

## Space Florida to get nearly \$90M in federal funding for infrastructure

Aerospace economic development agency Space Florida will get almost \$90 million in federal funds for an industrial project through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Infrastructure for Rebuilding America grant program.

The funds will be used in Brevard County to replace the Cape Canaveral Spaceport Indian River Bridge with new twin high-level bridges, widen about 2.7 miles of Space Commerce Way and rehabilitate 3.7 miles of NASA Parkway West.

"As Florida's population continues to increase, we must work to ensure that our transportation infrastructure remains robust and up to date for our citizens and visitors," said Gov. Ron DeSantis in a prepared statement. "Our ports and spaceports are essential to our future economic success. This federal investment will further strengthen Cape Canaveral and our space industry, as well as our transportation infrastructure system as a whole."

The bridge acts as a link between Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral and State Road 405 where traffic flows are expected to increase. The widening of Space Commerce Way will allow transportation of oversized vehicles to rocket launch sites and provide access to daily visitors accessing the Kennedy Space Center Visitor Complex, according to the U.S.

Department of Transportation.

Space Florida's Vice President Government & External Relations Dale Ketcham said the project is still in the preliminary design and engineering stage and is expected to break ground in 2021. A contractor for the construction has not yet been chosen by the Florida Department of Transportation.

The work, which will create hundreds of temporary construction jobs, also will help Central Florida snag a bigger share of the \$330 billion global space industry.

"This significant federal investment is part of an overall program to repair and restore America's bridges and highways to enhance safety and economic growth," U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine L. Chao said in a prepared statement.

Sen. Marco Rubio said replacing the bridge is "critical" to supporting future mission launch schedules on the Space Coast. "We cannot achieve our greatest aspirations in space without first providing the necessary infrastructure to ensure that Kennedy Space Center and Cape Canaveral can accommodate our booming space economy."

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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.

# The Best Data for Construction Benchmarking

As a construction estimator, you're under pressure to work quickly. As soon as you finish one bid, you're on to the next. Faced with a never-ending workload, your ability to produce estimates efficiently is key. But speed isn't the only thing that matters. You're also expected to produce construction bids that are as accurate as possible.

Cost benchmarking provides a methodology to check your estimates against typical costs to gain more assurance of their accuracy. Industry cost averages are one source of cost benchmarks. This information is fairly easy to come by and seems – on the surface, at least – like a decent source of information for producing a construction estimate that's reasonably accurate.

But general construction cost averages are not the best data source for cost benchmarking.

While they may seem good enough because they're backed by project data, industry cost averages are limited in their ability to help you produce precise estimates. More likely, they're too generic to accurately reflect the details that can significantly affect costs, making them an unreliable source for cost benchmarks.

The reality is that third-party data has the potential to be misleading, especially when you don't have a full understanding of where it's coming from and how it was compiled. Construction cost averages are no

exception.

When you use generic averages for cost benchmarking, you're relying on costs without a clear understanding of how they were derived. They may give you a general idea of the cost of a certain kind of labor or material type, but they fail to account for a number of variables.

As an estimator, you know that each construction project has unique qualities that play a factor in what the actual costs will be. In fact, part of your job as an estimator is to account for all of those different factors as best you can to ensure the quoted bid is as accurate as possible.

If your cost benchmarks are based on averages that are too generic, your final construction bids are at risk of being inaccurate. Industry cost averages that fail to normalize pricing to account for location, project type and timing are swags at best.

The appeal of industry cost averages is that they're readily available. But that's also part of the problem. If you're using them as part of your construction estimating process because they're convenient, it's a pretty safe bet that your competitors are using the same approach.

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## Supportive Services Offered:

- Estimating Training
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- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website



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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.