

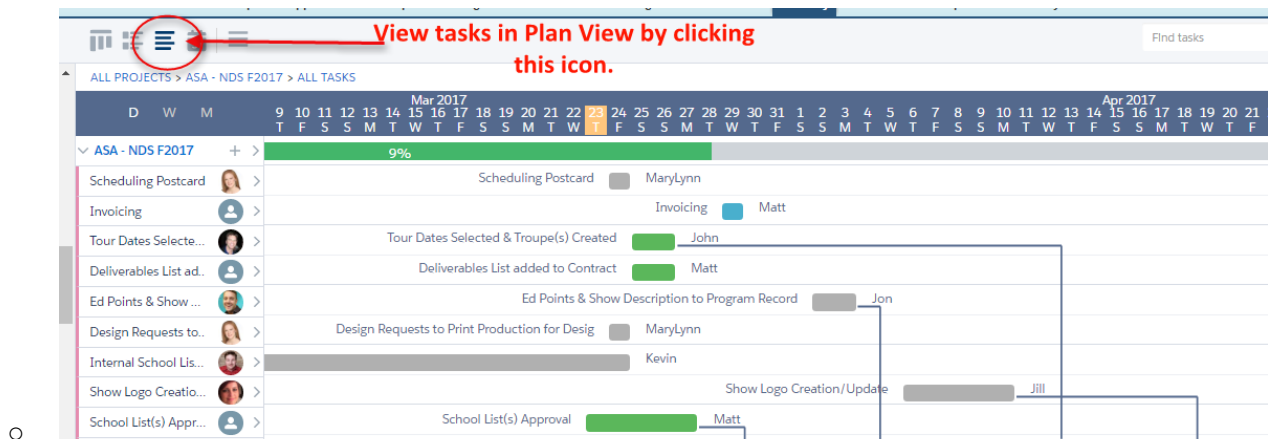
Tiny Training: TaskRay Dependencies

BracketLabs has a very nice page about how dependencies work. Lots of animated gifs. Check it out: <http://bit.ly/trDependencies>

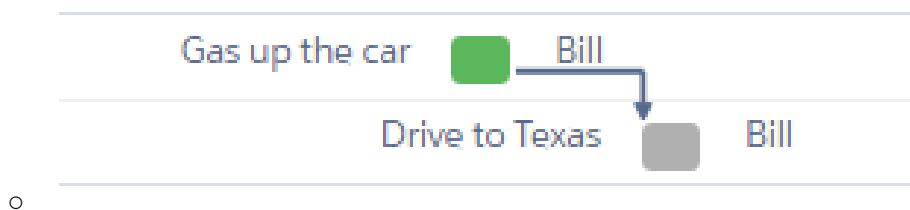
Also check out the (newly revised!) TaskRay: The NTC Way, which has a section about dependencies: <http://bit.ly/taskrayntcway>

How dependencies work:

- Dependencies give you a **visual** way of seeing how project tasks are directly related. They are most useful when looking at a **single project in Plan View**:



- Each dependency connects two tasks using...
 - ...a **blue line** with an **arrow at one end**.
- **Forward driven** (arrow points **down** toward next task):



- **Backwards driven** (arrow points **up** toward previous task):



- Think of the arrow as **pointing at the things it affects**.
 - In the examples above:
 - If I change the date for “Gas up the car,” then “Drive to Texas” will have its date changed too. Not vice versa.
 - If I move the date for “Tour Opens,” it will change the dates of “Rehearsal,” which will then change the dates for “Actors are cast”
 - The arrow comes **from** the **Controlling** task, and **points toward** the **Dependent** task.
 - Moving the entire controlling task moves the entire dependent task.
 - Moving the **end date** of the controlling task moves the **entire** dependent task.
 - Moving the **start date** of the controlling task **does not change the dependent task**.
 - Moving the dependent task does not change the controlling task.

Tiny Takeaways

- A dependency has a **controlling task** and a **dependent task**.
- **Moving the controlling task (or its end date)** moves the dependent task.
- **Moving the dependent task** does nothing to the controlling task.
- **You can complete a dependent task** without the controlling task being completed (important for backwards-driven dependencies).