

Chattahoochee Riverwalk Project Wins Quality of Life/Community Development Award

The Georgia Department of Transportation announced today the Chattahoochee Riverwalk Project in Columbus won an American Transportation Award in the category “Quality of Life/Community Development, small project,” from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

The Riverwalk was conceived as an opportunity to create a wonderful public amenity on the banks of the Chattahoochee River for walking, jogging and biking, extending from Lake Oliver in the north to Fort Benning in the south. However, the idea was born out of the necessity to address sewer problems within the city of Columbus. While that work was being completed adjacent to the Chattahoochee river, local leaders saw an opportunity to reverse a century or more of the city turning its back on the river, and instead use the riverfront as an asset.

The Riverwalk project began in 1992, but it wasn’t until 2012, with assistance from the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) that three disjointed sections were connected to form a contiguous 22-mile trail. TIA provided the funding mechanism to complete the project and add to the quality of life improvement in the area.

“The Riverwalk has been the catalyst driving economic growth in this community. It’s an amenity that has enhanced Columbus as a whole, and served to fulfill

some serious needs. I equate this to completing a major highway through a city with all the development and life improvements that brings,” said Rick Jones, Director of Planning, Columbus Consolidated Government.

The America’s Transportation Awards competition was created to showcase the tremendous projects delivered by state departments of transportation every year that tell the broader story on the importance of transportation. As a regional winner, the project will also be considered for inclusion in the competition’s “Top 12,” which will be announced later in the year.

In 2012, voters in three Georgia regions - River Valley (RV), Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) and the Heart of Georgia Altamaha (HOGA) - approved a 10 year one percent sales tax to fund regional and local transportation improvements. The Southern Georgia (SG) Region passed the referendum in 2018. Prior to the votes, regional roundtables of local elected officials, with significant public input, selected projects for each region’s Approved Investment List. Combined, these lists represent 1,023 TIA-funded projects. As of August 2020, 623 TIA projects have been completed and another 137 are currently under construction.

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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.

How to Protect Your Jobsite Vehicles & Prevent Violations

Steering increased driver safety with machine vision & artificial intelligence

After taking a massive hit in the initial stages of the pandemic, construction is starting to come back. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the industry added 464,000 jobs in May 2020. Companies are adapting to the new realities of COVID-19 with a variety of practices, such as staggered work shifts, fewer site meetings and restricted access to enclosed areas. While these tactics improve safety by reducing personnel density on-site, they bring new challenges, too—especially in the realm of construction driver safety.

Fleet Risks

As a construction leader, you might not think you're in the transportation business—but you are. In the current crisis, your drivers are likely to be facing more distractions than normal, with kids out of school, loved ones to take care of at home, and the stress of working during a pandemic. With fewer on-site meetings, drivers must rely more on mobile devices for communication, which could lead to further distraction.

According to an article published in The New England Journal of Medicine, a driver who looks away from the road for just 2 seconds is twice as likely to crash. In a study from the National Institutes of Health, researchers found that a driver or operator using a mobile phone was five times less likely to notice and engage safely with pedestrians.

The following is some guidance on how to manage

some of the more common driving risks that may crop up in your fleet. Construction drivers are 16% less likely to speed than other commercial drivers, but are 32% more likely to engage in distracted behavior.

Concrete-truck drivers face their own challenges. Concrete trucks are involved in 17% more preventable collisions—and three times more collisions caused by driver inattention.

With fewer vehicles on the road, some drivers are growing complacent toward traffic laws. Construction drivers are no exception: compared to last year, speeding violations are up 62%, and failure to come to a complete stop has more than doubled.

Fleet Safety

Fleet safety has become a priority over the last several years due to rapidly rising insurance rates. Underwriters increasingly encourage companies to equip their fleets with telematics and video technology to improve driver safety and provide evidence after the fact in case of an incident.

In many cases, video evidence can clear the name of a company whose driver was acting properly, helping to weed out fraudulent or invalid claims. Even when your company is at fault, video recordings can let you know the facts quickly and may help you reduce investigative and legal expenses.

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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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Within the past 3 months,
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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.