

FDOT Newsletter

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Volume 99



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

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Governor DeSantis' Focus on Florida's Future Budget Reduces Congestion, Supports Economic Competitiveness, and Preserves Floridians' Quality of Life

While many states heavily depend on federal funding to improve their transportation systems, only 24% of Florida's transportation budget is funded through federal sources.

This week, Governor Ron DeSantis signed the *Focus on Florida's Future Budget* for Fiscal Year 2024-2025, investing a record **\$15.5 billion** in Florida's transportation infrastructure. This record investment is in addition to the Department's recent announcement receiving all remaining financial authority to deliver on the [Governor's Moving Florida Forward Initiative](#), an effort to advance key congestion relief projects across the state. "Governor DeSantis' unwavering commitment to Florida families is reflected in his historic investments in Florida's transportation infrastructure—prioritizing projects that reduce congestion and travel times for Florida commuters," said **Department of Transportation Secretary Jared W. Perdue, P.E.** "The Focus on Florida's Future Budget equips the Department with funds to significantly increase our economic competitiveness and preserve Floridians' quality of life. I extend my heartfelt thanks to Governor DeSantis and the Florida Legislature for their unwavering support."

As signed by the Governor, the Focus on Florida's Future Budget provides **\$14.5 billion** for the State Transportation Work Program, Florida's ongoing five-year transportation infrastructure plan. This year's investment supports 946 current and upcoming construction projects, and other infrastructure priorities including:

- **\$5.2 billion** for highway maintenance and construction, adding **140** new lane miles.

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ICYMI: Highlights from NIBS' Building Innovation Conference 2024

CE reports from the National Institute of Building Sciences' Building Innovation Conference 2024, where industry experts answered questions on sustainability, diversity and inclusion, technology and more.

The National Institute of Building Sciences' [Building Innovation Conference 2024](#), held in Washington, D.C., from May 22-24, offered attendees insights on incoming shifts within the industry with hard-hitting declarations from experts who broke down what the future of the built environment holds. Chief among the discussion topics were the supply chain, workforce diversification and social equity, and climate adaptation and mitigation. Here are key takeaways and quotable moments from the opening general session, which presented "A Look Ahead: The Next 50 Years of the Built Environment":

Diversity and inclusion have been hot-button issues for some time, with many advances in the last several years in terms of women's visibility and opportunity for advancement. However, panelists still noted room for improvement regarding how women are perceived within the construction industry.

- "Change often happens when something makes you angry." — Mónica Serrano, Resilience Program Manager, Turner Construction; Co-Host, "Adapt: Climate Change and the Built Environment" podcast
- "The men that I work with are intimidated by me. Why is that a problem in 2024? They don't know how to speak to me, and I'm training men how to have soft skills when interacting with other women. It doesn't really make me angry. It makes me sad, and of course, you get angry because you want to fix it. There are women out there [in the construction industry] who are very knowledgeable. They're bringing a different dynamic." — Christi Powell, Women Business Enterprise Manager, 84 Lumber

The supply chain will continue to be a challenge over the next five decades, both for suppliers themselves and for the contractors who rely on them.

"The capacity to either sink or swim for suppliers lies in their ability to change rapidly. This adoption is also fueled by suppliers prioritizing building a relationship or partnership with customers and having detailed table conversations on how they can fulfill needs." — Amy Marks, Executive Vice President, Global Strategy, Symetri.

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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.

Click below for more details



CEI DBE Supportive Services
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