

## \$81.2 Million Awarded in Georgia DOT Construction Contracts



Georgia DOT has awarded 27 construction contracts for statewide transportation projects totaling \$81,216,508. These projects were advertised in December, bids were received on January 19 and contracts were awarded on

February 2 to the lowest qualified bidder.

Routine maintenance, which represents over 80 percent of the awarded funds, addresses resurfacing on 664 miles of roadway - including every GDOT district in the state. Several bridge rehabilitation contracts were also awarded. This focus on deferred routine maintenance is made possible through funds resulting from Georgia's Transportation Funding Act (TFA) of 2015.

A \$4.25 million contract was also awarded for 0.2 mile of construction of a bridge and approaches on South Cherokee Road (formerly SR 11) over CSX Railroad in Walton County in the City of Social Circle. The existing 64 year-old bridge is in poor condition and does not serve current needs. The new bridge will be constructed in the existing location, raised slightly to achieve proper railroad clearances and the two travel lanes will be widened. Sidewalks will be added to connect to sidewalks along South Cherokee Road across the railroad.

The bridge is in the heart of the City Historic District, and is the primary entrance into the Historic Downtown, Social Circle City Manager Adele Schirmer explains.

"GDOT developed the project plans and schedule with consideration and responsiveness to the community and to City input," Schirmer said. "We understand that the bridge replacement will be temporarily disruptive, but a significant safety and infrastructure improvement for the long term. The inclusion of period appropriate detailing on the bridge was important and we appreciate the inclusion of this element in the construction plans. We are pleased to see this project moving into construction and look forward to working with GDOT towards successful completion of this infrastructure improvement."

The roadway will be closed for up to 180 calendar days during construction—excluding the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas—with a detour using SR 11/Social Circle Bypass. As requested by the City of Social Circle, an ornamental fence will be used instead of the standard chain link. The contractor is E.R. Snell Contractor, Inc. of Snellville, Ga. and the anticipated completion is October 31, 2019.

Additional awards include an \$8 million safety project to install 60 miles of median cable barriers at 11 locations along the 84 miles of Interstate 16/State Route 404 from Treutlen to Chatham counties in east central and southeast Georgia. The goal is to reduce median crossover collisions that occur when an out of control vehicle crosses the median and strikes a vehicle traveling in the opposite direction - often resulting in a head-on crash. Cable barriers are shown to save lives and reduce serious injuries.

Read Excerpt: <https://us13.campaign-archive.com/?u=80dbe14272ec0b5e1a1bf5b4e&id=a16fdf13a5>

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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.

# Largest Solar Plant in Southeast will be Built in Georgia



A 200-MW solar power plant is being planned at a 2,000-acre site near Warner Robins, Georgia, a project that at present would be the largest standalone solar facility in the U.S. Southeast.

First Solar, a Tempe, Arizona-based global provider of photovoltaic (PV) systems, announced the project on February 21. The plant already has a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Georgia Power. Construction of the plant in Twiggs County is expected to begin in November 2018, with the plant coming online about a year later.

“This is a tremendously exciting opportunity for First Solar to demonstrate our capability to develop solar assets in the Southeast and help Georgia Power meet the renewable energy needs of its customers,” said Kathryn Arbeit, First Solar’s vice president of project development-Americas, in a news release. “Georgia Power’s significant commitment to renewable energy, paired with Twiggs County’s strong leadership and supportive business environment, combine to serve as a great example of how solar can be seamlessly included in the region’s energy mix.”

Most large U.S. PV installations are located in the desert Southwest, in California and Arizona. The largest U.S. solar farm is the 579-MW Solar Star project near Rosamond, California, which came online in 2015. It is owned by BHE Solar, a subsidiary of BHE Renewables, and was designed and built by SunPower. It operates under a PPA with Southern California Edison.

Georgia is one of 21 states that has not adopted a renewable portfolio standard for electricity production, according to the National Conference of State Legislators. Georgia Power, part of Southern Co., in its 2016 Integrated Resource Plan authorized the development of commercial and industrial (C&I) renewable generation “that would allow Georgia Power to procure up to 200 MW of additional renewable generation through Power Purchase Agreements that C&I customers could utilize to support their sustainability initiatives,” according to Georgia Power’s website.

Georgia Power has said it will develop projects from a Renewable Energy Development Initiative (REDI) for C&I customers, based on PPA contracts of 10 years to 30 years.

“We are committed to working with the Georgia Public Service Commission to create programs, like REDI, that help grow renewable energy in Georgia and add value for all of our customers,” Wilson Mallard, director of renewable development for Georgia Power, said Wednesday in response to the First Solar announcement. “Recently completed large-scale solar projects across Georgia are serving customers today, and the Twiggs County project will be the latest addition, allowing Georgia Power customers to benefit from cost-effective, competitive solar as part of our diverse generation mix.”

First Solar said the project will use more than a half-million of the company’s advanced technology thin film solar modules. The Solar Energy Industries Association (SEIA) says Georgia ranks ninth among U.S. states with just more than 1,500 MW of installed solar generation capacity.

Read Excerpt: <http://www.powermag.com/largest-solar-plant-in-southeast-will-be-built-in-georgia/>

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