



Economic Development: People or Places?

By Aaron M. Renn

There's a raging debate about whether the focus of our economic development efforts should be on people or on places. That is, should we make investments in people, hoping to see them succeed regardless of where they end up? Or should we focus on investments in particular cities, towns, and rural areas in order to bring jobs and growth, thus helping the people who live there?

Many in the know think that the focus should be on people. Rather than trying to resurrect struggling locales with various speculative endeavors, they think we should invest more in things like education. I myself have critiqued the place-based economic development strategy of trying to stop the so-called brain drain.

Most local government leaders, however, seem uninterested in people-based strategies, at least insofar as they are seen as ingredients in economic development. These leaders tend to prefer place-based approaches such as stadiums, casinos, and convention center projects that so often are panned

as boondoggles. Even if this may be less than ideal from a theoretical perspective, it is understandable. After all, localities are inherently place-based entities. One thing that makes a local government distinct from a corporation or other organization is its status as a territorial entity. Cities and towns can expand, but it's rare that they ever get rid of territory once they've acquired and incorporated it.

A city's territory is much more tightly bound to it than its citizens are. People can move. They can choose to affiliate themselves with another town. But cities cannot exchange one geography for another.

This produces some bad incentives. For example, the fiscal liabilities of a locality attach to its territory, not to its citizens. So voters have every incentive to pull the lever for politicians who will minimize costs in the present at the expense of the future. Politicians can sign bad union deals with future pension promises that are hard to fulfill. They can go into debt to spend money now.

But the citizens who voted for those politicians can then simply move to another town, often to



a suburb (or a different suburb) within the same region, to avoid paying off those debts. In many cases, they don't even need to change jobs. It's like being able to run up big debts on a credit card in someone else's name. If cities were people-based

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Sub-Bid Requests

Railroad Construction Company, Inc.
Contractors - Engineers
 Est. 1926

NYCT Furnishing and Installing Flood Protection Devices
Contract A-37612
at Various NYCT Facilities in the Borough of Manhattan

Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is preparing a bid proposal for NYCT to furnish and install various flood resistant doors, conduits and duct seals at critical rooms and manholes, stop logs/removable flood barriers and deployable flood protection devices at eight locations in the borough of Manhattan.

Bid Date: **April 8, 2016** **DBE Participation Goal:** **17%**

Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is seeking vendors, suppliers and subcontractors in the following categories:

- Aluminum Work
- Concrete & Concrete Reinforcement
- CPM Scheduling
- Drain and Vent Covers
- Electrical
- Fillers, Gaskets, Sealants and Caulking
- Fire Stopping
- Flood Related Specialty Items
- Glass and Glazing
- GROUTS
- Hand Rails
- Hardware
- Hazardous Material Removals
- Maintenance and Protection of Traffic
- Masonry
- Material Testing
- Misc. Metals
- Office Supplies
- Painting
- Progress Photos
- Rodent Control
- Security/Communications
- Tile - Ceramic, Granite, Mosaic
- Trucking
- Watertight Doors
- Watertight Marine Doors

For more information please contact
 Dale Errico at 973-413-1832 or DaleE@rcmail.net.
 Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is an EEO/AA Employer.

SKANSKA
 SKANSKA USA CIVIL
 IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS
 FROM NEW YORK STATE CERTIFIED MWBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS

Double-Track Ronkonkoma Branch Phase II Project
MTA Long Island Railroad Contract No: 6229
Bid Date: March 31, 2016

Description of project:
 Design and construct 7.9 miles of trackbed and earthworks as required to establish and meet design grades for the proposed second track between LIRR Farmingdale Station and Central Islip Station, construction approximate 2 miles of temporary and permanent earth retaining structures, modification of a pedestrian underpass, modifications of eight (8) grade crossings to accommodate the second track construction and relocation of municipal utilities as required, Procure and deliver turnout and crossover materials as defined by the contract documents.

Subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to:
 Site Clearing and Grubbing, Demolition, Landscaping, Geotech Instrumentation, Trucking, Haul and Dispose, Fencing, Milling, Pavement Striping, Sidewalk and Curbs, Asphalt Paving, Precast Modular Wall, Precast Soldier Pile and Lagging Wall, Painting, Ready-Mix Concrete, Rebar Material, Fills and Stone Materials, Miscellaneous Metals, Photographer, CPM Consultant, Surveyors, Field Trailers, Janitorial Service, Inspections and Lab Testing, Dumpsters, Traffic Lights and Signals, and more.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com

Railroad Construction Company, Inc.
Contractors - Engineers
 Est. 1926

LIRR - PN - TU - Jamaica Capacity Improvements Phase I
Contract #6185

Joint venture partners Railroad Construction Co. and Citnalta Construction Corp. are bidding this Long Island Railroad project consisting of various improvements to the Jamaica Station. Work will include a full platform replacement and substructure rehabilitation, installation of elevators, escalators and street-to-platform aluminum stairs, construction of platform level waiting rooms, translucent canopy roof system and drainage, installation of lighted signage and upgraded electrical service.

