



FDOT Helping Truck Drivers Find Safe Parking



The Florida Department of Transportation will be installing a new parking system this week to improve safety for truck drivers. The Truck Parking Availability System will track how many open

parking spots are available at certain rest stops to prevent truck drivers from parking along the highway or ramp shoulders. FDOT will install sensors at several rest stops to track the number of available spaces. The information will then be displayed on message signs ahead of the rest areas. FDOT said the goal is to give drivers the information they need to plan where they can safely stop and rest.

The Florida Trucking Association said drivers are federally mandated to stop after driving for a certain number of hours. Ken Armstrong, CEO of the Florida Trucking Association, said the new parking system will make it safer and more efficient for truck drivers to find a safe place to park. However, Armstrong said there is still more that needs to be done. "It's only a small piece of the puzzle," said Armstrong. "We desperately need more capacity for parking." FDOT will install the parking system on I-95 in Nassau and St. Johns counties, I-75 in Alachua, Columbia and Hamilton counties, and I-10 in Madison and Baker counties.

To Read More: <https://www.news4jax.com/traffic/fdot-helping-truck-drivers-find-safe-parking>

FDOT Attributes SunRail Expansion to Increasing Ridership

The numbers are in: More and more people are taking advantage of SunRail.

- SunRail ridership up by 30 percent from 2017 to 2018
- 1,114,859 SunRail riders total in 2018
- Commission hopes to secure funding for airport station

According to the Florida Department of Transportation, overall ridership from 2017 to 2018 is up by 30 percent. Part of that growth is being attributed to the opening of four SunRail stations as part of the Phase II South expansion.

Eleazar Rodriguez uses the train to get back and forth from work every day. He says he's noticed an increase in foot traffic at that Kissimmee Station.

"I like the train better because it is faster; I get there in about 30 minutes to get downtown and 30 minutes back," Rodriguez said. In 2017, SunRail Reported a total of 851,881 riders. In 2018, that number jumped by more than 200,000 riders, with 1,114,859 riders total.

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer serves as Vice Chair of the Central Florida Commuter Rail Commission. He says this 30 percent increase will only continue to grow as more expansions for SunRail become reality. "We always anticipated that Phase I would lead to Phase II, and we would have an increase in ridership when we went to Osceola County. So we are now studying how we might eventually get to the airport," Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer said.

To Read More: <https://www.mynews13.com/fl/orlando/news/2019/01/15/fdot-attributes-sunrail-expansion-to-increasing-ridership>



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:

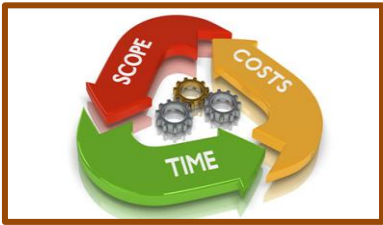
- Assist established construction firms to move them from bidding as a subcontractor to bidding as a Prime Contractor to produce sound bids.
- Provide access to training increases DBE expertise in handling of daily business operations.

About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with FDOT 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.

You Don't Have Time for This

4 tips for avoiding common time-management traps



Great business owners and executives have a full arsenal of time management tactics to pass on to their employees. But being the boss makes it easier to fall into time-

sapping traps of your own. What follows are some of the major time management challenges contractors face and helpful tips for avoiding them all together.

1. Delegate Wisely

Years ago, as a new business owner, I came face to face with every entrepreneur's biggest fear: delegating. It was incredibly hard for me to imagine turning over control to others, who would do things on their own, without my close oversight. I had too much to do because I was trying to micromanage every task at every level.

But, it all came to a head one morning when nearly everything started failing at once, and I realized for the first time that "my way" was keeping my company from becoming the best it could be—a place people could learn and grow right along with the business.

According to Art Markman's "How to Stop Delegating and Start Teaching" in the Harvard Business Review, delegating should be as much about training as about moving things off your to-do list. Delegating in a frantic moment because you don't have the time to tackle a task, or because you have a business flight to catch, sets up your employees for failure if you haven't trained them to succeed in your absence.

Eventually, when they've had enough of those little failures, they lose motivation, and start playing it safe instead. Worse, when you delegate to people who aren't qualified, tasks aren't always done correctly. In fact, delegating to people who aren't up to the task often turns out worse than if the job was never completed in the first place. Sure, your lead

carpenter knows how to manage a framing crew, but is he/she really ready to manage the entire jobsite when you're away?

2. Evaluate Priorities

If urgency is dictating your priorities, then you might want to take a step back and rethink them. Just because something is urgent, doesn't mean it's important.

The difference might sound like a word trap, but it's simplified in the Eisenhower Principle, under which important activities are defined as those with an outcome that leads to achieving goals, both personal and professional; and urgent activities are defined as those demanding immediate attention and are usually associated with achieving someone else's goals.

Knowing the difference is key to prioritizing. To decide which definition your tasks align with, create a to-do list and place each item in one of the following categories:

- Important and Urgent
- Important but Not Urgent
- Not Important but Urgent
- Not Important and Not Urgent

The first category will include tasks you haven't foreseen or tasks you've avoided. Catch up on these immediately, and then start carving out a regular point in your weekly or daily schedule to address these unforeseeable events. Dedicate ample time to complete tasks in the second category so that you do them well, or delegate them with extra caution so that they don't come back around as rework or crisis situations. Tasks in the third category are probably tasks you can delegate or reschedule, and those in the fourth category are distractions, so avoid them.

3. Stop Procrastinating

The cynical (but apt) statement, "If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done," may help you justify procrastination with yourself, and possibly even your employees, but it won't reduce its damage. First, don't beat yourself up about procrastination. It's a normal, if self-deceptive, activity.

To Read More: <https://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/strategy/you-dont-have-time>

Supportive Services Offered



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- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
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- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website



Within the past 3 months, CEI assisted DBEs in obtaining **\$6 MILLION in Bonding!!**

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