

FDOT Newsletter

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Volume 91



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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



WHAT THEY ARE SAYING

Official Construction Start Dates Announced for Governor DeSantis' Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative Projects

Last week, Lieutenant Governor Jeanette Nuñez, Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E., FDOT leadership, and members of Florida's Legislature unveiled construction timelines for projects included in Governor DeSantis' Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative. These projects, which are slated to begin construction within the next four years, will bring much-needed congestion relief for Florida's motorists on major roadways across the state.

Florida has experienced unprecedented population growth, with some areas of the state experiencing more than 20 percent growth rates. To address this influx of new Floridians, Governor DeSantis charged FDOT to address the most critical points of our infrastructure to relieve congestion in these communities and ensure a robust supply chain. The \$4 billion investment by the Florida Legislature will help make Governor DeSantis' vision a reality. Watch last week's press conference with Lt. Governor Nuñez here.

Read what Florida's stakeholders are saying about the announcement of construction timelines for projects included in Governor DeSantis' Moving Florida Forward Infrastructure Initiative:

Forward Pinellas Executive Director Whit Blanton, FAICP said, "We're very thankful to Governor DeSantis and Florida Department of Transportation for advancing construction funding for I-275 capacity and safety improvements to 38th Avenue North in St. Petersburg.

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How to Predict Cash Flow as a Small Construction Business Owner

The world is a volatile place. What can small businesses that form the deep foundation of the construction industry do about it? While they can't necessarily control the macro forces that buffet the economy, they can monitor their cash flow, which in turn builds their confidence and bolsters their capacity to weather any storms.

That's why Brett Sussman, a vice president with American Express, helped the financial-services company create Business Blueprint, a platform specifically designed to help small businesses manage their cash flow, business products and accounts. Business Blueprint works in tandem with the company's new "Small Business Financial Confidence Report," which debuted in May. Surveying a range of industries—with 10% of participating businesses falling in the construction sector—the report found, unsurprisingly, that small businesses, especially those in construction, face more challenges when they lack not necessarily cash flow but an understanding of their cash flow.

While the Business Blueprint is not an all-encompassing solution to these challenges, it can level the playing field by helping small businesses understand the game they're playing. Construction Executive recently talked to Sussman about the current climate for small construction businesses—including how to navigate the collapsing banks, inflation, supply-chain issues, legislative and regulatory hurdles and lingering after-effects of a global pandemic that have plagued the industry for the last three years.

WHEN AN ECONOMY LOOKS LIKE IT DOES TODAY, HOW LONG DO YOU EXPECT RAMIFICATIONS TO BE FELT?

Over the past few surveys, we've asked small businesses how long they think inflationary pressures will remain. They never have a certain answer in terms of when the end is in sight; we are often looking at a six- to 12-month continuation for that sort of period. That is where small businesses have to scenario-plan how to get through those next six months.

HOW CAN SMALL BUSINESS OWNERS PREPARE BEFORE AN EVENT LIKE A GLOBAL PANDEMIC, INFLATION OR EVEN A RECESSION?

The resilience of small business owners through this process, through the pandemic, has been the mother of reinvention for a lot of small businesses. They had to change their business model and find ways to more cheaply acquire customers. The tool we are offering—Business Blueprint—is here to advise small business owners that they really need to have visibility a number of months in advance in terms of macro shock.

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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

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