

Why 'Infrastructure' Replaced 'Public Works'

By Alex Marshall

Not that long ago, we hardly ever used or even knew the term. What changed?

I teach a course on infrastructure at the New Jersey School of Architecture in Newark, which offers a master's degree in infrastructure planning. Harvard's Graduate School of Design has the Zofnass Program for Sustainable Infrastructure. Meanwhile, planners and architects talk about "green infrastructure," and presidential candidates debate the merits of an "infrastructure bank."

But this word “infrastructure,” which I just managed to use five times in one paragraph without explanation, was not in common discourse thirty-five years ago in the US and was just about unknown fifty years ago. Where did it come from, and what

First of all, let's put some evidence behind my claim. Using Google's Ngram Viewer, one can search millions of books published over the last two centuries for the prevalence of words or terms. This miraculous tool shows that in English

at least, “infrastructure” was hardly used until about 1960, after which it climbed steadily, taking off after 1980.

Another Google search, this time of books published in French, shows the word beginning to be used in that language in the 1880s, and thereafter being employed at a steady rate before exploding in usage in the 1940s after World War II. This data appears to confirm what I have read elsewhere, which is that “infrastructure” was originally a French word, one that first made its appearance in railroad planning in France in the late nineteenth century. Military planners with NATO began using it in Europe, and it then gradually migrated over to civilian usage. But it was still several decades before even professionals outside of Europe began using the term.

Why, you may be asking at this point, should we care? After all, it's just a word. But words, of course, are powerful things, and as they change over time, so do our perceptions of what they represent. For me, the way this new word rose up and replaced older terms like "public works" is interesting and significant. Building roads and bridges where



none existed before—"public works"—is one thing. Viewing such projects as interconnected, mutually dependent systems that move us from place to place and serve as a primary engine of commerce—"infrastructure"—is quite another.

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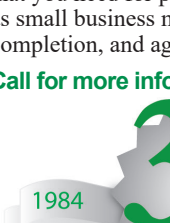
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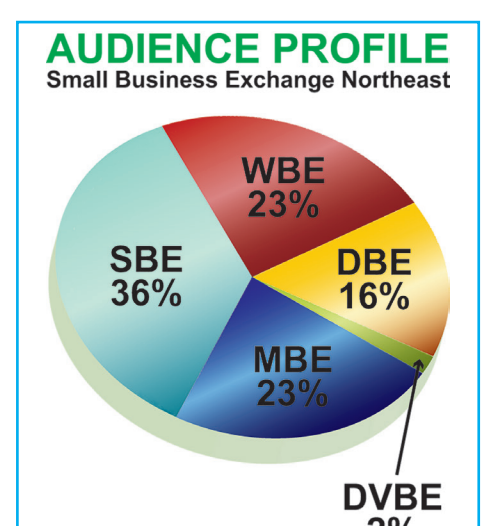
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Bidding opportunities:
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Lukia.Maswell@skanska.com

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Subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to asbestos removal, concrete, engineering, hazardous materials haul and dispose, miscellaneous metals, scaffolding, steel, bridge painting, concrete cutting and boring, drainage, lead abatement, excavation, marine, waterproofing, sandblasting, sidewalks, road striping, utilities, electrical, rebar, grouting, and welding. Please see contract documents for further opportunities.

Interested firms please contact John Papagiannakis at Skanska Koch Inc.,
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**Dehumidification System at the Main Cable Splays and
Elimination of Water Infiltration into the Anchorages at the Throgs Neck Bridge
MTA Bridges and Tunnels Contract No: TN-60
Bid Date: September 22, 2015**

Subcontracting opportunities include but are not limited to engineer's field office, maintenance of traffic, pavement striping, temporary concrete barrier, chain link fence, safety boat, saw cutting, steel demolition, lead abatement, asbestos abatement, timber shielding, rosphalt, concrete traffic barrier, rebar, fence and gates, structural steel fabrication and erection, miscellaneous metals, bearings, downspouts and scuppers, signs, panels, waterproofing, doors, bridge painting, caulking, bird remediation, fire standpipe, mechanical electrical install and supply, roadway lighting, bridge drainage. Please see contract documents for further opportunities.

Interested firms please contact John Papagiannakis at Skanska Koch Inc.,
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Various Structural Repairs and Removal of the Tuned Mass Damper and
Inspection of Select Main Cable Panels at the Bronx-Whitestone Bridge
MTA Bridges and Tunnels Contract No: BW-14/BW-84C
Bid Date: September 22, 2015

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Interested firms please contact John Papagiannakis at Skanska Koch Inc.,
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Goethals Bridge Replacement



Goethals Bridge Replacement Project

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey

CONSTRUCTION DBE OPPORTUNITIES

The Goethals Bridge Replacement Project is a design-build project for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey (the Authority). The project will replace the existing Goethals Bridge which spans the Arthur Kill River on I-278 connecting Elizabeth, New Jersey, and Staten Island, New York. The existing bridge, built in the 1920s, will be replaced with a dual span and the original bridge demolished. It is anticipated that the bridge will carry approximately 14 million vehicles eastbound annually.

Kiewit-Weeks-Massman, AJV (KWM) has been selected by the Authority to design and build the new Goethals Bridge. KWM is committed to providing a world class project for the people of New York and New Jersey. As part of their mission, KWM is also committed to providing meaningful employment opportunities for hundreds of construction individuals in the region, with particular outreach to the DBE community, and desires to meet or exceed federal requirements for diversity on this important construction project. If your DBE firm would like to apply to participate in this project, please use our website as a resource, www.goethals-kwm.com.

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All companies that fill out a Contractors Questionnaire will be added to our Vendor Solicitation Log which KWM uses for upcoming subcontract opportunities. If you would like to fill out a Contractors Questionnaire, please go to our website and visit the “Partnering” tab.

PARTNERING OPPORTUNITIES

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- Furnish and Install Precast Walls and Roof
- Miscellaneous Metals Suppliers

- Barriers and Deck Approach
- Haz Mat Trucking
- Street Sweeping
- Lumber/Crane Mat Suppliers
- Concrete, Curb, and Gutter Flatwork

Check our website for periodic updates on partnering opportunities!

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

Project Office: 137 Bayway Avenue • Elizabeth, NJ 07020 • KWMdivcontracting@kwmjv.com