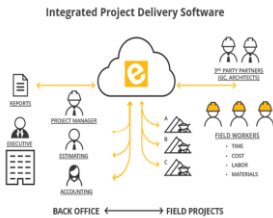




## Construction Industry Trends for 2017

### Use of collaboration tools

Going into the new year, more collaboration tools will be used to create collaborative project development. These tools include mobile technology, integrated project management tools, BIM design, and virtual/augmented reality.



Mobile Technology will continue to grow and will allow the workers on the field and the people in the back office to be in constant communication; this will lead to a greater transparency across parties, and more informed decision making.

To take it a step further, integrated project solutions will become a necessity. These project management tools allow every member of a company to use one software solution for all of their project management activities. This enables every member of the team will be able to open the same application and work off the same information as everyone else, in real-time. Leveraging mobile tech means less miscommunication from inconsistent or lagged information sharing.

On top of this, BIM technology will allow the construction team to make a visual representation of the project, which they can send to all stakeholders before construction begins. BIM gives everyone a chance to voice his or her opinions in a way that will not slow down construction or incur extra costs.

The new technology will improve safety by being able to communicate possibly dangerous situations without subjecting the person to the dangerous environment.

To read more see excerpt: <https://esub.com/construction-industry-trends-watch-2017/>

### Labor shortage

The lack of qualified workers in the construction industry has proven to be an issue in the past and is expected to continue throughout 2017. Between 2006 and 2011, 40% of construction jobs were lost due to the recession, and ever since then, the industry has struggled to get these skilled laborers back. Each year, the construction industry hires fewer workers, with no fast growth predicted. As the current construction workforce ages and less young people are entering the industry due to a lack of emphasis on learning a trade, the industry is trying to find new ways to gain qualified workers. With less labor available, increased competition is forcing construction firms to increase pay and benefits, which has further hurt the firms' profitability.

### Increased uncertainty

Leading up to this year, questions have been raised about how the new presidential administration will affect the construction industry. Incoming president, Donald Trump, has spoken about increasing infrastructure spending with a proposed \$1 trillion plan that would mean a significant number of funded projects for the next ten years. However, many other aspects of the impact of the new administration have been largely unspoken.

### Green practices and sustainability

As the years go on, there is going to be an increasing focus on sustainability. The burden is falling on the construction industry as more and more building owners desire environmentally friendly fixtures and designs. In 2017, the construction industry will make steps toward net-zero buildings, which are buildings that recycle as much energy that is used, so no energy is wasted. These buildings are going to continue to gain ground as the years go on until they become the "norm" of construction.

## About the GDOT

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## About the Program

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with GDOT as the statewide provider of the federally fund 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.

## Strategies to conquer poor ground conditions

### Protect crews, equipment & the environment with composite matting



Over the past several years, market research has shown the increasing use of composite matting on a variety of projects and applications, including creating temporary roads and working pads

in challenging environments. Research points to an uptick in demand due to the advances in composite matting technology and manufacturing that produces a cost-effective, reliable product. In addition, the use of composite matting has grown alongside our global culture's heightened awareness and protections of employee safety and the environment. Today's advanced, engineered composite matting systems help mitigate risks to equipment, personnel and the environment, while increasing the bottom line.

### Composite Matting

Composite access mats are specifically designed to provide stable, fail-safe, temporary roads and working platforms for vehicles, equipment and personnel over any type of ground condition. They are typically made from HDPE (high-density polyethylene), which allows the mat to bend without breaking and to conform to ground contours, while providing tremendous strength and resiliency. Composite mats are 100-percent recyclable and are an ideal low-cost, environmentally-friendly ground protection solution.

The mats maintain strength when wet, prevent vehicle slippage, increase worksite safety and provide companies with long-term cost savings, while simultaneously reducing the time and hassle associated with worksite preservation. Because composite mats are made of plastic, they have a weight-bearing load that is more than double that of wood.

But, much more than just better functionality, composite mats are designed to be safe. Mats are produced without nails or screws, eliminating the dangers of employees being punctured through their boots and flattening tires. Composite mats lock together to form one solid and continuous road or platform, therefore eliminating the possibility of individual boards coming loose and puncturing the underside of vehicles. Their surfaces are patterned for protection against slips and improved traction for both workers and equipment. The specially-formulated composite material is nonconductive to avoid problems with static electricity. While composite mats are lightweight and easy to transport and install, they are also durable (12 to 15 years) and require little maintenance.

### A Safer Jobsite

A jobsite is a dangerous place when it is not equipped with the right materials. Risk of liability and personnel, heavy-duty machinery, and the worksite can be costly. In addition to the immediate risks, a single accident can happen and companies are at risk of losing time and money in production and individual and class action lawsuits. Damage to a company's reputation and brand are less quantifiable, but just as real.

### Wood Mat Hazards

Wooden mats have been in use for years as a cheap, readily available solution to create a temporary road or work area, especially in soft, unstable or sensitive ground conditions. But wood mats are fraught with hazards and problems. Initially, wooden mats are economical, but because of their short lifespan and high-maintenance requirements, they can prove to be costly in the end. The life of a wood mat is short (2 to 3 years), as they warp, rot, splinter and break down over time.

To read more see Excerpt: <http://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/safety/safety/january-2017-strategies-conquer-poor-ground-conditions>

## Supportive Services Offered



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



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.

Call 855-432-1DBE (1323) or visit us online at  
[www.gadbesupport.com](http://www.gadbesupport.com)

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