

GDOT Awards Construction for McDonough DDI

A project first proposed in 2015 is going to construction after Georgia DOT awarded a contract on July 31 for the installation of a diverging diamond interchange at I-75 and state route 20 in McDonough. The project's estimated completion date is April 30, 2022.

The low bid was awarded to CMES, Inc. of Norcross, GA in the amount of \$5,215,335.76. The project is funded through federal transportation dollars.

Construction will require one weekend, possibly a second, where the bridge is closed. When this occurs, motorists will be able to enter or exit the interstate, but not cross over the bridge. These weekends will happen during later phases of construction and the dates will be communicated in advance when scheduled.

The McDonough location is the second installation of the innovative design in south metro Atlanta following I-285 at Camp Creek Parkway. The design was first implemented in Georgia in 2012 and fewer than ten are operational statewide. Examples include I-285 at Ashford-Dunwoody in Perimeter, I-75 at Windy Hill Road near the Braves stadium, and I-85 at

Jimmy Carter Blvd in Gwinnett County.

Diverging diamonds feature a crossover design where drivers temporarily drive on the left-hand side of the roadway when crossing the bridge. This allows motorists entering or exiting the interstate to turn left without crossing in front of opposing traffic. The design improves traffic operations by an estimated 30–40% — reducing motorist delays — and reduces crash rates.

The interchange will feature additional pavement markings, road signs, and directional arrows to help guide motorists through the exit. When complete, the bridge will feature six lanes with a barrier-protected ten-foot wide center sidewalk for pedestrians and cyclists. The six lanes will include two through lanes and one left-hand turn lane in each direction.

Following the DDI project, widening state route 20 from I-75 to Phillips Drive is scheduled to let for construction in November 2021. The project will widen the road from two to four travel lanes and build a new multilane roundabout at the intersection of state route 20 and McDonough Parkway.

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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.



About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with GDOT 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.

Four New Bridges Coming to East Central Georgia

Four east central Georgia counties will benefit from \$11.4 million in bridge replacement and roadway approach rebuild projects.

The Georgia Department of Transportation recently awarded construction contracts at the following locations. Information on detours and construction schedules will be made in advance of activities.

- Burke County
 - .227 miles of bridge and approaches on State Route (SR) 56 over Mill Creek 5.8 miles NE of Midville
 - United Infrastructure Group \$2.418 million
 - Completion expected by July 31, 2021.

The bridge on SR 56 over Mill Creek was built in 1926 and widened in 1960 and does not meet current design load standards. An off-site detour will be required as a more cost effective and shorter construction duration solution. The estimated construction time is six months using Accelerated Bridge Construction techniques.

- Laurens County
 - .454 miles of bridge and approaches on SR 29 over Pughes Creek seven miles east of Dublin in East Dublin
 - Southern Concrete Construction Company \$4.761 million

- Completion expected by Sept. 30, 2021. The new bridge will be built to the SW of the existing bridge using staged construction. Improvements will include eight-foot shoulders on both sides.

- Newton County
 - .256 miles of bridge and approaches on County Road 213 over West Bear Creek west of Mansfield
 - Williams Contracting Company \$1.258 million
 - Completion expected by Aug. 31, 2021.

This bridge is deficient and requires posting due to beam and column cracking. This is replaced under GDOT's Low Impact Bridge Program. An off-site detour is required.

- Warren County
 - .570 miles of bridge replacement on SR 16 at Rocky Comfort Creek 2.5 miles SW of Warrenton
 - Gregory Bridge Company \$3.031 million
 - Completion expected by March 31, 2022.

Crews will construct a new roadway alignment next to the existing bridge built in 1937, offset to the southeast of SR 16. There is not an off-site detour proposed.

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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
- Plan Reading



Within the past 3 months,
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in obtaining

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 3350 Riverwood Pkwy, Suite 1900
Atlanta, GA 30339



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.