

WV DOT Newsletter

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Volume 64



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



WV DOT provides slip repair update for NCWV roads

West Virginia Division of Highways District 4, consisting of Doddridge, Harrison, Marion, Monongalia, Preston, and Taylor counties, has recently completed 26 slide repairs and has another 11 designed.

To properly fix a slip or slide, WVDOH must evaluate each area for the most cost-effective solution which will function long term, providing the best value to taxpayers while keeping them safe on the roads.

There are many site specific considerations, including soil nails, piling walls, micro pilings, how tall, how wide, how deep, into what type of soil, for how many drivers per day, how many passenger vehicles, and how many heavy trucks.

While the information is being evaluated and each individual project is being developed, vehicles, from passenger cars to ambulances, still need to get through, so cones and signs are placed to alert drivers that work has started on each project. Slip repairs are just one type of project that WVDOH is tackling aggressively.

The 26 slide repairs completed in District 4 since July 2021 include the following:

- (Doddridge) WV 23 McElroy Creek Road MP 9.38
- (Doddridge) WV 23 McElroy Creek Road MP 11.17

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Use Toolbox Talks to Improve Worker Safety During the Labor Shortage

Since President Joe Biden signed the \$1 trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in November 2021, construction demand has increased. The labor force, however, has not: 92% of contractors reported moderate to high levels of difficulty recruiting skilled labor in Q3 2021, up from 88% in Q2.

When paired with high construction demand, the skilled labor shortage has increased workplace pressures on remaining industry veterans. And with fewer skilled workers, construction companies have had to rely on a less-skilled workforce—a fact that should concern safety minded contractors. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, nearly one-third of nonfatal construction-related injuries occur among workers with under a year's experience.

Given this reality, contractors need to focus on providing robust workplace safety education. One effective method can be regular safety briefs called "toolbox talks."

The Construction Labor Shortage Threatens Workplace Safety

The construction industry's labor shortage has been a persistent problem since the Great Recession. But in Q3 2021, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Commercial Construction Index (CCI) painted a particularly grim picture. Of the contractors struggling to recruit skilled workers:

- Seventy-three percent find it difficult to meet project schedule requirements.
- Seventy-one percent are demanding more of their skilled workers.
- Ninety-three percent expect the labor shortage to persist or worsen over the next six months.

These numbers describe a perfect storm for more frequent on-site injuries. When overworked and understaffed crews feel pressured to stay on schedule, they might cut corners. Those decisions can seriously impact their safety.

Fortunately, contractors recognize this problem—workplace safety is their second-highest concern, according to last quarter's CCI.

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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.



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