

2018 Construction Industry Economic Outlook

By Kendall Jones, ConstructConnect

As we head out of the final month of 2017, we're going to take a look at how the construction industry has fared this year and what we can expect for 2018. These forecasts were presented in the *2018 Construction and Design Outlook: Cheery or Dreary?* webcast presented by ConstructConnect, Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), and the American Institute of Architects (AIA).

In addition to looking at what economists Alex Carrick, ConstructConnect; Kermit Baker, AIA; and Ken Simonson, AGC, have to say about the outlook for 2018, we'll also take a look at some of the obstacles and opportunities the construction industry will face next year in the form of possible tax reforms and labor shortages.

2017 Construction Starts and Spending Forecast

While 2017 is shaping up to be a great year for construction, we aren't going to be seeing the type of year-over-year growth in starts and spending we've had over the past couple of years.

In 2016, total construction spending increased 6.5 percent from the previous year according to data from the US Census Bureau. In 2014, construction spending was up nearly 11 percent and in 2015 it increased 10.7 percent.

Ken Simonson with the AGC is forecasting a moderate increase of 3 percent to 5 percent for construction spending in 2017. This is being led by a 7 percent to 9 percent increase in private residential construction spending. Construction spending is being hurt by public spending which Simonson expects to decrease by 4 percent to 6 percent in 2017.

The AIA's Consensus Construction Forecast Panel has construction spending on nonresidential buildings increasing 3.8 percent. Commercial construction spending is expected to see an 8.8 percent increase for the year, while industrial construction spending is going to see a year-over-year decrease of 6.6 percent.

Construction spending through the first nine months of 2017 totaled \$917.0 billion, a 4.3 percent increase over the same period in 2016. Unless something crazy happens during this last quarter, the



forecast from the experts should be right on target. ConstructConnect's construction starts increased 13.2 percent from 2015 to 2016. Construction starts saw a 13.6 percent increase in 2015. ConstructConnect's forecast for construction starts in 2017 is a 7.9 percent

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM M/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS
Enhanced Station Improvements Package 8
MTA NYCT Contract No. A-36622E
Bid Date: January 3, 2018

Description of project:
The work to be performed under this contract consists of station component repairs at:
174-175 Streets Station, The Bronx (Concourse Line, IND)
167 Street Station, The Bronx (Concourse Line, IND)
145 Street Station, Manhattan (Lenox Avenue Line, IRT)

Many bidding opportunities available.

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

SKANSKA KOCH INC.

IS SOLICITING BIDS FROM M/WBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS CERTIFIED WITH NEW YORK CITY SMALL BUSINESS SERVICES
Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge Replacement of Upper Roadways
NYCDOT Contract No: BRC231F
Bid Date: January 19, 2018

Subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to Asphalt, Barrier, Bearings, CPM Scheduling, Demolition, Drainage, Electrical, Expansion Joints, Fencing, Field Trailer, Fuel, Haul and Dispose, Highway Lighting, Miscellaneous Metals, MPT, Painting, Paving, Railings, Rebar, Sandblasting, Saw Cutting, Sealing, Signs, Striping, Structural Steel, Surveying, Testing, and Trucking. Please see contract documents for further opportunities.

Interested firms please contact john.papagiannakis@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

American Bridge

American Bridge Company is preparing a bid on the following project:
Ed Koch Queensboro Bridge Upper Roadway Replacement
New York Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) Contract No: BRC231F
Bid Date: January 19, 2018

The bid submittal is scheduled for January 19, 2018. We hereby request that you submit your quotation to us January 10, 2018, on the items of work or materials that your company can supply or perform. We encourage participation of all certified MBE and WBE firms. Please email your quotation to estimating@americanbridge.net, brosado@americanbridge.net, or submit through SmartBid software with the credentials provided.

The project's general scope of work includes the reconstruction of the upper roadways with orthotropic deck, access and protection shielding under the upper roadway, new sub floorbeams, new stringers, new cross beams, new modular deck joints, new steel traffic median barriers, new scuppers and drainage modifications, new fire standpipe, new underdeck lighting, structural steel repairs, milling of existing roadways, and paving overfill with Rosphalt along the approaches. Available subcontracting and material supply opportunities for the project include, but are not limited to:

Armored Joints Supply	Impact Attenuator Installation	Pavement Markings Subcontractor
Asphalt Subcontractor	Lead Abatement Subcontractor	Safety Supplies
Bridge Electrical Subcontractor	MPT Supplies	Sawcutting Subcontractor
Concrete Ready Mix Supply	Milling and Paving Subcontractor	Scuppers Supply
CPM Scheduling Services	Miscellaneous Metals Supply	Steel Safety Shaped Barrier
Downspout Cleaning Subcontractor	Modular Expansion Joints Supply	Structural Steel Supply
Ductile Iron Downspouts	Noise Barrier/Absorber	Surveying Subcontractor
Elastomeric Bearings Supply	Office Supplies	Temporary Concrete Barrier Supply
Electrical Subcontractor	Office Trailers	Temporary Protective Shielding
Fire Standpipe Subcontractor	On-Site Tow Truck Service	Traffic Signs
Gantry Crane	Orthotropic Steel Deck Supply	Trucking Service
Graffiti Removal Subcontractor	Overhead Signs	Variable Message Signs
Hydro-Demolition	Painting Subcontractor	Waterproofing Subcontractor

American Bridge Company is interested in receiving quotes from all subcontractors, suppliers, and brokers that are bidding or are interested in quoting this project, especially from Minority- and Woman-Owned Business Enterprises (MBE and WBE) that are certified under the NYS Unified Certification Program. The NYCDOT M/WBE Utilization goal is 15 percent for this project.

