

# FDOT Newsletter

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Volume 86



## SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
- Mobilization Financing
- Bonding Assistance
- Marketing Plan Development
- Creating a Business Plan
- Building a Website
- Plan Reading



## 1.2 Million Florida Commuters Have Saved \$112 Million In 2023 With Toll Relief Program

The Toll Relief Program introduced by Governor DeSantis and enacted by the Florida Legislature launched on January 1, 2023. Now in its third month, Florida commuters continue to see significant savings as a result of the program. In the month of March, account credits of \$41.5 million were posted to 1 million customer accounts.

The year-long program automatically gives customers with at least 35 monthly toll transactions a 50 percent credit to their account. Since the program's inception in January, more than \$112 million in Toll Relief credits have been issued benefiting 1.2 million Floridians. "With a savings of \$112 million received so far, Florida families are seeing real assistance from the Toll Relief program every month," said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E. "The Department is thrilled to continue our support of this program and we thank Governor DeSantis for providing our customers with additional opportunities to meet today's economic challenges."

"As the state's toll agency, Florida's Turnpike Enterprise is proud to offer our loyal customers the opportunity to enjoy increased toll savings," said Florida's Turnpike Enterprise Executive Director and CEO, Nicola Liquori. "In just the first three months, the Toll Relief Program has been extremely successful in helping to ease the financial burden on Florida's families."

The Toll Relief program builds on the successful SunPass Savings Program that concluded in December 2022 and resulted in 384,000 drivers saving over \$18 million. The legislation, originally proposed by Governor DeSantis in September 2022, was successfully passed during a Legislative Special Session in November. Transportation (FDOT).

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## 4 Reasons Skilled Trades Are More Important Than Ever

Exploring the post-pandemic workforce & industry demand

The past three years have shown the world what many of us already knew: Skilled trade jobs directly and indirectly impact nearly every facet of American life.

It's nearly impossible to watch the news without hearing stories about jobs, the economy, and the workforce in general. In our post-pandemic world, people across multiple generations upset the apple cart when it came to the "great resignation." However, one thing has been clearer than the sunshine on a fresh spring day — skilled trades have emerged as an area of focus for not only business and political leaders, but for the individuals who are entering the workforce and making decisions about their careers.

Let's take a closer look at what sets our industry apart and why skilled trades are more important than ever.

### 1. There is a growing demand for a skilled trade workforce.

According to ManpowerGroup, skilled trades are the hardest positions to fill. In addition, a large number of skilled trade workers are nearing or at retirement age. This means there is a large gap in employment that will need to be filled on top of the gap that already exists today. Only one in five students graduating from high school have indicated an interest in pursuing a skilled trade — causing alarm that is rippling through a variety of industries. Today, the high demand for skilled trade workers means the opportunity for increased earnings, the ability to take advantage of flexibility that may not have previously existed in certain markets, and long-term job security as it's been proven that skilled trade positions are not going anywhere anytime soon.

### 2. The work is fulfilling.

Talk to the dedicated people who build and solve problems with their hands every day, and they'll most likely tell you the work is fulfilling and gratifying. There is something uniquely rewarding about using your problem-solving skills and creating solutions in a real-life environment where you can experience direct results. Whether you're moving dirt on a jobsite, meticulously placing metal on an assembly line, or operating multimillion-dollar equipment to build homes and commercial buildings, the process of making something from nothing creates fulfillment that is difficult to replicate.

### 3. Opportunities for professional growth.

Whether individuals who enter the skilled trades arena are completing apprenticeships or joining larger programs and corporations, there is incredible opportunity for growth. Organizations are investing in their employees to grow their skills and create strong company cultures.

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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.



**CEI DBE Supportive Services**

**(800) 423-7058**

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