

FDOT Newsletter

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Volume 81



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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A new Seven Mile Bridge is in the works for the Florida Keys. What the state has planned

The Seven Mile Bridge in the Florida Keys was considered an engineering marvel when it opened in 1982.

For 40 years, the span along the Overseas Highway has offered breathtaking views for people driving to and from Marathon in the Middle Keys. If you're heading to Key West by car, it's the only way to get there.

"It's one of the wonders of the world," the late Keys commissioner Wilhelmina Harvey said at the dedication of the second Seven Mile Bridge, actually 6.79 miles, and accompanying Miami-to-Keys water pipeline.

That bridge, which connects Marathon in the Middle Keys to Little Duck Key in the Lower Keys, replaced the original Seven Mile Bridge, built in 1912. That was another marvel, too, and originally part of pioneer Henry Flagler's train service and serving as the longest — and most iconic — link of his Florida East Coast Railway.

Now, another bridge could be in the works.

This week, Monroe County leaders said a replacement for the 40-year-old Seven Mile Bridge could be coming by early next decade.

A new bridge is slated to come after projects scheduled in the Florida Department of Transportation's "5-year tentative work plan" for the Keys. It's a series of jobs, including repairing and rehabilitating the current bridge, scheduled to begin between 2024 and 2028, paid for by \$498 million in Florida Department of Transportation funds, said county spokeswoman Kristen Livengood.

Replacement of the bridge "is slated for 2030," Livengood said in a statement Wednesday.

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8 Wastes to Eliminate With the Use of Technology

Your game plan for ditching inefficiencies & doubling productivity

When it comes to construction, “lean” is a hot topic. It serves as a potential playbook for more operational and jobsite efficiencies — which, for construction companies, is a great way to plan to face challenges on and off the jobsite.

The lean game plan has a key concept for a challenge that affects construction companies everywhere: identifying and aggressively confronting waste. Add technology to the plan, and your company is on its way to becoming an unstoppable force in the construction industry. Before removing waste, you’ll need some tools to sift through it.

3 Lean Tools: What to Use to Sift Through the Waste

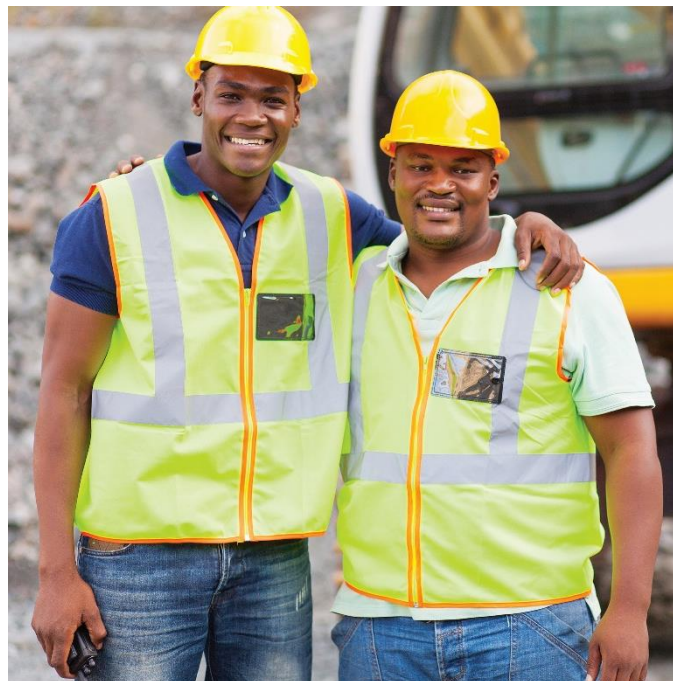
1. Genchi genbutsu — This lean tool gets people to see the “place where it happens.” The Toyota Production System (TPS), for example, is well known for utilizing this concept in their company to make sure any problems, their causes, roots and relevant facts are taken into consideration and observed. For construction, genchi genbutsu is quite simple: Go see it yourself. See the jobsites your company operates on. See your team perform. See where there are openings for any waste.
2. Kaizen — This tool brings together your entire team to continue growth, improvement and development. This concept can find ways to identify and eliminate waste while facilitating teamwork across roles and teams. Having collaboration across the organization opens your company up to more solutions, creativity and innovation when removing waste.
3. Poka-yoke — This lean tool refers to mistake proofing — making sure mistakes aren’t allowed to happen on and off your jobsites in the first place. Examples are everywhere in construction, from lock out/tag out to clutches on cordless drills. If there is room for error, then your company can take the necessary and informed steps to eliminate that risk.

Adopting these three tools doesn’t require a full-blown lean transformation — but with those tools in your pocket, you can review how waste affects your company. Your team may already use these tools in your company, whether you know the terms or not. If so, good for you: You’re one step closer to dumping waste. If not, it’s easy to implement these tools at your company.

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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