

FDOT Prepares to Expand I-10 to 10 Lanes in \$148 Million Westside Project

If you thought the big Interstate-10, Interstate-95 expansions around Downtown Jacksonville would finally be finished when the Fuller Warren Bridge project is completed, think again.

The Florida Department of Transportation is preparing to begin construction on a \$148 million expansion project that will widen Interstate-10 to ten lanes between the Fuller Warren Bridge and Interstate-295.

FDOT spokesman Hampton Ray says the project is scheduled to begin toward the end of the year and will take up to five years to complete.

“The good thing about this project is the construction is taking place within the right of way. So there’s not going to be any parcels being purchased,” said Ray.

The new lanes will be constructed off to the side of the existing roadway.

Ray said Interstate-10 is currently between six and eight lanes – depending on the stretch of highway in the area. After the expansion, the current design shows that there will be up to 11 lanes in spots where what’s known as auxiliary lanes will be built. Those are the spots where motorists enter and exit the interstate.

Unlike some other recent expansions, there will be no toll lanes or express lanes as part of the project. All ten lanes will be general traffic lanes, according to

Hampton.

He said a lot of the construction on the project will take place overnight to minimize the impact on motorists.

“What motorists can expect is just some barrier wall to the side of the roadway to allow construction crews to safely work,” he said.

There are no major traffic flow changes planned such as removing or adding an exit, but motorists may notice some entry/exit improvements once construction is complete. Hampton said there could still be a few minor design tweaks before the project completed.

Ray said the Interstate-10 corridor between Interstate-295 and Interstate-10 currently handles about 105,000 vehicles per day and as you reach the downtown split, it’s even higher. “At that spaghetti junction there at Stockton Street, the average daily vehicle traffic is actually 137,000 vehicles per day,” said Hampton.

Hampton also pointed out the expansion is critical because Interstate-10 is an evacuation route during severe weather.

When completed, Hampton said the view for motorists will also be improved.

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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.

How to win contracts

Dynamic Small Business Search

The [Dynamic Small Business Search \(DSBS\)](#) is a database that government agencies use to find small business contractors for upcoming contracts. Small businesses can also use DSBS to find other small businesses to work with.

The SBA maintains the DSBS database. The information you provide when you register your business in the [System for Award Management \(SAM\)](#) is used to populate DSBS, so you should create a comprehensive business profile.

Federal Business Opportunities

Federal business opportunities for contractors are listed at [FedBizOpps.gov](#). Government agencies are required to use FedBizOpps to advertise all contracts over \$25,000.

GSA Schedules

If you want to sell to the government, securing a contract with the [U.S. General Services Administration \(GSA\)](#) — the government agency that connects government buyers with contractors — is a great way to start. Securing a contract with the GSA is also called “getting onto the GSA Schedule,” which means you’ve been approved to do business with the government.

If you’re interested in getting on the GSA Schedule, you may want to pay for a [Past Performance Evaluation](#) report

from Open Ratings. The report assesses your performance relative to businesses in the same industry, and is often requested as part of a vendor bid process. Your company must register and provide the names and email addresses of six to 20 of your customers.

Subcontracting opportunities

[SubNet](#) is a database of subcontracting opportunities posted by large contractors looking for small businesses to serve as subcontractors.

The SBA maintains a directory of [federal government prime contractors with subcontracting plans](#).

The GSA publishes a [subcontracting directory](#) for small businesses that are looking for subcontracting opportunities with prime contractors. The directory lists large business prime contractors that are required to establish plans and goals for subcontracting with small businesses.

The U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) maintains a similar directory of large prime contractors that small businesses can use to find subcontracting opportunities.

Marketing to the government

You may want to market your small business directly to a government agency or prime contractor. You can do that by learning what agencies or prime contractors need, and then showing them how your business can fulfill that need.

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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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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.