



Construction Underway, Bridge to Nowhere Going “Somewhere”



The so-called “Bridge to Nowhere,” a massive project that has been a decorative piece for most residents, is finally going somewhere.

Governor Jim Justice made it official today during a groundbreaking ceremony with the West Virginia Department of Transportation, marking the beginning of the King Coal Highway construction project in Mercer County.

A nearly \$60 million project, the DOT will construct a 4 mile section of King Coal Highway, connecting Route 460 at John Nash Boulevard to Airport Road.

The route will give commuters easier and faster access to surrounding counties, including McDowell County.

Once the King Coal Highway is completed, it will link Michigan to South Carolina, allowing commuters to pass directly through Mercer County.

“It’s an awesome feeling,” said Terra Goins, Construction Engineer for the DOT. “It’s just a piece of the puzzle coming into place.”

Although the bridge is commonly called the “Bridge to Nowhere,” the official name is the “Christine West Bridge.”

“Christine was a local down here,” said Jimmy Wriston, Engineering Advisor for the DOT. “She was wonderful for our community and this is a fitting tribute to her.”

Construction on the 4 mile stretch is slated to begin, immediately.

“The outside world is looking at West Virginia,” said Governor Jim Justice. “They’re looking at West Virginia as the diamond in the rough they missed.”

“In a very short time, it’s going to be a bridge to somewhere,” said Wriston. “Somebody’s going to travel it and folks are going to come from all over the country.”

The project is estimated to be completed by November 19, 2021.



To read more: <https://wvva.com/news/top-stories/2019/05/01/construction-underway-bridge-to-nowhere-going-somewhere/>



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About The Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) 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.

5 Ways to Eliminate Waste with a Constructible Process

Use this strategy to put an end to your projects running over budget and behind schedule



Waste is all too common on construction projects today. That waste is not only bad for the environment, it also cuts into budgets and diminishes a project's overall return.

The mindset of, "order more than we think we'll need" is one of the most common causes of construction material waste. For example, concrete contractors often order extra formwork components just in case, but those components often go unused and become construction waste. The same is true for electrical cable and duct piping, both of which are often over-ordered to avoid a reorder that could cause project delays.

Inefficiency also results in substantial waste. Overlapping tasks, rework and running over budget and behind schedule all result in wasted productivity. Often, poor planning and a lack of communication is the root of this problem.

There are certain tasks on a jobsite that need to be completed before the next subcontractor can come in to do its work. For example, if a team shows up to install drywall, but the electrical work hasn't yet been completed, work stops. With the skilled labor shortage, trade workers are booked out for months, so rescheduling can be difficult and have a ripple effect across the project.

In order to eliminate waste, boost productivity and truly enable a connected team, changes must be applied to the entire supply chain. A growing number of construction companies are turning to a constructible process in which all phases and trades are connected, models and workflows are content-enabled and data-rich constructible models drive smarter workflows. A constructible approach can move the needle on eliminating waste by:

1. Facilitating real-time collaboration and communication among all stakeholders

It's important to break down communication barriers and encourage collaboration across project teams. Being connected is the greatest defense against the inefficiencies that stem from data locked up in silos. Enabling shared access to data among multiple stakeholders allows them to collaborate, review and make changes to a model together in real time.

2. Delivering more accurate data to limit rework and standardize processes

Constructible content simplifies the development of comprehensive models for each trade and makes construction data more useful in feeding downstream work processes. This helps to save time, money and effort by avoiding unnecessary rework. Data-rich models of each component required can provide more than just geometry to include up-to-date data, such as weight, sourcing and cost to streamline build of materials and ultimately the supply chain.

3. Leveraging historical data to improve future performance and estimates

A key element to making improvements is to learn from experience. Data is a key element in driving optimization, predictability and automation. Experience is your intellectual property and a differentiator for your business, if you use it correctly. Are you capitalizing your data to optimize and improve planning? The best start is to inventory the data you possess and data that you could collect. It's important to build a culture that values experience as a core asset.

4. Automation drives increased efficiency

With sophisticated machine control and robotics, models developed by engineers are now directing the earthwork, fabrication and layout in the field. Likewise, with constructible data, processes like estimating and project scheduling can all be automated in ways that dramatically reduce work cycles.

To read more: <https://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/technology/5-ways-eliminate-waste-constructible-process>

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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.

CEI DBE Supportive Services

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