



Your Guide TO DOING BUSINESS WITH West Virginia Department of Transportation



Volume 42, July 2020

OFFICIALS PRAISE \$12M IN FUNDING FOR CORRIDOR H PAVING

Corridor H is receiving a new influx of cash from the federal government for paving work on a section of the highway. Corridor H Authority Chairman Robbie Morris said the \$12 million in funding will help keep the construction on target.

“Every additional dollar that comes from Washington, D.C. speeds up construction,” Morris told The Inter-Mountain Tuesday. “Any additional money out of Washington helps with the timetable.”

The \$12 million in funding from the U.S. Department of Transportation is for paving a section of Corridor H from Kerens to Parsons. Morris said with the newly announced funding, Corridor H has received \$145 million in the last 18 months from the federal government. “We are really appreciative of Gov. Justice and the (West Virginia) Department of Transportation for working with our congressional delegation to get this funding,” Morris said. “Everyone is working together really well and it is paying off.” Congressman David B. McKinley, R-W.Va., said finishing the highway is very important.

“Completion of Corridor H needs to be a top priority,” McKinley said in a press release. “In states like West Virginia, this grant funding is especially helpful and important as the difficult mountain terrain

creates extra costs of constructing additional infrastructure. These federal funds will further assist with the engineering and design of a critical part of the Corridor H project and will ease the transportation of people and goods across the Appalachia region. I look forward to the economic development both West Virginia and the entire nation will receive once the project is complete.”

Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., said in a press release he was grateful for the efforts of the West Virginia Department of Transportation for their efforts to finish Corridor H. He said the INFRA Grant program received more than 172 applications totaling over \$7.2 billion in requests for a program funded at \$906 million.

“It is a testament to the importance of completing Corridor H that West Virginia received \$12 million of those funds from DOT,” Manchin said in the press release. “When completed, Corridor H will be the economic gateway to much of West Virginia, which is why I worked hard as governor to open more than half of Corridor H and as senator, I will continue to fight for West Virginia to receive the funding to complete Corridor H.”

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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.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with WVDOT 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.

6 TIPS FOR STAFFING REGARDLESS OF MARKET CONDITIONS

How to navigate the challenges of fulfilling local hiring goals

Although many construction projects have been delayed due to COVID-19 restrictions, plenty of projects continue and their staffing needs remain crucial.

Some ongoing construction projects—such as those funded by the government—come with built-in restrictions that make them even more challenging to fulfill. States and other jurisdictions that hire construction contractors often set quotas to ensure that local residents get priority in hiring.

For most construction firms, this demands a two-pronged approach: identifying local workers with the abilities needed to meet local hiring metrics, supplemented by a workforce of remote workers using per diem budgets.

How should your firm navigate these challenges and ensure it's sourcing qualified talent for your project? Below, find six tips to help your firm reach its hiring goals.

1. Get Referrals From Current Employees

Many companies offer financial incentives to current employees who refer successful new hires, operating on the theory that the best workers usually know other good workers. This is a great place to start the recruiting process, since word of mouth is often the most credible marketing technique you can have.

2. Reach Out to Local Students

Local community colleges and technical schools are invested in helping their graduates find jobs. See if you can work with them to conduct mock interviews, offer job shadowing opportunities or otherwise help students prepare to enter the workforce.

In addition to helping you meet potential candidates and find out what they're looking for, it can give you a recruiting advantage over your competition.

3. Look for Skill Adjacencies

Recruit workers who have similar or adjacent skill sets. This approach allows you to “grow your own talent.”

You are also upskilling members of the local labor market by helping them become more qualified for a broad range of jobs.

Employers may note that it's difficult to find the time and resources needed to train workers on the job. But having to turn down work, failing to complete a project or suffering a backlog because of understaffing can be even more costly.

4. Emphasize Your Company's Safety Culture

In addition to providing a superior work environment, companies that prioritize safety and health on the jobsite by following Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidelines can build a reputation for valuing their employees.

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Supportive Services Offered:

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



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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.