

ARDOT Newsletter

November 2022



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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



Arkansas Officials Break Ground on I-49 Expansion in Barling

Thursday, Oct. 13, was a historic day many Arkansans have been looking forward to for a long time. Officials broke ground on the Interstate-49 extension from Barling to Alma. The Arkansas Department of Transportation (ARDOT) says it hopes the 13.6-mile extension will be done by the end of the decade.

"The real construction starts early 2024, so you figure roughly five to six years to build 13 miles of interstate is a tall task, but we can do it," said Dave Parker, public information officer for ARDOT.

Parker says the project is estimated to cost \$800 million as of right now, but almost half of the total cost will go towards building a bridge over the Arkansas River.

"That number will likely go up in the next five to six years due to inflation, supply costs and that sort of thing. But right now, the total project cost is \$800 million," Parker explained.

ARDOT says funding for this project is coming from the November 2020 Issue 1 money, which allows the permanent absence of sales tax and will fund most of this project. Issue 1 amended the state constitution to make a 0.5% sales tax permanent, authorized by Issue 1 of 2012, with revenue directed to state and local transportation, including highways, roads and bridges. The sales tax was temporarily authorized by voters in 2012 and is set to expire in 2023.

In the future, this project will boost the economy in the River Valley which will bring the region to new heights.

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ABC: Enhancing Inclusion Creates Needed Change in the Construction Industry

Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) today announced its strong support of the second annual Construction Inclusion Week, which kicks off today, and the need to champion and foster inclusion, diversity and equity throughout the construction industry.

Created by ABC members, Construction Inclusion Week harnesses the collective power of the construction industry to build awareness regarding the need to improve inclusion, diversity and equity in the industry.

“Building inclusive, diverse and equitable workplaces ensures job creators in the construction community offer a robust employee value proposition that is attractive to top talent from all communities,” said ABC Director of Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Tia Perry. “Recruiting and retaining the best workers in the marketplace will foster more creativity, win more work and deliver the greatest value to the construction user. ABC is proud to be an integral part of this important week.”

“Associated Builders and Contractors of New Jersey is proud to support Construction Inclusion Week and a more inclusive construction industry,” said Samantha DeAlmeida, president of ABC of New Jersey. “We’ve recently partnered with the African American Chamber of Commerce of New Jersey to bring our Apprenticeship Education & Training Fund, a U.S. Department of Labor-approved apprenticeship program, to underserved and low-income areas throughout New Jersey, where this type of upskilling program has not existed. By providing inclusive and equitable opportunities for well-paying jobs in these communities, our apprenticeship program helps achieve workforce equity while disrupting generational poverty.”

“One of the most important opportunities in front of us is ensuring that authentic and personal conversations happen in the field,” said Carolyn Ellison, managing director of community affairs at Clark Construction Group LLC and a member of ABC’s National Inclusion, Diversity and Equity Committee. “I’m proud that Clark Construction has placed increased focus on fostering engagement and personal connections with our craft workforce—both during CIW and beyond.”

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

(800) 423-7058

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