

## Governor Ron DeSantis Applauds USDOT Funding of Nearly \$100 Million for Two Major Projects in Florida

**Tallahassee, Fla.** – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis applauded the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for awarding nearly \$100 million in funding for two major projects in Florida through the Infrastructure For Rebuilding America (INFRA) Grant program.

Space Florida will be awarded \$90 million to replace the Cape Canaveral Spaceport Indian River Bridge with new twin high-level bridges. The bridges will serve as a vital connection between the Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral and the mainland (State Road 405) as traffic continues to increase.

PortMiami will be awarded \$8,046,741 to rehabilitate and create new capacity on the Seaboard Marine Terminal, increasing the Port’s long-term success and viability as a hub of international trade and commerce.

“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 Governor DeSantis. “Our ports and spaceports are essential to our future economic success. This federal investment will further strengthen PortMiami, Cape Canaveral and our space industry, as well as our transportation infrastructure system as a whole.”

“I thank the USDOT for awarding nearly \$100 million

for two major projects that will greatly impact our infrastructure in Florida,” said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Thibault. “These projects are critical to supporting growth both within PortMiami and Cape Canaveral and will further solidify Florida’s position as one of the best transportation systems in the country.”

“The INFRA Grant Award to replace the aging SR 405 bridge over the Indian River Lagoon took a lot of teamwork, and it demonstrates the U.S. Department of Transportation’s confidence in the State to execute,” said Space Florida President and CEO Frank DiBello. “We are excited for the opportunity to showcase Space Florida’s capabilities of meeting the needs of the commercial sector. We can now look forward to a new more robust transportation infrastructure to support Florida’s dominant position in the commercial space marketplace.”

Each year, INFRA grants are awarded by the U.S. Department of Transportation to projects focused on undertaking critical issues pertaining to our country’s highways and bridges.

For more information on the INFRA Grants program, visit

<https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/infragrants>

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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.

# Construction takeaways from OSHA's July 2019 updates

In 1995, in response to a presidential memo, OSHA began its Standards Improvement Project with the goal of streamlining its own rules, increasing compliance and taking some of the financial and regulatory burden off employers. Since launching the SIP initiative, there have been three revisions to OSHA standards under the program — in 1998, 2005 and 2011 — with a new round of changes announced last week marking the fourth and final one.

OSHA made these rule change proposals in October 2016, and after a public comment period, decided not to move forward with four of the proposals: requiring employers to ensure that personal protective equipment fits each employee; allowing employers to use more modern decompression tables during underground construction; making the existence of loose rock or soil and excavated material or equipment next to a trench a hazard; and a revision to the language in the agency's lockout/tagout standard.

OSHA's most recent revisions, which the agency estimates will save employers \$6 million a year, will not be applicable to every contractor, but all of them fall under the rules by which every contractor must abide. The changes go into effect on July 15. Below is a roundup of some of the most important changes for the commercial construction industry.

## Reporting job-related hearing loss

In this section, OSHA is adding a cross-reference to another standard's analysis that will help physicians and other licensed health professional determine if a case of hearing loss is work-related. The change, OSHA said, simply reinforces the requirement that if an event or exposure caused or contributed to new hearing loss or aggravated preexisting hearing loss, the hearing loss must be considered work-related.

## Chest X-Ray and X-Ray storage

This revision will remove the requirement for periodic chest X-Rays when workers are exposed to inorganic arsenic, coke oven emissions and acrylonitrile. The agency's research, as well as industry input, has indicated that X-Rays in these instances do little to determine the presence of lung cancer.

## 911 Emergency services at worksites

Contractors will still have to post telephone numbers for ambulances and other emergency responders at each worksite in areas where 911 emergency dispatch services are not available. But, given the proliferation of cell phones since the standard was last revised, they also will have to post location information at jobs in areas that do not have Enhanced 911, which automatically provides the caller's location to dispatchers.

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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



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 5016 Calle Minorga  
Sarasota, FL 34242



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.