

## Georgia DOT Awards more than \$65 Million in Construction Contracts in April

Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) awarded 15 construction contracts for statewide transportation projects totaling \$65,061,289.

The largest single investment, worth approximately \$25.3 million, was awarded to Reeves Construction Company. This Transportation Investment Act (TIA) project will *widen* and *reconstruct* 5.89 miles on US 1/State Route 4, from the Louisville Bypass at Clarks Mill Road (County Road 325) to Mennonite Church Road (County Road 138) in Jefferson County.

This contract alone represents 39 percent of the awarded funds. To learn more about TIA visit:

<http://www.ga-tia.com/>

The second largest contract, worth almost \$3.9 million, was awarded to TRP Construction Group, LLC for 28.35 miles of pavement marking upgrades on I-16/State Route 404. Construction will start from west of State Route 26 and to west of Oakhurst Road in Laurens and Treutlen counties.

This contract along with six other safety contracts, represents 17 percent or approximately \$10.9 million of the awarded funds.

The remaining 44 percent or approximately \$28.8 million, is allotted for *bridge*

*construction* and *resurfacing* projects at various locations throughout the state.

In addition to the projects mentioned above, a Design-Build project was awarded to Archer Western Contractors in the month of April. The I-285 Eastside Bridges project in DeKalb County will replace the existing bridges over Interstate-285 at State Route 12/US 278/Covington Highway, Redwing Circle and Glenwood Road. To learn more about this project, please visit:

<http://www.dot.ga.gov/PS/Innovative/DesignBuild>

The April awards bring the total construction contracts for Fiscal Year 2021 to approximately \$1.2 billion. This total includes TIA, Design-Bid-Build, Design-Build and locally administered projects. Fiscal Year 2021 began July 1, 2020.

[Award Announcement list](#) (includes rejected and or deferred projects). Bids for Design-Bid-Build projects were received on April 16 and contracts were awarded to the lowest qualified bidders on April 30.

Information on schedules, lane closures and detours will be available in advance of construction activities taking place.

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### About The GDOT

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

# 5 Interpersonal Skills Every Project Manager Should Possess

## How soft skills influence people and affect your project

According to a recent report published by project management researchers at Brandeis University, technical skills alone do not determine a project manager's success. In fact, some of the most common reasons for project failure include a lack of clear expectations, poor leadership and misalignment between workers and management. These causes of project failure are not the result of inadequate technical skills. Instead, they are often the result of inadequate "soft skills."

Soft skills are personal attributes that allow project managers to build team morale, motivate workers and manage conflict. They are not "hard skills" that project managers necessarily learn in school or in the field, unless they actively seek to learn them. Many successful project managers naturally possess an array of valuable soft skills. And for those who feel as though they are lacking in the soft skills department, there is good news. Brandeis researchers found that most people can develop these skills with awareness and effort. A project manager with the right soft skills is essentially skilled at managing people. Without the right interpersonal acumen, a project manager may find that he or she has to scramble to keep teams on track and motivated. On the other hand, with the right soft skills, project managers spend less time worrying about factors like employee morale and motivation and, instead, can focus on planning, risk management, project quality and completion.

There are a few soft skills that are particularly useful for construction project managers to possess. The following skills set the good managers apart from the rest and can significantly influence how efficiently and successfully projects are completed.

### 1. Communication

This skill is probably the most important. Project managers who are good communicators are able to help teams understand the scope of their duties and solve problems as they arise. If a project manager is not able to clearly communicate expectations, a project will be more complicated than necessary from the very start. Project managers who are still developing their communication skills can benefit from taking time each day to think about what their teams need to know and then conversing with them about those subjects. They can also benefit from making an effort to listen to their team members in order to improve any dialogue overall.

### 2. Leadership

This is the ability to inspire, motivate and govern when necessary. Highly developed leaders provide positive feedback and constructive criticism. They keep their cool in stressful situations. They communicate the organization's vision clearly and succinctly, and they provide opportunities for professional development while promoting a healthy, supportive company culture.

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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
- Plan Reading



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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.