

Governor Ron DeSantis and FDOT Announce \$1.4 Billion Westshore Area Interchange Construction Project

Tallahassee, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) announced \$1.4 billion for the reconstruction of the I-275/SR 60 Westshore Area Interchange in Tampa. The project is set to take place in fiscal year 2023-2024.

The reconstruction of this major system-to-system interchange in the Westshore Business District, the largest employment center in Tampa Bay, will help alleviate traffic congestion, improve safety for motorists and promote continued economic growth. Home to Tampa International Airport, two professional sports facilities and over 4,000 businesses, Westshore is where commuter, cargo and tourism traffic converge.

“As our population continues to increase, we remain committed to improving our transportation infrastructure through strategic innovation,” said Governor DeSantis. “By significantly relieving traffic congestion, this reconstruction project will provide motorists a more effective way to travel through the region. Additionally, it will add capacity for future growth and improve connectivity for Tampa’s residents, businesses and visitors.”

“Thank you, Governor DeSantis, for your leadership in alleviating traffic congestion and improving safety in the Westshore Business District, the largest employment

center in the Tampa Bay area,” said FDOT Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. “Reconstruction of this major interchange will promote continued economic growth in an area home to Tampa International Airport and over 4,000 businesses.”

This project will connect the Howard Frankland Bridge, the Courtney Campbell Causeway, the Veterans Expressway and Tampa International Airport with additional general purpose and express lanes. This project has been identified as the number one regional transportation priority by the MPOs, County Commissions and City Councils in Hillsborough, Pinellas and Pasco counties, and will allow for the Westshore interchange to be coordinated with the reconstruction of the Howard Frankland Bridge, which will begin next year.

At a local level, the project will provide a significant benefit to the walk/bike network and traffic circulation in the Westshore Business District by reconnecting local streets beneath the interstate to relieve traffic congestion on Westshore Boulevard and improve community access.

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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.

Minimizing Risk through Estimating and Cost Control

The cost of any construction project is a major concern for any owner, yet details and information can be missed by an inexperienced team or if the estimating is performed in too general of a manner. An estimator is responsible for determining the costs for the amount and type of material required for a project infrastructure, the cost of equipment and labor and to predict the duration of the project. As the project progresses, the estimator can provide more accurate costs which allows the owner to make better decisions and keep the project on schedule and budget. If the estimator is involved too late in the design phase of the project, the benefits of the estimating process will be missed. These benefits include project feasibility, scope definition, budget development, input to the owner's and/or designer's decision making process, clarity of scope, format of the bid, and bid-ability of the project.

For some major projects, particularly those that are Design-Build or some using an alternative delivering method, the design, construction, and project control teams work together to develop the design, estimates, budgets and schedules in conjunction with each other if not concurrently. Integrated cost and schedule risk assessments can flourish in this environment. Estimating and risk assessment techniques can be

applied to a project to provide more realistic assessment of the cost while identifying risks and providing the time and opportunity to mitigate those risks. It is necessary to know the costs and risks in order to control, mitigate or accept them. Proper estimating procedures combined with risk assessment provide the opportunity to identify and control costs during the development of the project.

A construction project is typically broken out into several phases, one of which is the pre-construction phase. Pre-construction has the ability to set the tone and plan for the entire project. This phase includes the initial concept and scoping of the work, evaluation of the feasibility of the project, budgeting and conceptual through final design. Typically the owner is interested in achieving the lowest possible overall project cost that is consistent with its investment objectives.

It is important for owners to realize that while the construction cost may be the single largest component of the capital cost, other cost components are not insignificant. From the owner's perspective, it is equally important to estimate the corresponding operation and maintenance cost of each alternative for a proposed facility.

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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

**\$6 MILLION
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.