

Georgia DOT Awards Five Contracts for New Projects in West Central Georgia

The Georgia Department of Transportation has announced it awarded two contracts for new projects in District 3 (West Central Georgia region). The projects were presented for bid on Dec. 18, 2020 and awards made on Dec. 31, 2020. The projects are:

- **Bibb County:** the project involves the construction of a roundabout on Georgia 22 at Fulton Mill Road (CR 740). The contract was awarded to Reeves Construction Company of Macon, Georgia for \$2.97 million. The project is expected to be completed by the end of autumn, 2022.
- **Chattahoochee County:** the project involves the construction of two bridges and approaches on US 280/Georgia 520 over Bagley Creek. The contract was awarded to Oxford Construction Company of Albany, Georgia for \$5.6 million. The project is expected to be completed by the end of summer, 2022.
- **Dooly County:** the project involves the construction of a bridge and approaches on Shiloh Road (CR 324) over Mims Branch. The contract was awarded to Southern Concrete Construction Company, Inc. of Albany, Georgia for \$960,000. The project is

expected to be completed by the end of November 2021.

- **Harris, Meriwether and Talbot Counties:** the project involves 8.323 miles of resurfacing and shoulder rehabilitation of Georgia 85 ALT starting north of Georgia 116 and extending to the bridge over the CSX Railroad. The contract was awarded to Robinson Paving Company of Columbus, Georgia for \$2.1 million. The project is expected to be completed by the end of November, 2021.
- **Sumter County:** the project involves 1.310 miles of resurfacing of US 280/Georgia 30 starting at Georgia 27 and extending to east of Fielder Street. The contract was awarded to Robinson Paving Company of Columbus, Georgia for \$960,000. The project is expected to be completed by the end of November, 2021.

These five projects were among 17 statewide to be contracted in December, 2020. The December round of awards bring the state of Georgia's total construction contracts for Fiscal Year 2021 to \$640.2 million.

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About The GDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on GDOT 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.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with GDOT as the statewide provider of the federally funded Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) Supportive Services Program. We want to increase the number of certified DBEs participating in highway and bridge construction, as well as assist DBEs in growing and eventually becoming self-sufficient. Additionally, CEI provides supportive services by assisting prime contractors and consultants with identifying DBEs for subcontracting opportunities on priority projects.

Who Assumes Responsibility for an Injured Worker?

How to navigate subcontracting & workers' compensation issues in the construction industry

In spring 2020, the world slowed to a halt as the coronavirus pandemic reared its head. Despite many industries shutting down, many construction projects continued to move forward — even in the face of concerns related to the ability of COVID-19 to spread among individuals in close proximity.

The owners of property where construction continued to take place (as well as the general contractors working at those sites) have not only had to be concerned about the possibility of general workplace injuries, but were also forced to consider the new threat that workers could contract and spread COVID-19 — causing employees to miss work for an extended period of time and seek workers' compensation benefits. Regardless of the type of injury or illness causing employees to miss time from work, the analysis of who will ultimately be responsible for the injured employee's medical and income benefits does not change. However, the question of what company will be responsible for compensable work injuries becomes complicated in the context of larger construction projects with multiple tiers of subcontractors.

The first step in the analysis is to identify and characterize each potential liable party. This begins with determining which entity is the injured employee's "direct employer." In essence, the direct employer is the party that hired the employee, who instructed the employee to the jobsite, the party which may also be paying the employee, and in many cases, the party who

is directly overseeing the employee's work. These aspects of the employment relationship may vary from case to case.

In Georgia, an employer with three or more employees is required to carry workers' compensation insurance. So, if a subcontractor—or in this instance, the direct employer — does not have valid insurance, it may be nearly impossible for an injured employee to obtain workers' compensation benefits from his direct employer. That is often seen where the direct employer is insolvent, skips town or even files for bankruptcy. As a result, the injured employee must look up the "contractual ladder" to a higher subcontractor or the general contractor to seek benefits.

The contractual ladder includes all parties directly contracted with one another, beginning with the owner or general contractor through subcontractors and down to the injured employee's direct employer. The simplest example demonstrating a contractual ladder would include the general contractor of a construction project, which hires a first-tier subcontractor, which, in turn, contracts with a second-tier contractor (the injured employee's direct employer).

Within this contractual ladder there may include additional intermediate contractors, increasing the number of potential liable parties.

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Supportive Services Offered:

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



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in obtaining

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IN BONDING!!**

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CEI is an educational organization providing the highest quality construction training in the industry. Over 100,000 owners, estimators, project managers, field supervisors, office support staff, foremen, laborers, and key management personnel have attended courses that are offered nationwide. The courses provide students with construction skills training and the critical information needed to be effective within their companies and organizations.