

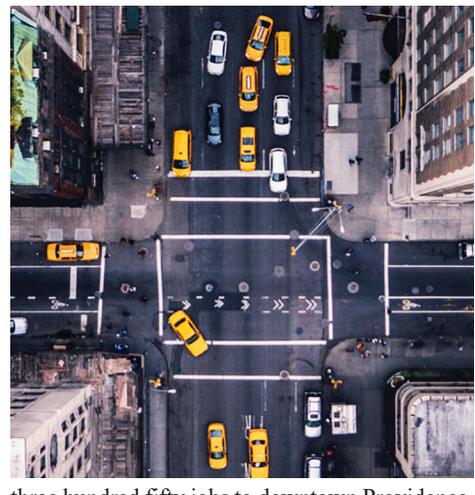


Why Companies Are Moving Back Downtown

By J. B. Wogan

Tax incentives aren't always the best way to lure businesses. Many are simply going where the talent is. Ryan Woodings owns a fifteen-person tech startup in Boise, Idaho. His company, MetaGeek, specializes in helping businesses fix and maintain their Wi-Fi systems. Or, as the website puts it, "making Wi-Fi more awesome for more people." A decade ago, MetaGeek was a side project out of Woodings's house. His mom was his first hire. Eventually, the company grew and moved into an actual office in a suburban neighborhood on the outskirts of Boise. The location posed some problems. Foremost among them was what might be termed the "intern dilemma." Each semester, MetaGeek seeks the help of a handful of student interns from Boise State University. "Being twenty minutes away from campus," Woodings says, "we could only get students who had a car and had certain class schedules."

So, MetaGeek did what a lot of companies are doing these days. It moved downtown. The student interns are now able to bike over to the office between classes. In the afternoons, MetaGeek employees can take walks on the nearby greenbelt that runs through town along the Boise River. If they want to bike home, the city runs a bicycle rental program and has an expanding network of dedicated bike lanes. "Downtown Boise is where everything is," Woodings says. "When you have a lunch meeting, or get coffee with a client, it's always downtown." MetaGeek is one of several tech companies that have put down roots recently in the center of Boise. Last summer, Boise State moved its computer science department downtown so that it could be closer to students' potential employers. And Boise isn't unusual. In cities across the country, businesses are trying to capitalize on the increasing density of tech talent clustered in the heart of cities. In Massachusetts, General Electric is setting up its new headquarters along the central Boston waterfront. In Rhode Island, Hasbro has moved



three hundred fifty jobs to downtown Providence. In Illinois, nearly fifty companies, from Kraft Heinz to Motorola Solutions, have reestablished their headquarters in or near Chicago's loop. According to the US Census Bureau, the number of

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• Engineering	• Pest Control	• Trucking
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• Flood Control	• Precast Concrete	
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Viaduct and Bridge Replacement Myrtle Beach Line (BMT) MTA New York City Transit Contract No. C-48702
Bid Date: September 8, 2016

Description of project:
 Removal and installation of a concrete and steel viaduct in Bushwick, Brooklyn, including foundations and superstructure, track work elements (LVT and timber tie), miscellaneous metals, signals, electrical, communication. Removal and installation of a single span two track NYCT bridge over NYAR including new foundations, steel structure, miscellaneous metals, stone repair/cleaning, signals, communications, power, and track work elements (ballasted timber tie). Creation of a new single track shop for married pair train car inspections including a prefabricated butler building, car lift system, turntable, mechanical systems (HVAC, fire protection, plumbing, BMS), stinger, power, communications, signals, architectural, and miscellaneous metals. Accelerated construction schedule with fixed intermediate milestone date.

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

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Enhanced Stations Initiative Program, Package 1 MTA New York City Transit Contract No. A-36622A
Bid Date: September 22, 2016

Description of project:
 The work will include making three stations on the Fourth Avenue Line, BMT, in the Borough of Brooklyn (Prospect Avenue Station, 53rd Street Station, and Bay Ridge Avenue Station) cleaner, brighter, and easier to navigate, by utilizing means such as improved lighting and more intuitive way-finding and providing amenities such as Wi-Fi and cellular connectivity. This will involve architectural finishes (including painting and signage), structural repair and modifications, electrical (including lighting, communications, and technology) and mechanical work, as well as architectural and engineering services and surveying. There is also a required industrial design associated with station furniture and architectural elements and components to be installed within these stations.

Subcontracting opportunities include, but are not limited to:
 Electrical, Architectural Restorations, Surveying, Mechanical, Painting CPM Scheduling, Plumbing, Masonry, Office Supplies, HVAC, Tile, Photography, Structural Steel, Signs, Reinforcement Steel, Miscellaneous Metals, Ceilings, Doors, Crack and Spall Repair, Janitorial Services/Cleaning, Detectable Warning Tile, Waterproofing, Platform Edge Rubbing Board, Gypsum Board, Demolition, Concrete Repairs, Cast-in-Place Concrete, Haul and Dispose Soils, Concrete and Asphalt.

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

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Design Build Rehabilitation of the Henry Hudson Bridge MTA Bridges and Tunnels Contract No. HH-89
Bid Date: September 27, 2016

Description of project:
 Design build rehabilitation and repair of the Henry Hudson Bridge's skewbacks, viaduct piers, and lower level north abutment.

Subcontracting opportunities include, but are not limited to:
 Concrete Demolition, Concrete Repairs, Concrete Supply, Concrete Reinforcing, Core Drilling, Materials Testing, Bridge Monitoring, Borings, Soil Testing, Lead Paint Removal, Painting, Material Hauling and Disposal, MPT, Landscaping, Arborist, Tree Protection, Clearing and Grubbing, Fence, Structural Concrete, Steel Repairs, Steel Bearings, Asphalt Paving, Earthwork, Marine Support, Scaffold, Erosion Control, Photo, CPM, Office Trailers, Rodent Control, Office Furniture, Downspouts, Drilled Piles, Structural Steel Fabrication, Construction Electric.

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