Bid Date: **April 29, 2016** **DBE Participation Goal:** **17%**
 We invite all DBE's to contact us at 973-413-1832.

Railroad / Citnalta - A Joint Venture is seeking subcontractors in the following categories:

- Acoustical Insulation
- Abatement
- Aggregates
- Architectural Finishes
- CCTV System
- Construction Materials
- Construction Photography
- Contaminated Waste Disposal
- Demolition
- Doors & Hardware
- Electrical
- Engineering
- Environmental Consulting
- Escalator / Elevator
- Fencing
- Fire Suppression / Extinguishers
- Glass / Glazing / Storefront
- HVAC
- Infrastructure
- Janitorial Services
- Lath & Plaster
- Louvers
- Masonry
- Materials Testing & Inspection
- Metal Wall Panels
- Office Facilities & Supplies
- Painting & Coating
- Pest Control
- Precast Concrete
- Railings
- Restoration
- Roofing
- Sealants / Waterproofing
- Shotcrete
- Site Security
- Structural Concrete & Reinforcement
- Structural Steel & Misc. Metals
- Survey
- Tile / Terrazzo
- Toilet Accessories
- Track
- Traffic Control
- Trucking
- Utilities
- Welding

For more information please contact
 Dale Errico at 973-413-1832 or DaleE@rcmail.net
 Catherine Best at 973-413-1911 or CatherineB@rcmail.net
 Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is an EEO/AA Employer

Kiewit - Weeks - Massman
KWM
 Goethals Bridge Replacement

GOETHALS BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION DBE OPPORTUNITIES

The Goethals Bridge Replacement Project is a design-build project for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. The project will replace the existing Goethals Bridge which spans the Arthur Kill on I-278 connecting Elizabeth, New Jersey, and Staten Island, New York. To find out more information about the Project or the Prime Contractor, and to fill out a Contractor's Questionnaire, please visit www.goethals-kwm.com and click on the Partnering tab or call 908-409-4400.

PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

- Shear Stud Installation
- Miscellaneous Metals Fabrication/ Supplier
- Concrete, Curb, and Gutter Flatwork
- Carpenter Form Fabrication
- Air Monitoring
- Horizontal Drilling
- Anti-Climb Fence on New Bridge Shared Use Path
- Sandblasting Services
- Rail Bridge Track Work
- Abatement (PCB, Lead Based Paint, Asbestos)
- Deck Grooving
- Miscellaneous Electrical

MWDBE BONDING, LINES OF CREDIT, AND INSURANCE ASSISTANCE

For assistance in obtaining bonds, lines of credit, and/or insurance for this project, please visit our website or contact KWMdivcontracting@kwmjv.com for more information.

Project Office: 137 Bayway Avenue • Elizabeth, NJ 07202 • KWMdivcontracting@kwmjv.com • 908-409-4400
 Kiewit-Weeks-Massman, AJV is an Equal Opportunity Employer

Railroad Construction Company, Inc.
Contractors - Engineers
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LIRR Double Track Ronkonkoma Branch Phase II
Contract #6229

This Long Island Rail Road Design Build project is being developed to provide a new track bed parallel to the existing single track for 13 miles between Farmingdale and Central Islip.

Bid Date: March 31, 2016
MWBE Participation Goals
WBE: 15% MBE: 15%
 We invite all MWBE's to contact us at 973-413-1911.

Railroad Construction Company, Inc. is seeking subcontractors in the following categories:

- Clearing of vegetation
- Construction of precast modular and soldier pile retaining walls
- Placement of sub-ballast layer
- Right-of-way permanent fencing
- Tandem truck hauling services
- Ready-mix concrete
- Street sweeping
- Aggregate
- Survey
- CPM schedule
- Cleaning

For more information please contact
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 Catherine Best at 973-413-1911 or CatherineB@rcmail.net
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Moynihan Phase II Project
Moynihan Station Development Corporation, New York
Bid Date: April 22, 2016

Description of project:
 Rehab and develop the existing Farley Post Office and Annex Building into what will become in part the new Empire Station. This will include a new Train Hall with retail, commercial, and private development spaces. The total amount of space which will be developed is approximately 1.3M GSF. All new aspects of civil, structural, architectural, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, elevators, and escalators will be incorporated. Demolition is required for existing structural and architectural elements, along with removal of asbestos, lead paint, mercury bulbs, and ballast. Historic restoration of the entire exterior of the Farley Building and Annex is included.

Many subcontracting opportunities are available. Please reach out to us with your company specialty!

Skanska Outreach Coordinator
 Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com

Kennedy Valve in Elmira, New York is seeking a WBE/MBE freight service provider to transport iron gate valves from home warehouse to California destinations.

If you are a **certified WBE/MBE freight service provider** and interested in this business, please call **607-873-9402**.

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