

ARDOT Newsletter

March 2024



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Construction Management Program
- Business Development Program
- Capability Statement Design
- Business Plan Development
- Technical Assistance

U.S. Department of Transportation Announces \$1.25 billion in Direct, Accessible Grants for Local Communities to Improve Roadway Safety – Click on pic for more info



ARDOT to break ground on Greenwood Bypass

The public is invited to join members of the Arkansas Highway Commission, Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) officials, and local dignitaries at 11 a.m. Friday, March 1 in Greenwood for a ground-breaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of construction on the Greenwood Bypass.

The ground-breaking event will be held at the Greenwood Lodge, 311 E Ash St, Greenwood, AR 72936. Weather permitting, the event will be held on the lawn behind the lodge.

Phase one of the bypass will begin at the junction of Highway 96 and Highway 10 (East Center Street). The work includes repaving an existing portion of Highway 10 and adding approximately one mile of new location roadway south of Highway 10 toward South Coker Street. The project also includes building three new bridges and replacing two bridges. The new road will be five lanes, including a turning lane.

This \$57.8 million project was jointly awarded to Forsgren, Inc., Mobley Contractors, and Manhattan Road & Bridge. Work is scheduled to be completed in late 2026.

Emphasis on Infrastructure Creates New Opportunities, New Risks for Construction Professionals

With great opportunity for construction projects comes great responsibility for mitigating risk. Here's how to avoid increasing business costs and liabilities.

There is no shortage of opportunities or demand for construction professionals right now. The need for new housing is at an all-time high while established industrial and commercial property owners tackle long overdue upgrades to improve the efficiency and resiliency of current structures. At the same time, significant investments are being made by local and state municipalities and the federal government to improve the nation's aging infrastructure.

All of this has opened the door to plenty of long-term construction projects and a steady stream of work and revenue for contractors. Before jumping into new or more complex projects, construction professionals should ensure they are properly prepared and protected against emerging construction risks that could increase their business costs and liabilities.

EMBRACING INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATION
The Infrastructure Investment and JOBS Act, which was passed in 2021, allocates more than \$550 billion in federal funding to improve the country's roads and bridges, water infrastructure and overall resilience. According to official information about the IJA, the funding is being distributed in several ways, including: \$110 billion to rebuild and repair roads and bridges. \$11 billion in transportation safety programs, which includes grant money for communities to replace or rebuild gas pipelines.

\$39 billion to modernize transit, including repairing and upgrading aging transit infrastructure, and expanding transit services to new communities.

\$66 billion to address deferred rail maintenance.
\$7.5 billion to "build out the first-ever national network of EV [electric vehicle] chargers in the United States."
The private sector can capitalize on these infrastructure investments.

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About The ARDOT

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