



Construction Business During COVID-19

By Holly Welles

The COVID-19 pandemic has rocked many industries to their very core. Lockdowns, quarantine, social distancing, and other health-protecting procedures keep the virus from spreading, but they also create numerous challenges for businesses trying to navigate this new normal. What contract issues are construction industries facing, and how can they make their way over this hurdle?

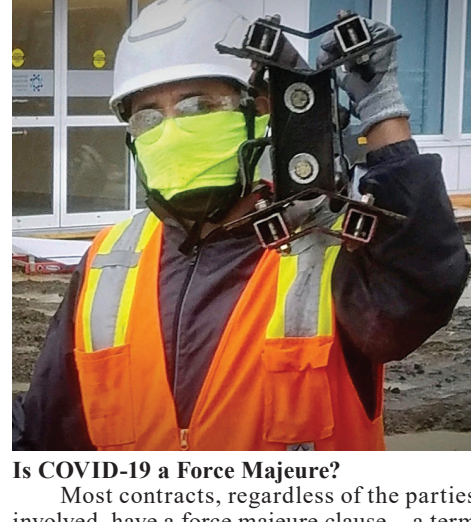
Essential or Nonessential?
 One significant roadblock that construction companies face right now is the broad and ever-changing definition of essential, at least as it pertains to the pandemic. In some states, regulators deem construction essential and allow organizations to continue their work while making concessions for procedures like social distancing, mask-wearing, and disinfecting tools and commonly touched surfaces.

Other municipalities have placed stricter guidelines on work, even as workplaces begin

cautiously reopening. In states where construction is nonessential, it becomes difficult or even impossible for businesses to meet deadlines, complete projects, and fulfill contracts. In some circles, this situation leads to contract disputes that are harder to resolve due to the viral pandemic.

Impacts on the Supply Chain
 Even in states where construction is an essential industry, companies are struggling to keep up with the growing demand, primarily because of the impact the crisis is having on global supply chains. Even if construction companies can operate, the factories and suppliers that keep them running might have closed their doors—in some cases, permanently.

These circumstances have led many business owners to try and break their contracts with suppliers, exiting the agreement to free up funds for other projects or to keep their crew paid. While the pandemic will eventually end, there is currently not enough information to allow companies to predict when that might happen, so everyone is navigating this blindly.



Is COVID-19 a Force Majeure?
 Most contracts, regardless of the parties involved, have a force majeure clause—a term that means “superior or irresistible force” in French—that allows one or both parties to exit

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM PANYNJ MWBE AND SDVOB AND LOCAL SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS FOR: JFK Airport Bergen Electrical Substation Project
 PANYNJ RFP No: 60765
 Bid Date: July 27, 2020

Description of Project:
 The Bergen Substation Replacement Project (“project”) will replace the existing Bergen and Van Wyck 5-kilovolt (5KV) electrical substations at John F. Kennedy International Airport with a new, single Bergen 5KV Substation. The Bergen Substation is a critical component of the electrical power distribution system at JFK and assists in supplying power to JFK airside-landside facilities and associated supporting infrastructure. The project also includes the decommissioning and demolition of the existing Bergen and Van Wyck substations following commissioning of the new, replacement facility.

The project for the new Bergen Substation will include the design and construction of a new, single substation that would replace the existing Bergen and Van Wyck substations. The scope of work for the project will include new switchgears, feeders, associated electrical equipment, and a new concrete building to house the substation equipment and associated building systems. Decommissioning, demolition, and site restoration at the existing Bergen and Van Wyck substation sites is also included in the scope of services.

Many bidding opportunities are available: furnish and install rebar, ready-mix concrete supply, masonry, structural steel, miscellaneous metals, waterproofing, building insulation, metal wall paneling, roofing, green roofing, fire proofing, doors, overhead cooling doors, windows, glazing, gypsum board, ceramic tiling, painting, sprinklers, plumbing, HVAC, piles/micropiles, pavement milling, sawcutting, asphalt concrete paving, mpt materials, fill material, line striping, fencing, landscaping, drainage piping, manholes, electrical, electrical materials and equipment, photography, portable toilets, dumpsters, office trailers, soil borings, soil testing, commissioning.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM PANYNJ CERTIFIED M/WBE AND SDVOB SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

PATH Exchange Place Station 9 Car Program, West Corridor Project
 PANYNJ Contract No: PAT-024.233
 Bid Date: July 16, 2020

Description of project:
 A general description of the project includes the following:
 Generally excavation of cross corridor passage, including installation of structural supports, architectural finishes, and mechanical and electrical appurtenances and related work at PATH Exchange Place Station and the vicinity thereof, Jersey City, New Jersey.

