

Georgia DOT Removing Trees to Improve Traffic Safety



Crews are removing large trees from along Interstate 95 starting in Camden County to help make the roads safer. Currently, there are two tree removal projects going on in Camden County. Two more are expected to start

sometime soon, and those will continue into Glynn County. Georgia DOT says research has shown that this will make a difference and improve the safety on I-95. The Department of Transportation projects are beginning at the Florida/Georgia state line and will continue heading farther north into the state. The state says when it gets right down to it, trees on the side of the interstate do pose a risk. They say 51% of fatalities in Georgia involve single vehicle crashes. In many of these cases, they say the driver runs off the road and hits something like a tree.

If a driver does go off the road, DOT says having fewer trees will make it easier to stop or get back on the road. When drivers are moving to enter the interchange, officials say it'll be easier to spot oncoming traffic. There's more to this than just safety. Georgia DOT is also calling this a proactive move ahead of hurricane season. The agency says after Hurricane Matthew, more than 230 trees had to be removed after they fell onto the interstate during the storm and closed off entrance points to Southeast Georgia areas.

Read Excerpt: <https://www.news4jax.com/news/georgia-dot-removing-trees-to-improve-traffic-safety>

Georgia DOT Commissioner Named 2018 Georgian of the Year

For his leadership in handling an emergency and addressing the transportation challenges of a growing state, Georgia Department of Transportation Commissioner Russell R. McMurry is *Georgia Trend's* 2018 Georgian of the Year. McMurry was honored today at Georgia Trend's Notable Georgians of 2018 luncheon.

A 28-year veteran of the Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT), McMurry has served as Commissioner of the Department since 2015. Among other responsibilities, McMurry is charged with finding transportation solutions that are crucial to the state's continued economic growth.

"He is a work horse, not a show horse, someone who prefers to work behind the scenes making things happen," said Michael "Sully" Sullivan, president and CEO of the American Council of Engineering Companies of Georgia (ACEC Georgia). "It benefits everyone in Georgia to have Russell and his calm, steady, visionary leadership at the head of the department."

Managing an annual department operating budget of \$3.6 billion and a staff of almost 4,000, Commissioner McMurry is keenly aware of the crucial role that transportation infrastructure plays in Georgia's economic competitiveness, and in strengthening economic growth in both the urban and rural areas of the state.

Read Excerpt:
<https://us13.campaignarchive.com/?u=80dbe14272ec0b5e1a1bf5b4e&id=7d3a7dd16d>

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About the Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with GDOT as the statewide provider of the federally fund 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.

Three Steps for Construction Companies to Manage Tech Disruption

Gain a better understanding of what your company needs from its tech investments

The construction industry is at the start of a disruptive but exciting technological revolution, from using building information modeling software to create projects digitally before the first brick is laid, to using drones to survey jobsites. However, as the use of digital advances for everything from bidding for contracts to 3-D printing proliferates; smart firms are learning that they will maximize value from technology investments that are strategically aligned with their key business goals.

The change occurring in construction is so big that consulting firm McKinsey calls it, "The next great tech transformation." However, consultancy JBKnowledge Inc. says most firms still don't spend enough on technology, with about two thirds of firms spending 1 percent or less of annual revenues on information technology.

Nevertheless, before increasing spending on disruptive technology, many construction executives feel overwhelmed by the cost and underwhelmed by the effectiveness of their existing spaghetti bowl of disparate digital assets. It is not uncommon at construction firms for each department head to be buying and deploying software without consulting other parts of the business, including the IT department. The end result is chaos and frustration with many executives feeling unable to deliver upon the promises of technology to make jobs easier for their employees and to reduce the cost and improve the experience for the customer.

Now, before investing in new technology, they want a better understanding of why previous projects have failed and what they can do to better harness digital assets effectively to move the business forward while keeping up with the competition.



The answer is change the role of IT in the business and the interactions and relationship between IT and the departments it serves.

While that may sound daunting, the payoff will be huge. Engineering and construction firms globally can leverage technology to save almost 20 percent of a project's life-cycle costs and significantly improve completion time, quality and safety, according to Boston Consulting Group. And, when an industry is relatively late to being disrupted by technology, executives can learn from the experience of other industries that went before. Companies can get the most from disruptive technology by following three steps, listed below.

1. Strategy —IT strategy must support the firm's overall business strategy, setting goals for up to 3 years. At many construction firms, IT occupies an extreme position, either enabling or constraining business growth, yet it goes on largely ignored as a critical "business objective," but rather an overhead cost that is owned by the IT department. Any effective strategy must be owned by the firm's chief executive, with key business unit leaders as well as members of the IT team helping determine and deliver on that strategy. It will never be effective to expect technology to create competitive advantages, such as improving sales results, reducing job costs, increasing operational efficiencies and improving customer satisfaction while continuing to approach the IT budget and resource plan as a cost-center that drains resources..Cont'd.

2. Partnership —A series of small measures can help make business operations and IT teams work as partners. Operations managers should view technology as an investment, while IT executives must understand how technology can alleviate business pain points and boost the bottom line. That starts with spending time together.

Read Excerpt: <http://constructionbusinessowner.com/technology/3-steps-construction-companies-manage-tech-disruption>

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