



Florida roads chief praises clearing of Hurricane Irma debris



Florida's transportation secretary is giving his agency a passing mark for debris removal after Hurricane Irma. But with debris still along some roads, particularly in pockets of the Florida Keys, Department of Transportation Secretary Michael

Dew said officials will look at how they can improve before the next storm. "I think we did an effective job, but I think we can always do better," he said Thursday during a meeting of the House Select Committee on Hurricane Response and Preparedness.

The pace and cost of debris collection has been a point of contention in the government's response to Hurricane Irma, which made landfall Sept. 10 in Monroe and Collier counties and barreled up the state. The Department of Transportation has spent \$15 million on debris removal from state highways, with Dew expecting reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Some of that money related to getting called in to help after local governments complained that debris haulers failed to honor pre-storm contracts as subcontractors went in pursuit of better deals in areas harder hit by the storm.

To Read More See Excerpt: <http://www.orlandosentinel.com/news/politics/political-pulse/os-hurricane-irma-debris-florida-20171117-story.html>

Warning: **Digital Signature Deadline** **12/1/2017**

All construction projects let as of July 2016, will be required to conduct business with the Department within a paperless environment.

In order to do so, all stakeholders whom have signatory duties on projects, will be required to have a Digital Signature.

FDOT will be strictly enforcing this policy as of
12/1/2017

To obtain additional information regarding the Digital Signature requirement, please visit:
<http://www.fdot.gov/construction/eConstruction/DigitalSignatures.shtm>



About The FDOT

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

Plan to link Sawgrass Expressway to I-95 rolls ahead



Plans to extend the Sawgrass Expressway in Deerfield Beach to link three of Broward County's main thoroughfares got rolling Wednesday night.

Florida Department of Transportation officials showed a crowd of about 300 people ideas for express lanes to connect Florida's Turnpike, the Sawgrass Expressway and Interstate 95.

Construction could start as early as 2020, said Anson Sonnett, a state Department of Transportation engineer overseeing the project.

A connection was part of the original plans when the Sawgrass Expressway opened in 1986. Several communities supported the link but some residents of Deerfield Beach resisted because it would slice through one of the city's biggest residential developments, Century Village, as well as several business areas. This is the closest the plans have come to becoming a reality in the thirty years of debating the extension. "Express lanes are the only way out of the traffic problems that are piling up on Southwest 10th Street," Sonnett said. Eight traffic lights lie between the end of the Sawgrass and the first on-ramp for I-95. That has led to gridlock during peak hours and an above-average number of crashes at Southwest 10th Street's intersections with Powerline Road and Military Trail, Sonnett said.

"When traffic gets the way it is now on Southwest 10th Street, you can't address it with signal timing," he said. Studies have shown the four-lane, 2½-mile stretch of road between the three highways can no longer handle an estimated 45,000 vehicles each day.

To Read More See Excerpt: <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/local/broward/fl-reg-sw10-street-link-meeting-20171115-story.html>

NASA awards construction contracts to small Florida firms

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has recently awarded Multiple Award Construction Contract Two (MACC-II) contracts to 20 small businesses and four large firms across the United States, six of which are from Florida.

Construction contracts included in the regionalized Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity contract vehicle are awarded in six categories: woman-owned small business, historically underutilized business zone, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, 8(A) Business Development Program, small business, and full and open unrestricted awards. The contracts, which are anticipated to cost not more than \$3 billion over an eight-year ordering period, are part of the U.S. Small Business Administration's efforts to help small, disadvantaged firms to compete in the construction market.



Florida firms that have been awarded contracts are ELCI Construction Group Inc. from North Miami in women-owned small business awards; ESA South Inc. from Cantonment, Advon Corporation from Tallahassee and Firewatch Contracting of FL LLC from Tampa in service-disabled veteran-owned awards; and Silver Mountain Construction from Jacksonville and CCI Energy and Construction Services from Shalimar in 8(A) awards.

To Read More See Excerpt: <https://www.floridaconstructionnews.com/nasa-awards-construction-contracts-to-small-florida-firms/>

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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.

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CEI, 5016 Calle Minorga, Sarasota, FL 34242