

ARDOT Newsletter

October 2022



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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



Highway Department Celebrating Achievements of 10-year-old Sales Tax

A “Tip of the CAP” event in El Dorado will celebrate highway improvements in Southern Arkansas made possible by the ½ cent sales tax revenue dedicated to road and bridge projects. In 2012, Arkansas voters approved a constitutional amendment that established a 10-year, half-cent sales tax to be used for road and bridge improvements. This resulted in the Connecting Arkansas Program (CAP). The CAP is one of the largest highway construction programs undertaken by the Arkansas Department of Transportation.

“Thanks to the support of the Arkansas State Legislature, governor and ultimately the approval by Arkansas voters, the last 10 years have generated \$1.8 billion, funding 31 projects and 200 miles of roadway and bridge improvements,” said ARDOT Director Lorie Tudor. “Those projects include some important highway improvements in Southern Arkansas. We are excited to showcase and to celebrate these projects and the progress that has been made in improving traveler safety and promoting Southern Arkansas’ job growth and economy.” This first “Tip of the CAP” will include celebrating completion of widening the Highway 167 Corridor between Little Rock and El Dorado. Other highway improvements in Southern Arkansas include widening portions of Highway 82 and Highway 425.

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Managing Supply Chain Disruptions in the Construction Industry

Strategies for overcoming snags & coming out on top

Seemingly relentless volatility and disruption driven by so many unexpected circumstances (COVID-19, labor shortages, geopolitical conflicts, war) have caused significant hardships for supply chains. This has been true for every industry, but few have been as broadly affected as the construction industry.

The strength of a construction supply chain heavily depends on other industries manufacturing, distribution and even retail-commerce that siphon critical products to contractors and developers. Any compromised link in that chain can hamper the industry, and, over the past few years, all those links have been weakened.

But, though today's specific circumstances are new to the world, supply chain disruptions themselves aren't. (Lindsay Moore of TechTarget lists 15 such "snafus," stretching from 1973 to today.) For construction businesses to stay afloat and remain competitive in the current global market, they must learn the steps necessary for managing supply chain disruptions. We'll talk about a few of those steps today.

Assess Vulnerabilities

Construction supply chains are naturally complex, and the operating principles that worked in the pre-COVID-19 marketplace may not be as successful today. So, to make future-focused problem-solving decisions, construction firms should step back and revisit the basics of their businesses to find and address vulnerabilities.

Begin this assessment by asking yourself four main questions.

- Where in your supply chain are disruptions occurring?
- Which suppliers are you relying on?
- How "healthy" do those suppliers seem to be?
- How is your budget holding up under the prices of the raw materials and labor you've been choosing?

The answers to these questions will help you pinpoint vulnerabilities in your construction supply chain — from suppliers who have run short on inventory to exorbitantly priced raw materials. But, once you've found these weakened links, how should you go about fixing them?

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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