

## FDOT touts 'unprecedented' year, highlights accomplishments under Ron DeSantis

The Department of Transportation (FDOT) highlighted an “unprecedented” year under **Ron DeSantis**’ first as Governor in a year-end statement.

Transportation improvements in 2019 have benefited Floridians and visitors, according to FDOT, which oversees the state’s transportation infrastructure.

“Thanks to Governor DeSantis’ bold vision, Florida is creating a resilient multimodal transportation system that serves our state now and for generations into the future,” said FDOT Secretary **Kevin Thibault**. “I am proud to serve alongside the men and women at FDOT and am thrilled to showcase their many accomplishments as we work to bring the Governor’s forward-thinking vision to life.”

On the national scale, FDOT received a national safety award for using innovative solutions to address wrong-way driving. The department also received \$82 million from the U.S. Department of Transportation for transportation projects and nearly \$100 million in infrastructure projects.

This year, FDOT also launched rail safety measures to prevent fatalities at state-owned rail crossings. Projects included Positive Train Control to prevent train- or track-based accidents and identifying trespassing hotspots.

FDOT completed the first of two phases of its autonomous vehicle testing site in May and started the second this fall.

And the department began the Advanced Freight Mobility Solutions project to truck travel time reliability west of Miami International Airport. FDOT identified the site as the area with the most freight activity in the state.

Highway workers completed Interstate 295 express lanes in Jacksonville and widened a stretch of Interstate 75 in Central Florida. The I-295 project decreased travel times while the I-75 project improved capacity along a critical evacuation route.

FDOT also touted projects in each of its seven districts, including highway, port infrastructure and bridge improvements.

In the Panhandle, the department cleared debris from Hurricane Michael, made highway improvements to mitigate future storm damage and replaced damaged signs and wildlife fencing.

Missing from FDOT’s list of accomplishments was Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance, a program approved by the Legislature this year to build three new toll roads.

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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.



### 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.

# Bidding Mistakes

Tuesday's Bid Day, or better said Bids Day, was a nightmare. Three projects bidding at the same time. Everyone had their assignments and seemed to be working diligently at organizing and compiling all the subcontractor proposals. Two of the Bids were not huge, \$200,000 and \$500,000 respectively. The third Bid was a little more complicated. Your bid amount of \$5,500,000, along with the eight alternates, which included an alternate for a separate 3,000 square foot addition to the base building, took a little coordination. All of the bids were delivered according to schedule; none were submitted late. The bids were all due at 2:00 PM.

The \$200,000 Bid was second to a bidder at \$175,000. The \$500,000 Bid was low by a whopping \$2,600. The third Bid was a private opening, so you had no idea where you stood in relationship to all of the other bidders.

You received a call from the Architect at 2:30 PM on the \$5,500,000 Bid, in which she indicated that you were the low bidder; but you were low by a significant number. The architect asked that you verify your price and respond by the close of business (same day). You inquire as to how low, but the Architect would not disclose a dollar amount, just that you were significantly lower than the next bidder.

A bid mistake is not much fun in searching for the correct answer. The formal definition of a mistake or more specific to this instance, a bid mistake, is a belief or subjective assumption that is not in accord with the facts or overt signs.

In modern contract law, a unilateral or one-sided mistake means only one party to the contract made a mistake, whereas a mutual or shared mistake indicates both parties made mistakes. Mutual mistakes typically allow for a reprieve because both parties did not have a true manifestation of intent needed to form a contractual agreement. Similarly, a one-sided mistake stops the necessary meeting of minds between the parties to form a contract and relief may be available for the mistaken party.

Most bid mistakes can be grouped as a mistake of law, a mistake of fact, or a mistake of judgment. A mistake of law would include misinterpretation of the plans and specification. A mistake of fact would include mathematical errors or clerical errors. A mistake of judgment would include items involving which price to use or mistaken projection on labor production rates.

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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



Within the past 3 months,  
CEI assisted DBEs  
in obtaining

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IN BONDING!!**

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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.