

FDOT Accelerates Critical Infrastructure Projects Valued at \$2.1 Billion

Reduction in traffic allows state to expedite transportation improvements, provide needed jobs

At the direction of Governor Ron DeSantis, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has started accelerating critical infrastructure projects, which are valued at \$2.1 Billion. Due to a reduction in traffic throughout Florida during the fight against COVID19, FDOT will expedite crucial improvements to the state's transportation system and provide much needed jobs.

"The Governor understands that Florida's transportation system is the backbone of our economy and FDOT is proud to accelerate projects, which will help expedite goods to market and provide much needed jobs throughout the state," said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. "Safety is our top priority, so we will continue to ensure that employees have the sanitation supplies needed to follow the guidance from the CDC and work with our industry partners to implement these same precautions to keep workers safe and healthy."

Following an initial review of all pending construction projects across all FDOT districts, including the Florida Turnpike Enterprise, FDOT has identified the following projects to be accelerated:

- The \$864M Howard Frankland Bridge project in the Tampa Bay area will be accelerated by nearly 4 weeks.

- The widening of Southern Boulevard (SR 80) in western Palm Beach County will be accelerated by nearly 3 months.
- In Miami-Dade, the I-395/SR 836/I-95 Design Build Project is an \$802 million reconstruction project being done in coordination with the local expressway authority that will be accelerated by 4 weeks.
- The project at Sand Lake Road (SR 482) near the heavy tourist area of International Drive and Universal Boulevard in Orlando will be accelerated by 4 to 6 weeks.

Several other projects, by region, include:

Southeast Florida

- Phase one of construction on the US-1 Cow Key Bridge in Monroe County will be accelerated by 1 week.

Southwest Florida

- Paving along I-75 at the SR 70 Interchange in Manatee County will be accelerated by 2 weeks.
- Paving, widening and signal upgrades along State Road 951 in southern Collier County will be accelerated by 4 weeks.

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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.

What Makes a Strong Project Manager

Defining the core competencies necessary to ensuring professional success & longevity

Two construction business owners were sitting in a conference room. They were both asked a simple question: “What makes a great project manager?” The first leader responded with, “A great project manager is responsible for \$10 million to \$15 million in volume and a margin contribution that is commensurate with our companywide standard.”

With a look of confusion, the second leader responds by saying, “Those are results, not the true measure of the manager. A great manager is one who can deal with ambiguity, communicate effectively with crews and customers, and plan around the many challenges a team may encounter on a project.”

Both answers are correct—to a certain degree. One business owner chose to look at the output, while the other chose to look at the core competencies that drive success and, hopefully, superior output. But there’s a better way to go about answering the question.

When hiring a project manager or any other leader, do you become enamored with the wrong things on a résumé or in an interview, rather than screening for the right composition?

The Pitch

Résumés do a superb job of highlighting project successes and workload capabilities. A strong résumé should indicate the candidate has the traits we seek in a

manager. In an interview, you might ask them to describe their projects and talk about their weaknesses. One might even assume that in order to reach the desired volume of work and hit a company’s margin goals at a previous company, the individual must have the skills necessary. However, there is a distinction that great firms have tapped into—correlation and causation are too entirely different things.

First, it is safe to say that all résumés should paint the candidate in a positive light. If they didn’t, you wouldn’t give them a second glance. The problem is that in a results-driven industry like construction, it is easy to zone in on the facts and figures. Interviews barely clip the “white caps,” providing just a glancing glimpse into the candidate’s DNA. The first question a firm must ask before ever probing a candidate at the cellular level is what makes a great manager, superintendent or estimator for their particular company culture? What are the core competencies they view as mission critical?

The Core Competencies

Core competencies are hardly revolutionary. In fact, leaders have historically used them as a benchmark. “We want a great communicator, a great planner and someone who has a knack for business ...” The issue?

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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.