

# FDOT Newsletter

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## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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



## Brightline kicks off construction of long-awaited Boca Raton station

It's been nearly 54 years since a passenger train stopped in downtown Boca Raton, when in July 1968, the final Florida East Coast Railway pulled out of a decades-old station at 747 South Dixie Highway on its way to Jacksonville.

But on Tuesday, less than a mile to the north and a few minutes past 10 a.m., Brightline company executives, local politicians, business people and construction workers cheered as they broke ground on a new Brightline station.

The station symbolically ushers in a revival of passenger rail travel for the upscale city, which is now the scene of fancy new hotels, condo towers and offices for newly arrived businesses. City residents are just months away from catching Brightline trains from the station, which will cover 38,000 square feet on a 1.8-acre site between the Florida East Coast Railway tracks and the city's public library.

"As a premier business and leisure destination, Boca Raton is a perfect fit for Brightline and will be an integral part of our network that will further connect the state of Florida," said Patrick Goddard, the rail line's president.

"Brightline stations help enhance the local communities and economies where we operate and provide travelers with quick access to state-wide lifestyle and tourist destinations," he added.

The Boca Raton station is expected to be completed in the fall of this year. Construction of a large parking garage started last December.

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## Contract Disruptions: Navigating Supply Constraints and Labor Shortages

The biggest worries in today's economy—supply chain disruptions, labor shortages and the worst inflation in decades—are creating big headaches in the construction industry. What's worse, large projects underway are often based on contracts hammered out pre-pandemic, before the uncertainties and disruptions that spread around the globe with COVID-19. Construction firms find themselves executing on contracts signed when the potential for delayed timelines and rising costs seemed more remote. A recent report from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce finds almost all contractors (93%) say they are experiencing a shortage of an important product such as steel, lumber or copper. A rising number of companies on commercial projects (54%) also cite difficulty finding skilled workers. Grant Thornton clients, among them some of the country's biggest construction companies, report that sourcing materials and hiring workers is a bigger challenge today—and more expensive—than at any other time in recent decades.

These are issues that can easily threaten the already thin profit margins of many builders. Construction firms need a sharp focus on how to manage through this period while avoiding the pitfalls that might damage relationships with owners or subcontractors. And even as they do this, they need to plan how to address ongoing shortages of supplies and labor so they can successfully tap into the new business opportunities stemming from the giant boost in infrastructure spending Congress recently approved.

There are several ways builders can adjust.

### Know The Contract

The first step: Review your contracts. Attorneys should be looking for language that's relevant to the question of who will be responsible for increased costs or delays and what can be billed to the owner. They may also be searching for any communication relevant to such issues, even outside of the actual contract, if it will help provide leverage as change orders are negotiated. Companies may benefit by developing a contract cheat sheet, listing ten to fifteen key points to be discussed with owners and subcontractors to help align expectations among all parties.

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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.



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