Many bidding opportunities are available.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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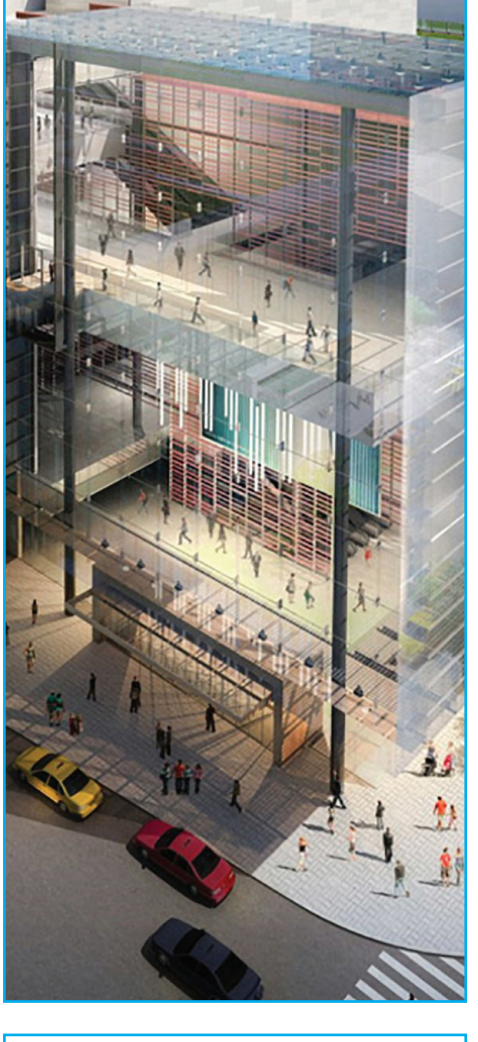
IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM DBE AND SBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS FOR:

Amtrak Washington Terminal Yard HSR Ready Track Expansion Project, Washington, DC
 Amtrak Contract
 Bid Date: July 16, 2020

Description of Project:
 Overall, the project includes four (4) new tracks within the service yard (3 electrified and 1 non-electrified) to support the needs of the Acela 21 program. Amtrak Forces will complete the installation of all track work (approximately 5,000 LF of new track), including installation of seven (7) new turnouts. Additionally, the catenary wire work will be completed by Amtrak Forces (approximately 7,250 LF of new messenger and contact wire), including installation of 21 catenary poles. The work by the contractor includes new underground duct bank and site utility installation necessary for the new work, including complete installation of five (5) new high mast light poles with associated wiring and foundations, complete installation of 21 new catenary foundations, as well as fabrication and delivery of the 21 catenary poles, as well as upgrades to electric service to support new 480V wayside power.

Many bidding opportunities are available: miscellaneous metals, structural steel, caissons, fencing, survey, saw cutting, selective demolition, trucking, haul and disposal, concrete reinforcing steel, electrical, CPM scheduling.

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM DBE AND SBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS FOR:

Amtrak Baltimore Penn Station NGRHSR Station Renovations Project, Baltimore
 Amtrak Contract
 Bid Date: July 24, 2020

Description of Project:
 This station is Amtrak's eighth busiest station nationally with approximately three million passengers per year utilizing approximately 150 Amtrak intercity and Maryland Transit Administrations MARC commuter trains each day. Ridership is forecast to increase significantly at this principal station along the Northeast Corridor. To accommodate this increase, Amtrak plans to introduce its high-speed train (HST) fleet to increase the train frequency along the corridor. MARC also plans to increase the frequency of its service to correspond to its commuter passenger increasing volume.

The project also includes other significant improvements such as:

- Reconstruction of a side level boarding platform (48” above top of rail). Platform 2 reconstruction will bring the architectural elements back to their original beauty while making the functional and ADA-compliant enhancements of a side boarding with an elevator, an escalator, and refurbished stairs.
- Construction of a new Platform 5, which will be approximately 1,000 feet long and constructed with precast concrete planks.
- A new canopy including lighting, signage, drain leaders, electrical outlets, video surveillance cameras, and passenger information display systems (PIDS) which include audio-visual messaging and speakers.
- A new pedestrian bridge will extend from the Concourse elevator lobby, over Tracks 7 and F.

Many bidding opportunities are available: demolition, drilled piers, micropiles, structural steel, miscellaneous metals, precast concrete, roofing, skylights, curtainwall, wall panels, gypsum board, masonry, paint, tile, terrazzo, tactile warning surfaces, elevator, escalator, HVAC, fire protection, plumbing, electrical, signage, sitework, fencing, landscaping.

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM DBE AND SBE SUBCONTRACTORS/VENDORS FOR:

Amtrak Emergency Service Building Relocation Project, Manhattan
 Amtrak Contract
 Bid Date: July 28, 2020

Description of Project:
 The Emergency Services Building (ESB) project (the Project) consists of the construction within the secured site of the LIRR West Side Storage Yard (West Rail Yard) of a new electrical substation, emergency generator, and control panel within a fenced area as a temporary replacement for the ESB while it is demolished in favor of a new substation that is not a part of this contract, and moving an existing SCADA cabinet to a location adjacent to the aforesaid fenced area. This equipment will be located near the northwest corner of 11th Avenue and West 30th Street, north of the High Line structure. The Project also includes communications and electrical raceways, boxes, and cables related to the foregoing; fire alarm work related to the foregoing, a new water meter vault, and related civil work, all between the existing LIRR Access Road and West 30th Street.

Many bidding opportunities are available: Pipe materials, ready-mix concrete, rebar fabrication, rebar installation, erosion control materials, chain link fence, fill material, haul and disposal, structural steel, metal deck, and miscellaneous metals.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Julia.Omanoff@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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How to Access the Woman-Owned Small Business Federal Contract Program Repository Webinar
 Tuesday, July 28, 2020, 2:00 pm-3:00 pm
 Online
 Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
 Contact: Patricia Dozier, 404-331-0118, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
 Fee: Free; registration required
 Once you register, you will be sent the link for the webinar. Before you can participate in the women's contracting program, you must either use the SBA FREE online application or be third-party certified. Both methods require you to use the certify.SBA.gov website. Webinar access information will be forwarded via email.

Connect with Customers and Manage Your Business Remotely Webinar
 Thursday, July 16, 2020, 1:00 pm-2:00 pm

