

# WVDOT Newsletter

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WEST VIRGINIA  
Department of Transportation



## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website
- Plan Reading



### West Virginia Division of Public Transit helps rural agencies procure minivans to serve seniors

The West Virginia Department of Transportation's (WVDOT) Division of Multimodal Transportation Facilities' Division of Public Transit recently helped procure eight handicapped-accessible minivans to help rural seniors get to medical appointments or other places they need to go in communities that may not have access to bus or taxi service.

"The WVDOT is more than just roadways," said Bill Robinson, director of the Division of Public Transit. "We seek ways to find transportation options for all the citizens of the state."

Public Transit procured the vehicles through the federal 5310 Program, which is designed to enhance mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities throughout the country. Local community groups to which the minivans are supplied are responsible for coming up with a 20 percent match of the approximately \$64,000 cost of each vehicle.

The special minivans are lowered and equipped with a ramp to allow the easy loading of a wheelchair, which can be safely secured inside. The vans will each hold one wheelchair and three passengers; if a wheelchair isn't being accommodated an extra set of seats can fold down to house two more passengers.

Local agencies getting the minivans include:

- Central West Virginia Community Action
- Family Service - Upper Ohio Valley
- Pocahontas County Senior Citizens
- Kanawha Valley Senior Services
- Braxton County Senior Citizens Center
- Council of Senior Tyler Countians

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## Managing Supply Chain Disruptions in the Construction Industry

### ***Strategies for overcoming snags & coming out on top***

Seemingly relentless volatility and disruption — driven by so many unexpected circumstances (COVID-19, labor shortages, geopolitical conflicts, war) — have caused significant hardships for supply chains. This has been true for every industry, but few have been as broadly affected as the construction industry.

The strength of a construction supply chain heavily depends on other industries — manufacturing, distribution and even retail-commerce — that siphon critical products to contractors and developers. Any compromised link in that chain can hamper the industry, and, over the past few years, all those links have been weakened.

But, though today's specific circumstances are new to the world, supply chain disruptions themselves aren't. (Lindsay Moore of TechTarget lists 15 such "snafus," stretching from 1973 to today.) For construction businesses to stay afloat and remain competitive in the current global market, they must learn the steps necessary for managing supply chain disruptions. We'll talk about a few of those steps today.

### **Assess Vulnerabilities**

Construction supply chains are naturally complex, and the operating principles that worked in the pre-COVID-19 marketplace may not be as successful today. So, to make future-focused problem-solving decisions, construction firms should step back and revisit the basics of their businesses to find and address vulnerabilities.

Begin this assessment by asking yourself four main questions.

- Where in your supply chain are disruptions occurring?
- Which suppliers are you relying on?
- How "healthy" do those suppliers seem to be?
- How is your budget holding up under the prices of the raw materials and labor you've been choosing?

The answers to these questions will help you pinpoint vulnerabilities in your construction supply chain — from suppliers who have run short on inventory to exorbitantly priced raw materials. But, once you've found these weakened links, how should you go about fixing them?

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## About The WVDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on WVDOT contracts and facilitate the opportunity for DBEs to obtain contracts. The services are designed to:

- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.



**CEI DBE Supportive Services**

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