

Good morning from the Sunshine State! Welcome to the symposium from FDOT.

This last year was certainly a testament to **innovation**. Due to the Pandemic, like everyone else, we had to get creative! Some of the highlights at FDOT are:

- The Construction Management Development & Bond Guarantee Program (CMDP), is administered through our supportive services provider, Construction Estimating Institute, or CEI. CEI quickly adapted to a fully virtual platform replacing the four day in person classes. The results were outstanding with over one hundred **thirty (130) firms graduating**. We have found businesses are excited to be able to continue to learn and interact during these difficult times and anticipate future classes to be a combination of live and virtual platforms for the most accessible learning experience.
- CEI and FDOT also hosted the second annual DBE Matchmaking event, the Winter Expo. While highly attended **in person last year**, this year we were pleased to receive over **350** registrations for a virtual event. In sum, we concluded over **204** DBE matches were made.
- Our **mentor-protégé program**, or Bridging the Gap, has also continued to grow via our other supportive services team, The Council. Participating businesses in bridging the gap completed a 14-month long program. Seven (7) primes and DBEs were matched to help DBEs build capacity and grow operationally.
- Also unique to FDOT is our **Specialized Development Program (SDP)** which is designed to focus on larger projects in excess of \$50 Million. This program is also administered through supportive services provider, The Council. In this, The Council works directly prime contractors to foster DBE participation on these large-scale projects. One of the larger more recent projects they are working on is the Howard Franklin Bridge in Tampa Florida with the project at approximately \$865 Million so we hope to see many DBEs on this project.
- FDOTs small business element is the **Business Development Initiative (BDI)**. The BDI program reserves projects under \$1.5 Million for certified small businesses. Although we are not quite through this **state** fiscal year, approximately \$50 Million in projects has already been reserved for small businesses.
- FDOTs DBE program continues to grow with over \$333 Million in FDOT projects committed to DBEs last federal fiscal year. There are over 4,000 DBEs certified within the Florida UCP. As we continue to foster innovation, we have moved to an online DBE application and a GIS map locator within our DBE Directory that provides a map-centric functionality to locate DBEs.
- Lastly, as an effort for our diversity, equity and inclusion efforts, we are working on a agency diversity dashboard to put focus where we need to as an agency.