Your quote must conform to all requirements of the bid documents, including but not limited to the plans, general provisions, special provisions, specifications, and contract for construction from the owner (including addenda thereto) and be in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws. In the event that your firm is awarded the project by American Bridge Company, you will be required to execute our standard subcontract or material supply agreement. Subcontractors will be required to furnish a conforming certificate of insurance along with payment and performance bonds before entering into a subcontract, the cost of which should be included in your quotation. Please be aware that if your proposed scope of work includes work over a navigable waterway of the United States, you will also be required to provide Jones Act and/or United States Longshoreman and Harbor Workers Act coverage as applicable to your scope of activities.

Should you require assistance or additional information concerning the above project, please contact Brandon Rosado at 201-592-1217.

American Bridge Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS CERTIFIED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
Coney Island Yard Complex Long Term Flood Mitigation
MTA NYCT Contract No. C-34836
Bid Date: January 24, 2018

Description of project:
Creation of a 12,000 LF flood protection wall (sheet piles, micropiles, jetgrout, and concrete), new drainage, upgraded pump stations, new drainage outfalls into Coney Island Creek, flood gates, vehicular gates, bridge hardening, and upgrades around the 100-acre NYCT Coney Island Yard Facilities in Brooklyn, New York; creation of a cable bridge across all three yards; communications, signal, and power work throughout all three yards, including new ductbanks and manholes; emergency alarm and telephone; trackwork in affected areas of construction; structural repairs to the historic Traction Motor Shop including upgrade to the exterior building wall.

Many bidding opportunities available.

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

SKANSKA CIVIL NORTHEAST

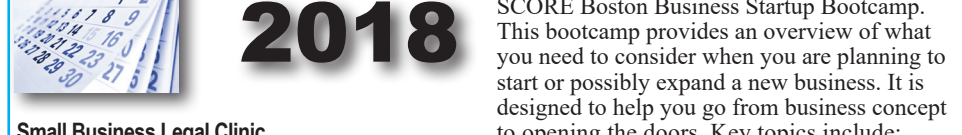
IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS CERTIFIED WITH THE NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED CERTIFICATION PROGRAM
Long Island City Yard Restoration and Resiliency Construction
MTA LIRR Contract No. 6197
Bid Date: December 2017

Description of project:
The scope of work includes the reconstruction of Tracks 9-12 including the restoration of third rail systems; switch replacements; construction of car cleaning platforms; underground utility work (drainage, domestic water piping, and electrical traction duct banks); raise track profiles; traction and wayside power systems work; removal of petroleum contaminated soil. In addition, the work includes properly staging the work and minimizing impacts to operations. Early construction to support restoration and mitigation will also be part of the successful bidder's work, including the installation of third rail systems on tracks 7 and 8 (enhancing system resiliency) and including a fuel safety interlock.

Many bidding opportunities available.

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

NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS



Small Business Legal Clinic
Tuesday, January 9, 2018, 5:30 pm-8:00 pm
Business and Career Center, Brooklyn Public Library, 10 Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, NY
Main Sponsor(s): Brooklyn Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
Contact: Miriam Colon, 718-797-4938, mcolon@citytech.cuny.edu
Fee: Free; registration required
This is a one-on-one half-hour free consultation with pro-bono attorneys who are part of the City Bar Justice Center Neighborhood Entrepreneur Law Project. Registration is required as seating is limited to sixteen registrants. Language assistance services are available for limited English proficient individuals. Special arrangements for persons with disabilities can be made by calling the SBDC at least two weeks in advance. The New York SBDC provides customized solutions through advisement, education, research, and advocacy for entrepreneurs, innovators and the small and medium enterprise community.

Get your business off to a flying start with the SCORE Boston Business Startup Bootcamp. This bootcamp provides an overview of what you need to consider when you are planning to start or possibly expand a new business. It is designed to help you go from business concept to opening the doors. Key topics include: Entrepreneurship—is it for you? Is your business concept reasonable? What is a business plan? How to decide if you need one? Other key items include building your financial plan and options for financing your business. Hear some answers to key questions about finding customers, how you'll market your business to get sales, what business structure you should select, and what advisors you may need. Other resources will also be available to you at the bootcamp.

Business Startup Bootcamp
Thursday, January 18, 2018, 8:45 am-3:00 pm
Tip O'Neil Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street, Boston, MA
Main Sponsor(s): Small Business Administration, SCORE Boston
Contact: Shankar Hegde, 617-565-5591, shegde2@gmail.com
Fee: Free; registration required

SEO Tips, Tricks, and Truths to Getting Found Online
Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 7:00 pm-9:00 pm
Bergen County Administration Building, One Bergen County Plaza, Room 460, Hackensack, NJ
Main Sponsor(s): SCORE Northeast NJ
Contact: Shashi Gupta, 201-694-2821, contact.northeastnj@scorevolunteer.org
Fee: Free; registration required
Getting your business found online organically can be a challenge. In this workshop, the presenter will discuss best practice tips, research tricks, and truths about getting your brand found online. Attendees will get handouts and activities to help them develop their search engine optimization plan. For more information, visit northeastnj.score.org/localworkshops.
Non-profit organization dedicated to helping emerging and existing small businesses maximize their potential for success.