

FDOT Releases Plan to Enhance Existing Corridors and Environmental Features within Proposed M-CORES Projects

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) today released the initial plan to enhance existing corridors and environmental features within the proposed Multi-use Corridors of Regional Economic Significance (M-CORES) projects. The enhancement options incorporate environmental and corridor improvement opportunities based on initial input from each of the M-CORES task forces and the public.

“To strategically prepare for Florida’s future growth, enhancements to the state’s existing transportation system should always be a part of the plan,” said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, P.E. “The initial enhancement options will help preserve our natural resources and better serve our residents and visitors. We look forward to additional input from the task forces as they work toward submitting their recommendations this October.” The attached graphics highlight the existing roadways for potential enhancement and where the M-CORES projects could be co-located. Upon determining a proposed M-CORES corridor path/course, which could be located within existing corridors, the following enhancements will be further developed:

- Additional wildlife crossings and design elements to prevent wildlife conflicts
- Connecting and expanding wildlife corridors

- Connecting and expanding conservation lands
- Improved water flow and quality
- Connecting and expanding multi-use trails
- Providing and preserving right of way for utilities

Additionally, FDOT will ensure:

- Existing non-tolled corridors will provide both tolled and non-tolled options
- Adequate access to corridor for emergency response
- Local municipality preference for connecting areas of opportunity, such as bypasses and utilities, is acted upon
- Resources are provided to help craft and update local comprehensive plans

The enhancements above will continue to be refined and more may be added as the task forces continue their work. Until a consensus is developed by the task force as it relates to guiding principles, avoidance areas, and enhancement opportunities, any paths/courses produced will be very broad, completely undefined and should not be considered final in any way. As time progresses, the task force paths/courses will become more specific. By October 2020, each M-CORES task force must evaluate the unique needs of each respective proposed project area, any economic and environmental impacts, hurricane evacuation impacts, land use impacts, and design features to protect or mitigate environmental impacts.

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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.

Weathering an Unexpected Storm: COVID-19

So, we have to plan for something no one has planned for. The Coronavirus Pandemic is affecting everyday life as we know it. The first thing we must realize; the pandemic is here, and we will need to address it and the effect it will have on our family and business. As a business owner, you will have to deal with stress on many levels, in different forms and from different people. There are several steps that we suggest thinking about during this difficult time.

Step One:

Make sure you and your family are taking all the necessary measures prescribed to stay healthy. Remember that family is important and once they are safe, we can think about our business with a clearer thought process.

Step Two:

Try to understand the stress that everyone is dealing with and know that not everyone handles stress the same way. As business owners, we can sometimes make the comment to an employee “you don’t know how much stress I have, I have to meet payroll every week and all you have to do is show up for work.” That employee may have just as much stress or more than you, and their stress is as real to them as yours is to you, just in a different form. Great example, a lawyer who’s

admin is typing a 400 page brief for him that needs to be done by noon for a court case at 1 pm has no other options but to get it done, where the Lawyer can call and postpone the case if he wanted to. Who is under more stress? Remember you are the leader, now is the time to shine.

Step Three:

Have a game plan, and don’t wait until the last minute. Although, you may think it is too late to create a plan, it is not. The longer you wait implement a plan, the more difficult it becomes, and you will still need to develop a plan in the long run. If you haven’t developed a plan, start one. Here are several points to consider when developing an effective action plan:

- Involve your employees, they typically know your business the best.
- Clear lines of communication; establish who calls who, when and for what.
- Assess current and future supply needs, based against workload and projects.
- Utilize all digital tools available and work out the bugs beforehand if possible.
- Evaluate ongoing financial obligations.
- Understand your insurance coverage (call your agent).

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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



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CEI assisted DBEs
in obtaining

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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.