



Your Guide TO DOING BUSINESS WITH West Virginia Department of Transportation



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COMPANIES BID ON I-70 BRIDGES PROJECT

WHEELING – The massive bridges rehabilitation project on Interstate 70 through Ohio County will cost slightly more than anticipated.

Bids opened Tuesday at the Department of Transportation headquarters in Charleston revealed the Swank Construction Company, of Kensington, Pennsylvania, submitted the lowest bid at \$214,651,968.72.

Other bids came from the Trumbull Corp., Pittsburgh, \$215,376,254.31; Brayman Construction Corporation, Saxonburg, Pennsylvania, \$218,373,550.11; Joseph B. Fay Company, Tarentum, Pennsylvania, \$234,931,000, and Walsh Construction Company, Chicago, Illinois, \$237,704,300.

“Bids were opened on the I-70 bridges project Tuesday morning, and we have an apparent low bidder,” West Virginia Department of Transportation spokesman Brent Walker said. “DOH officials will now review the bids and look to make an award determination soon.”

Plans are to replace the east and westbound I-70 Fulton Bridges, located on the east side of the Wheeling Tunnel. The remaining 24 bridges between the Ohio and Pennsylvania borders will be rehabilitated over a three-year period.

State Sen. William Ihlenfeld, D-Ohio, said original

estimates for the work were in the range of \$210 million.

“The bids came in a little higher than that,” he said. “That is a good sign. An awards committee will review the bids to make sure all the specifications are met. Because of the importance of the project, the committee will spend a lot of time over the next couple of days looking them over before forwarding a recommendation to the governor.”

He said he is comfortable that one of the bids will be approved by Gov. Jim Justice.

West Virginia Delegate Erikka Storch, R-Ohio, also said the bids will undergo extensive review before one is awarded.

“Also, I hope the community braces for the level of construction associated with this project,” she said. “Hopefully, they will maintain patience when navigating through the work zones.”

She said she urges the public to continue to support local restaurants and businesses affected by the work. “The WVDOT will take a close look at the bids and make sure everything is covered before they make an award,” she said. “We need to get started on this project. We have been talking about it for 10 years.”

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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.

5 WAYS TO KEEP YOUR CREW SAFE DURING ROADWAY PROJECTS

Safety is always the number one priority in any construction project. Anyone that tells you differently hasn't been in the business long enough. In construction, a safe site is a happy and productive one. At the end of the day, ensuring everyone's safety will keep employee morale up, costs down, and ensure deadlines are met efficiently. It's best to think of safety as the umbrella that every other component of a job falls under. The principles of safety can be complex when you break them down, but there are ways to simplify the goal of a safe and friendly job site.

Create a Pervasive Culture of Safety

Safety isn't just a checkbox to tick off of a checklist tucked away in a Manager's office. It should be an ingrained component to your construction company's culture and ethos. The first step to ensuring safe working conditions is to create a company culture that puts safety first at all times and never forgets that goal no matter what is happening out in the field.

Creating a culture of safety can be as simple as holding regular safety seminars. Many companies hold these types of meeting twice a month. And while it's tough to get the team together in one room all on the same morning before the workday starts, it's best if everyone attends in person. OSHA has many resources for putting together presentations on safety and will

even provide small quizzes to go with each topic. Having your team listen to your presentation, take a quiz, and sign off on that quiz forces them to stay engaged and gives you a document to file away to show potential clients that you're serious about safety. Before you know it, you'll see how quickly everyone remembers their training and applies it in the field. And soon enough, you should see fewer accidents, large or small.

Provide the Proper Attire

As a company, it's your responsibility to provide the correct attire for your crew. With roadway projects, it's most important to outfit your team with high visibility gear. That includes vests, jackets, coveralls, rainwear, and harnesses. If you're unsure of what to invest in, you can enlist the help of the American National Standard for High-Visibility Apparel (ANSI 107-1999), a federal agency founded in 1999 that focuses on preserving best practices and high standards for high-vis apparel. The program was founded due to the high rate of construction fatalities from car accidents. Not all high-vis gear is created equal. High visibility applications are diverse and contingent upon weather conditions, time-of-day, and many other factors.

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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



Within the past 3 months,
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in obtaining

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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.