

FDOT Newsletter

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Volume 64



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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Punta Gorda Airport Wins FDOT's 2021 Commercial Service Airport Project of the Year

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) recently named PGD's Runway 15-33 Rehab & Extension its 2021 Commercial Service Airport Project of the Year. The honor was bestowed to PGD's CEO James W. Parish, P.E. at the Florida Airports Council Annual Conference held in Jacksonville this week.

Each year the FDOT presents awards honoring superior achievement in the categories of Aviation Professional of the Year, Distinguished Aviation Service, Commercial Service Airport of the Year, Commercial Service Airport Project of the Year, General Aviation Airport of the Year, and General Aviation Airport Project of the Year.

In order to be considered for the Commercial Service Airport Project of the Year, the project had to demonstrate a significant contribution to airport development, sustainability, efficiency, capacity and/or safety.

Both Runways 15-33 and 4-22 were identified in PGD's Master Plan as high-priority projects essential to the local economy and to meeting the FAA's minimum service levels. By extending Runway 15-33 by 593 feet to provide a length of 6,286 feet, PGD will be able to maintain existing air carrier operations when Runway 4-22 is closed for rehabilitation later in 2021. The Charlotte County Airport Authority's innovative project team also incorporated essential safety and operational improvements to maximize the airfield for all its users, including GA pilots, onsite flight schools, medical air transport, charter services and public services.

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Document Everything

Every construction project combines a vast array of symbiotic disciplines. When synchronized brilliantly, the artistic blend of architectural design, engineering and oversight can achieve spectacular results.

But unlike a movie, sculpture or painting, everything must work precisely, efficiently and in unison to perform up to spec in the real world. The Millennium Falcon in Star Wars may look good, but then again it wasn't actually designed to fly in space. This is unlike the myriad of roads or bridges that must withstand the daily rigors of hundreds of thousands of vehicles or the structures, buildings and dwellings that must also comfortably accommodate the ongoing needs of everyone their built to serve.

As a result, much can go wrong once the planning ends and the general contractor, construction manager at-risk or trade contractor sets out to turn even modest designs into reality. The inability to properly identify potential field or jobsite problems is just one of example of the many challenges that can delay or doom projects anywhere during their lifecycles. Even a preliminary geotechnical investigation that fails to reveal a seam in the bedrock can result in the building's piles being driven to what can seem like the other side of the earth.

Once the work begins, how important is it to quickly, flexibly and adeptly adapt to changes in the field? What are the appropriate steps for ensuring the efficacy of these changes? How should they be reviewed and approved? What is the possible exposure to liability if things don't work as planned?

First, shop drawings are commonly used as design notes that detail the field changes to approved plans and specifications. Typically made to save time, cost or deal with an unexpected field condition, most of these changes cannot be implemented until they're approved by an engineer or engineering team.

Here's how the process for submitting, reviewing and approving shop drawings normally works. Some general contractors use construction management or project management software.

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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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