

FDOT Newsletter

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Volume 78



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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FDOT Unveils Groundbreaking Statewide Lane Closure Notification System to Enhance Safety for Drivers and Roadway Workers

Making Florida the first state in the U.S. to introduce this safety technology

With the support of Governor Ron DeSantis' historic Freedom First Budget, the Florida Department of Transportation continues to invest in further enhancements to increase safety on road and bridge construction projects across the state. While FDOT implements this record-setting budget, safety remains the Department's number one priority, and is proud to introduce technology that not only enhances safety for the traveling public, but also for the men and women who are working on improving Florida's roadways.

In partnership with the Florida Transportation Builders Association and one.network, FDOT announces the official start of a one-year statewide technology pilot program that establishes a new Lane Closure Notification System (LCNS) – the first of its kind in North America.

The main goal of the LCNS is to improve the safety of workers by alerting drivers about active work zones or lane closures, and aid motorists in navigating these work zones safely, timely, and efficiently. The system leverages the latest GPS and mapping technologies to provide advanced notices to motorists through leading GPS apps and services.

When using one of these mapping services, users will receive work zone notifications in the same manner (for example voice alert and visually) that they receive other alerts along their designated routes, such as for incidents or traffic congestion. With the new system integrating into mapping services that drivers already use this additional hands-free feature easily enhances the driver's experience, increases mobility, and improves safety.

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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?

Maintain Multiple Suppliers

One of the most pressing issues for today's construction firms is navigating the global shortage of raw materials — from wood to concrete and everything in between. Calling this a "serious issue" is an understatement.

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About The FDOT

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