

GDOT Newsletter

February 2024
Volume 92



SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Estimating Training
- Building Capacity
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First CM/GC Contract Awarded for the US 17 / SR 404 Spur Bridge Major Maintenance Project

Savannah, GA – The Georgia Department of Transportation (Georgia DOT) awarded its first Construction Management/General Contractor (CM/GC) contract to Kiewit Infrastructure South Co. for the US 17/SR 404 Spur Bridge Major Maintenance Project (PI No. 0019219) that will replace the existing bridge’s cables, bearings, and joints. In addition to the structural enhancements to this cable stayed bridge spanning the Savannah River, the contractor will explore shortening the cables to raise the profile for additional vertical/navigational clearance for ships accessing the Port of Savannah’s terminals directly upstream.

Leading up to the award, the Department used a best-value procurement method, which evaluates both price and technical proposals for this new, innovative CM/GC delivery method. This is Georgia DOT’s first use of the CM/GC approach and highlights Georgia’s continued efforts in alternative contracting methods and nontraditional project delivery to advance much-needed transportation projects.

“Our first CM/GC procurement was successful, with three finalist teams and a competitive process leading to an extremely strong team selected for this first-of-its-kind project,” said Georgia DOT’s P3 Construction Program Manager, Andrew Hoenig P.E., DBIA. “We are very pleased with the outcome and our industry partners who continue to provide exceptional value to the Department to move this critical project forward for the traveling public.”

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OSHA Is Not Backing Down

Even if you did not directly experience last summer's heat, you probably read or heard about it. Historically high temperatures scorched the country from coast to coast, and there are no signs that this heat will abate anytime soon. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, 436 people have died due to workplace heat exposure since 2011. In the same time period, there were an additional 2,700 cases of heat-related illnesses among workers. Now — quite literally more than ever — it is critical for employers to take steps to ensure their workers are protected from extreme heat.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) does not provide a standard specific to this issue. However, OSHA's General Duty Clause requires all employers to provide a safe workplace for employees, and OSHA believes protecting employees against heat hazards falls under that duty. It recently emphasized the importance of employers taking steps to reduce the risks that extreme heat poses to employees. OSHA has initiated a National Emphasis Program (NEP) on heat, which intensifies its efforts to address heat-related occupational hazards. The program particularly homes in on at-risk geographic areas and industries, including construction and agriculture. Last year's extreme heat even prompted action from the White House. On July 27, 2023, President Joe Biden issued a statement noting that the U.S. Department of Labor will continue ramping up its crackdown on heat-related safety violations, including increasing inspections — both programmed and unprogrammed — in the high-risk industries mentioned above. Biden also specifically asked the DOL to issue its first-ever Hazard Alert for extreme heat. OSHA thereafter released this alert, which reminds employers of their "legal and moral responsibility" not to assign work in hot conditions without adequate protection for workers. The alert lists the following guidance to employers:

- Provide adequate water, rest breaks and shade or a cool rest area for employees.
- Give new or returning employees the chance to gradually acclimate to working in hot temperatures, train and plan for emergencies, and monitor for heat signs and symptoms.
- Train employees on heat illness prevention, signs of heat illness and how to act immediately if they or another employee appears to be suffering from a heat-related illness.

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About The GDOT

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

Macon DBE Networking Event Feb. 15th 11am- 2pm

[Click picture for more details](#)



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