



**\$40 Million in Grants Awarded to WVDOT for Two Specific Projects**



The West Virginia Department of Transportation will be receiving major funding on two specific projects.

On Thursday, the news was announced that West Virginia will receive \$40 million through the U.S. Department

of Transportation’s Better Utilizing Investment to Leverage Development (BUILD) Grants to construct a bypass around Berkeley Springs and the construction of approximately 10 miles of a four-lane expressway in Tucker County.

In a release, U.S. Senator Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., said, “This is a much needed investment in two critical projects that will make West Virginia roadways safer and more efficient. Not only is this good for travelers and those living in Berkeley Springs and Tucker County communities, but it’s good for commerce and our state’s economic potential by better connecting West Virginia to transportation hubs around the country,” Senator Capito said.

“From my first day in the Senate, I have advocated for Corridor H and similar projects that will greatly improve our transportation infrastructure, and I’m glad my conversations with Transportation Secretary Chao have proved beneficial

to West Virginia. I will continue working to help deliver similar resources.”

BUILD grants are given to states, regions, and communities through need and the potential impact it could have on the area. The possible 10-mile construction for a four-lane expressway in Tucker County will connect to a part of Corridor H in Parsons, a system designed to connect east-central West Virginia to large cities and points along I-81.

U.S. Senator Joe Manchin, D. W.Va., expressed the importance of the funding in a statement on Thursday: “Investing in American infrastructure is one of the most important steps we can take to put people back to work and get our economy moving again. I have personally discussed the need for BUILD Grant infrastructure funding with Secretary Chao and stressed to her the vital need to West Virginia. I was very disturbed by the lack of funding within this program for Appalachia last year. I continue to believe that the construction of transportation infrastructure can spur economic development in our state, which is why I have worked with the Department of Transportation to encourage them to make changes to this critical program, and I am happy to see that West Virginia is reaping those benefits today. I will continue to push for increased funding to complete Corridor H and the Appalachian Highway Development System.” \$20 million will go towards the Tucker County expressway project along Corridor H while \$20 million will go into the Berkeley Spring bypass project on U.S. Route 522.

To read more: <http://wvmetronews.com/2018/12/06/40-million-in-grants-rewarded-to-wvdot-for-two-specific-projects/>



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**About The Program**

The Construction Estimating Institute (CEI) works with West Virginia Department of Transportation (WVDOT) 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.

# 7 Tips for Prepping Your Fleet for the Busy Season

*How to get a clean, mean construction-ready machine*



Before you take on your first job of the season, it's vital that your machines go through a tuneup. To ensure reliable operation once the ground thaws, check the maintenance procedures in your operation and

maintenance manual and follow these seven tips.

## **1. Start Early**

As temperatures rise and project start dates flow in, plan to conduct full machine inspections a few weeks before you return your fleet to service. Follow post-storage procedures, as listed in your machine's manual, which includes the recommended intervals, a checklist of spring maintenance items, and oil and fluid recommendations. It's also a good idea to request maintenance training and assistance from your local equipment dealer and expert on proper techniques.

Familiarize yourself with decals and key maintenance points on the machine. If you are strapped for time or don't feel comfortable maintaining your machine, utilize your local dealership. By partnering with your dealer, you can help extend the life of your equipment, minimize downtime and save money with their preventive maintenance services.

## **2. Clean Machine**

An often-overlooked step during spring maintenance is the cleaning of equipment. Last year's grime should have been cleaned before storing your equipment; however, it doesn't hurt to give your machines a quick wash before returning them to service.

Remove any dirt, grease or debris from the machine, including the engine compartment, that was not cleaned prior to storage. If you have an excavator, inspect the undercarriage. All machine components should be properly lubricated, and exposed cylinder rods should be greased. In addition, the machine's cab should be

cleaned. Some equipment manufacturers offer an optional on-board air compressor to easily remove dust and debris from the cab. Last on the list, replace machine safety and warning decals that are scratched, illegible or missing and contact your local dealer to order new ones.

## **3. Inspect Battery**

Before your busy season hits, inspect the battery and connect it to the machine. For batteries that need to be charged periodically, a trickle charger can be used to help maintain the voltage at a slower rate, improving the battery life. Battery connections should also be inspected and cleaned at this time, as corroded terminals can cause hard starting and charging issues. If you need to unexpectedly start your equipment during winter, use a block heater to assist in starting the engine and let it run until it reaches the proper working temperature. This helps prevent the valves from sticking and distributes oil to places it's needed. If you do not have a block heater, consider purchasing one.

## **4. Complete Walk-Around**

After the machine has been cleaned and the battery has been inspected, complete a top-to-bottom walk-around. Make sure all components are in proper working order, specifically the bushings, cylinders, hoses and pivot points. Take note of any component leaks that took place while the machines were in storage and replace them as soon as possible.

Look for signs of obvious machine damage, including cuts or tears in the tires or rubber tracks. Make sure the tracks have the correct tension and tires have the proper inflation pressure (displayed on the sidewall of the tire). Refer to the manual for the recommended levels. Check comfort features, such as heat and air conditioning, radio, seat belts, and windshield wiper blades. In addition, test cab controls, headlights, brake lights and other safety devices to ensure they are in good working order.

To read more: <https://www.constructionbusinessowner.com/equipment/equipment-maintenance/7-tips-prepping-your-fleet-busy-season>

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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.

## **CEI DBE Supportive Services**

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