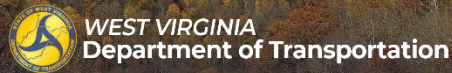


WV DOT Newsletter

December 2021
Volume 59



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website
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WVDOH Accepts Bids for 20 Projects, Includes New Bridge on Corridor H

A massive bridge to be built over the Cheat River near Parsons is among 20 projects included in a bid letting conducted by the West Virginia Division of Highways on Tuesday, Nov. 9, 2021.

The project will be paid for with funding from Governor Jim Justice's Roads to Prosperity highway construction and maintenance program.

WVDOH is reviewing the bids and hopes to award contracts for these projects soon.

The project will build a 3,300-foot-long bridge over the Cheat River about one mile east of Parsons. The bridge is part of an ongoing four-lane upgrade of Appalachian Corridor H.

Corridor H is an ongoing four-lane highway project running from Interstate 79 near Weston, across some of West Virginia's most rugged terrain, to Interstate 81 in Strasburg, Virginia. The corridor is designed to open the area up to economic development.

Much of the road has already been upgraded to four lanes, but the section between Kerens and Davis remains under construction and development. The Cheat River Bridge is an important component in completing that connection.

Construction of the new bridge is expected to be completed in 2025.

[Read More →](#)

4 Ways to Build a Culture of Safety

How to prioritize staffing with onboarding & training at the forefront

Nearly 80% of construction jobs eliminated during the pandemic have returned, and employers are scrambling to fill open positions. But in terms of safety, expediting the hiring process may do more harm than good.

With the supply of construction workers failing to meet demand, there are concerns that contractors will rush the onboarding and training processes for new hires. Pushing workers into projects without a clear understanding of safety training and on-site hazards increases the already-high risk of serious injuries and fatalities (SIFs). Despite the urgency to fill the employment gap, safety needs to remain at the core of the hiring and onboarding process.

Experience & Training Are Critical

Approximately 20% of workplace fatalities in the United States occur in the construction industry, making it one of the most dangerous fields in the country. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) identifies falls, electrocutions, caught-ins and struck-by hazards as the top four causes of jobsite injuries and fatalities.

However, most on-site fatalities — especially the 33% of all construction deaths caused by falls — are preventable with effective management and safety training. Although OSHA provides standards for training requirements, companies often circumvent or disregard standard protocols — particularly when they need to fill job openings quickly. Despite companies raising wages and offering additional benefits, finding skilled workers remains a core issue for many organizations. Hiring unskilled or inexperienced workers for these positions poses an even greater risk for SIFs.

Failing to provide sufficient training and a safe work environment can result in financial losses, legal implications and reputational damage.

4 Ways to Build a Culture of Safety

Providing new hires with adequate onboarding and training is paramount when a worker is hired, but it's just as important to ensure safe practices are maintained.

There are four initiatives you can take to embody safety in the workplace culture while retaining top talent.

About The WVDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on WVDOT 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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www.wvdbesupport.com

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