

# GDOT Newsletter

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## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website
- Plan Reading



## How agencies and businesses are keeping the Garden City clean

From Interstate 20 to downtown and all the places in between, cleaning up the city is no small feat.

The Georgia Department of Transportation has recently announced a new partnership with the Adopt a Highway Maintenance Corp. to combine sponsorship resources and a new signage campaign for “Keep It Clean, Georgia.”

“The state really does have an invested interest in making this campaign work. I’ll point to one specific project, a beautification effort along I-20 between the Georgia Welcome Center and Exit 200 of Riverwatch Parkway,” said Scott Higley, director of strategic communications at GDOT.

For Willie Fairell, Operation Clean City isn’t just a slogan; it’s a true belief.

The operation works to clean up trash, graffiti, and leaf and weed control.

“We’ve been tasked with maintaining 13th Street to Fifth Street. All of the Broad Street, all the side streets from end to end, one block to the left and one block to the right,” said Fairell, operations manager, Augusta City Enterprises.

To keep trash out of the surrounding Augusta neighborhoods, the Richmond County Marshal’s Office has led the Chronic Nuisance Enforcement Team, which seeks to work with homeowners on litter management.

They’ve already completed work in Marion homes and continue to implement the same progress in Harrisburg.

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## Contract Disruptions: Navigating Supply Constraints and Labor Shortages

The biggest worries in today's economy—supply chain disruptions, labor shortages and the worst inflation in decades—are creating big headaches in the construction industry. What's worse, large projects underway are often based on contracts hammered out pre-pandemic, before the uncertainties and disruptions that spread around the globe with COVID-19. Construction firms find themselves executing on contracts signed when the potential for delayed timelines and rising costs seemed more remote. A recent report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce finds almost all contractors (93%) say they are experiencing a shortage of an important product such as steel, lumber or copper. A rising number of companies on commercial projects (54%) also cite difficulty finding skilled workers. Grant Thornton clients, among them some of the country's biggest construction companies, report that sourcing materials and hiring workers is a bigger challenge today—and more expensive—than at any other time in recent decades.

These are issues that can easily threaten the already thin profit margins of many builders. Construction firms need a sharp focus on how to manage through this period while avoiding the pitfalls that might damage relationships with owners or subcontractors. And even as they do this, they need to plan how to address ongoing shortages of supplies and labor so they can successfully tap into the new business opportunities stemming from the giant boost in infrastructure spending Congress recently approved.

There are several ways builders can adjust.

### Know The Contract

The first step: Review your contracts. Attorneys should be looking for language that's relevant to the question of who will be responsible for increased costs or delays and what can be billed to the owner. They may also be searching for any communication relevant to such issues, even outside of the actual contract, if it will help provide leverage as change orders are negotiated. Companies may benefit by developing a contract cheat sheet, listing ten to fifteen key points to be discussed with owners and subcontractors to help align expectations among all parties.

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## About The GDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on GDOT 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.



**CEI DBE Supportive Services**

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