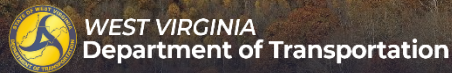


WV DOT Newsletter

February 2024
Volume 85



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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

WVDOH Accepts Bids on I-77 Paving Project

A project to pave a five-mile section of Interstate 77 between Fairplain and Ripley Road is among 25 construction projects included in a bid letting conducted by the West Virginia Division of Highways (WVDOH) on Tuesday, January 9, 2024.

Projects in the January 9 bid letting include:

- Fitzpatrick Road Bridge cleaning and painting project. (Raleigh County)
- PFC Herman Daner Rogers Memorial Bridge cleaning and painting project. (Putnam County)
- Chapel Road Slide #2 slide repair and piling wall. (Braxton Co)
- 27th Street Bridge renovation. (Ohio County)
- Interstate 77 paving, Fairplain to Ripley Road. (Jackson County)
- Bob W. Bellomy Memorial Bridge deck renovation. (Wayne Co)
- Arsenio Albert Alvarez Memorial Bridge deck replacement. (Jefferson County)
- US 250 paving, Bellaire Toll Bridge to South Wheeling. (Marshall and Ohio counties)

(Many more opportunities in full article. Please press the read below)

Several factors are considered before awarding a bid, including whether a bid falls above or below the WVDOH Engineer's Estimate and by what percentage. In cases where a bid is above the Engineer's Estimate, WVDOH must consider the project need, repercussions of not awarding the project, additional funding sources, and whether sufficient reasons exist for the differences in estimates. Most projects are reviewed, analyzed, and awarded within a week of the bid letting, but the process can take longer.



Read

OSHA Is Not Backing Down

Even if you did not directly experience last summer's heat, you probably read or heard about it. Historically high temperatures scorched the country from coast to coast, and there are no signs that this heat will abate anytime soon. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 436 people have died due to workplace heat exposure since 2011. In the same time period, there were an additional 2,700 cases of heat-related illnesses among workers. Now — quite literally more than ever — it is critical for employers to take steps to ensure their workers are protected from extreme heat.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not provide a standard specific to this issue. However, OSHA's General Duty Clause requires all employers to provide a safe workplace for employees, and OSHA believes protecting employees against heat hazards falls under that duty. It recently emphasized the importance of employers taking steps to reduce the risks that extreme heat poses to employees. OSHA has initiated a National Emphasis Program (NEP) on heat, which intensifies its efforts to address heat-related occupational hazards. The program particularly homes in on at-risk geographic areas and industries, including construction and agriculture.

Last year's extreme heat even prompted action from the White House. On July 27, 2023, President Joe Biden issued a statement noting that the U.S. Department of Labor will continue ramping up its crackdown on heat-related safety violations, including increasing inspections — both programmed and unprogrammed — in the high-risk industries mentioned above. Biden also specifically asked the DOL to issue its first-ever Hazard Alert for extreme heat. OSHA thereafter released this alert, which reminds employers of their "legal and moral responsibility" not to assign work in hot conditions without adequate protection for workers. The alert lists the following guidance to employers:

- Provide adequate water, rest breaks and shade or a cool rest area for employees.
- Give new or returning employees the chance to gradually acclimate to working in hot temperatures, train and plan for emergencies, and monitor for heat signs and symptoms.
- Train employees on heat illness prevention, signs of heat illness and how to act immediately if they or another employee appears to be suffering from a heat-related illness.

[Read More](#)

About The WVDOT

The goal of the DBE Supportive Services Program is to increase the number of DBEs participating on WVDOT 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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