/25	4/30/25								
Develop System Acceptance Test Procedures	25 d	5/1/25	6/4/25								
Perform Software Code & Unit Testing	25 d	6/5/25	7/9/25								
Generate Presentation Materials for TRR	5 d	7/10/25	7/16/25								
Ensure TRR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	1 d	7/17/25	7/17/25								
Conduct Test Readiness Review (TRR)	1 d	7/18/25	7/18/25								
Test Readiness Review (TRR)	0 d	7/18/25	7/18/25								
Conduct Regression & System Testing	10 d	7/21/25	8/1/25								
Verify and Validate User Documentation	10 d	8/4/25	8/15/25								
Conduct User Acceptance Testing	10 d	8/18/25	8/29/25								
Generate Presentation Materials for PRR	5 d	9/1/25	9/5/25								
Ensure PRR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	2 d	9/8/25	9/9/25								
Conduct Production Readiness Review (PRR)	2 d	9/10/25	9/11/25								
Production Readiness Review (PRR)	0 d	9/11/25	9/11/25								

15. Click the **Run Drag Analysis** button.

Run Drag Analysis ?

16. Notice the **Drag** column in the Directional Path table is now populated:

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

Production Readiness Review (PRR) Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
39	Develop Test and Evalu...	2/27/2...	3/26/2...	0 d	Path 01	4 d
40	Generate Development...	3/27/2...	4/2/2025	0 d	Path 01	4 d
76	Develop Test Case Spec...	4/3/2025	4/30/2...	0 d	Path 01	4 d
77	Develop System Accept...	5/1/2025	6/4/2025	0 d	Path 01	4 d
80	Perform Software Code...	6/5/2025	7/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	4 d
83	Generate Presentation...	7/10/2...	7/16/2...	0 d	Path 01	5 d
84	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria...	7/17/2...	7/17/2...	0 d	Path 01	1 d
85	Conduct Test Readiness...	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	1 d
9	Test Readiness Review (...)	7/18/2...	7/18/2...	0 d	Path 01	0 d
87	Conduct Regression &...	7/21/2...	8/1/2025	0 d	Path 01	10 d
88	Verify and Validate Use...	8/4/2025	8/15/2...	0 d	Path 01	10 d
89	Conduct User Acceptan...	8/18/2...	8/29/2...	0 d	Path 01	10 d
93	Generate Presentation...	9/1/2025	9/5/2025	0 d	Path 01	5 d
94	Ensure PRR Exit Criteria...	9/8/2025	9/9/2025	0 d	Path 01	2 d
95	Conduct Production Re...	9/10/2...	9/11/2...	0 d	Path 01	2 d

17. Double click on any cell in the first row of the Directional Path Table

Select an item to see its path tasks in the table below:

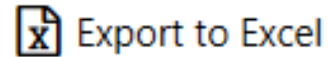
Production Readiness Review (PRR) Show in Gantt

UID	Name	Start	Finish	Drv Slk	Trace Log	Drag
39	Develop Test and Evalu...	2/27/2...	3/26/2...	0 d	Path 01	4 d

18. Notice you are now selected on that task in the Gantt Chart:

Task Name	
39	Develop Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP)

19. Click the **Export to Excel** button.



20. Observe the Excel workbook that opens:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J
	Focus Task Name	Focus Task UID	Task Name	Unique ID	Start	Finish	Driving Slack	Drag	Trace Log Value	Project
2	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Develop Test and Evaluation Master Plan (TEMP)	39	2025-02-27	2025-03-26	0 d	4 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
3	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Generate Developmental Test Plan (DTP)	40	2025-03-27	2025-04-02	0 d	4 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
4	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Develop Test Case Specifications	76	2025-04-03	2025-04-30	0 d	4 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
5	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Develop System Acceptance Test Procedures	77	2025-05-01	2025-06-04	0 d	4 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
6	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Perform Software Code & Unit Testing	80	2025-06-05	2025-07-09	0 d	4 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
7	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Generate Presentation Materials for TRR	83	2025-07-10	2025-07-16	0 d	5 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
8	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Ensure TRR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	84	2025-07-17	2025-07-17	0 d	1 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
9	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Conduct Test Readiness Review (TRR)	85	2025-07-18	2025-07-18	0 d	1 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
10	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Test Readiness Review (TRR)	9	2025-07-18	2025-07-18	0 d	0 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
11	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Conduct Regression & System Testing	87	2025-07-21	2025-08-01	0 d	10 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
12	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Verify and Validate User Documentation	88	2025-08-04	2025-08-15	0 d	10 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
13	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Conduct User Acceptance Testing	89	2025-08-18	2025-08-29	0 d	10 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
14	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Generate Presentation Materials for PRR	93	2025-09-01	2025-09-05	0 d	5 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
15	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Ensure PRR Exit Criteria Has Been Met	94	2025-09-08	2025-09-09	0 d	2 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
16	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Conduct Production Readiness Review (PRR)	95	2025-09-10	2025-09-11	0 d	2 d	Path 01	ExampleProject
17	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	Production Readiness Review (PRR)	10	2025-09-11	2025-09-11	0 d	0 d	Path 01	ExampleProject

End of Practice Exercise