

# WV DOT Newsletter

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## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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



## Corridor H Parsons to Davis: WVDOH announces innovative design solutions

The West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) is now in advanced design stages for the innovative development of Corridor H Parsons to Davis section.

"Our efforts on Corridor H remain result oriented," said Jimmy Wriston, P.E., Secretary of Transportation. "We are working with our federal partners, and local communities, at every level, to ensure that we construct a safe, efficient, modern highway that protects the valuable resources and the beauty of our great state."

Governor Justice brought completion of Corridor H, which consists of a series of projects through rugged terrain to connect West Virginia to economic opportunity, to the forefront. The project will total nearly \$1 billion, including Roads to Prosperity, Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and other federal and state funding and grants.

The nine-mile, four-lane corridor will connect just east of Parsons, crossing over Backbone Mountain, to connect with the existing portion of Corridor H at Davis. The latest design also includes a relocation of WV 32 to serve as a truck bypass route for the town of Thomas.

The four-lane highway will pass under WV 32 with an overpass bridge. The interchange was moved to the east to include a service road, preserving the natural flow to the towns of Thomas and Davis. This will also reduce the footprint for sound and viewshed in the area.

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## How Tech Can Help Contractors Win the War for Talent

Modernizing the back office for a competitive advantage

While already fighting to keep up with its typical hiring pace, the construction industry will need to draw more than 500,000 additional workers this year to meet rising demands, according to recent data released by Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC).

It's not an easy task, as contractors are looking to accommodate an 18% projected increase in spending on construction projects while dealing with an unrelenting labor shortage that threatens their ability to complete projects on time and take on new ones. The rapidly dwindling labor pool that continues to vex firms is largely tied to its aging workforce. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the percentage of construction industry workers who are 55 and over has nearly doubled, and as workers retire or leave for other industries, construction firms are scrambling to find replacements while also shoring up their workforce to capture new opportunities.

Construction laborers and skilled workers top their hiring lists, as do professionals on the management, business and financial operations side — a segment that BLS estimates to account for 20% of the construction industry's total workforce.

As firms fight to secure the talent they need amidst the pressures of supply chain shortages, volatile pricing and a potentially looming recession, they need to rethink how they operate in the back office. In doing so, they have a powerful opportunity to increase their efficiencies and mitigate risks while giving employees what they want, and technology plays a part in this equation.

### Rethinking the Construction Industry's Back Office

The back office is the hub of operations for firms, as staff in this department are responsible for handling the complex finances of construction. Back-office employees must confirm that contractors and suppliers are accurately paid and properly manage cash flow to ensure business continuity and growth. Yet despite its critical importance, the back office is often overlooked when budgeting for technology.

As a result, processes like navigating invoices or paying bills remain paper-based and inefficient. Employees are tasked with mundane work, such as chasing approvals on invoices, cutting paper checks and following up on outstanding lien waivers.

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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.



**CEI DBE Supportive Services**

**(800) 423-7058**

**[www.wvdbesupport.com](http://www.wvdbesupport.com)**