

Thursday | Feb. 8, 2024

Business Engagement and Compliance

ADOT Receives \$95 Million Federal Grant For I-10 Expansion

Project will deliver critical infrastructure to improve drive times and enhance safety

Governor Katie Hobbs announced Monday, Jan. 22, that Arizona will receive a \$95 million Infrastructure for Rebuilding America (INFRA) grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation for major improvements to widen Interstate 10. The grant was awarded to improve the safety and conditions on the 26-mile stretch of the I-10 located entirely within the boundaries of the Gila River Indian Community.

For information on Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, click <u>here</u>.

The I-10 corridor is a main corridor for all Arizonans, with parts of this project area seeing up to 120,000 vehicles daily. This 26-mile stretch of the I-10 is the only remaining gap, or unimproved section of the I-10, which creates bottlenecks and traffic delays for all who travel this section of the I-10.

Obtaining funding for this project was a top priority for Governor Hobbs, the Gila River Indian Community, the Arizona congressional delegation, and the Arizona State Legislature. It was made possible through coordination between Governor Hobbs, GRIC Governor Stephen Roe Lewis, and the Arizona Department of Transportation.

This grant represents a unique partnership of governments, involving state, federal, tribal, and county governments in the planning and development of the grant to address the safety and infrastructure needs in Arizona and within the Gila River Indian Community.

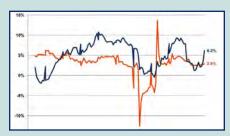




How to Navigate Current Talent Resource Trends



DBE Spotlight: Cormax Rigging Supply LLC



Arizona Construction Shed 600 Jobs in December



NEWLY CERTIFIED DBE FIRMS

- Lonestar Construction Solutions
- Flo Artificial Intelligence Inc.
- Rapid Hires Inc.
- JMAC Group LLC

- **EVENTS**
- OPPORTUNITIES
- EXTERNAL LINKS



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ADOT Receives \$95 Million Federal Grant For I-10 Expansion (Cont'd)

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"The I-10 serves as a major connector for the entire state, and I am thrilled to announce that we have secured the funds necessary to ensure it remains a gateway for generations to come," said Governor Hobbs. "By securing this investment, we are not only improving our state's infrastructure, we are propelling Arizona's economy forward, ensuring a prosperous future for all. I want to thank Governor Lewis for his tireless advocacy and our federal partners for helping make this possible."

"The announcement today," said Governor Lewis, "is the culmination of a year-long effort to obtain the final funding necessary to complete this critical part of the state's, and the community's, transportation network. When we learned last year that Arizona would not be receiving a federal grant for this project, I immediately contacted Governor Hobbs, and together we rolled up our sleeves and got this new grant proposal together, focusing largely on the importance of this road to our community, and we presented it together to Secretary Buttigieg, a first in our state, and probably in the entire country.

"I want to personally thank Governor Hobbs for her partnership in this effort and the Department of Transportation for its understanding and commitment to historically disadvantaged communities in Indian Country, such as ours. I also think it is very important to thank our allies and partners in the State Legislature who provided critical additional funding to help fill the gap and advocated right alongside us in Washington for this new grant. Finally, I have to say a word about the tireless advocacy for this grant by our federal delegation, especially Senators Sinema and Kelly, and our House members, Representatives Gallego and Stanton. They were immediate and constant supporters of our efforts and led the way in Washington for the team effort that made this possible. Completion of this segment of the I-10 will be a game-changer for our entire state, and I couldn't be prouder of the way our state came together to get it done."

The grant funding will be added to the \$692 million in state of Arizona funding appropriated for the project and a \$221 million contribution from the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) through Proposition 400. The total project cost is estimated at just over \$1 billion.

"I'm proud to secure these funds for I-10's expansion through my bipartisan infrastructure law. I promised Arizonans I'd do the hard work to deliver real results, not lip service – today's investment is one of many more to come for Arizona from my bipartisan infrastructure law," said U.S. Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, co-author and lead negotiator of the bipartisan infrastructure law.

"Too many of us have spent hours stuck in traffic on I-10 between Phoenix and Tucson. And for decades, residents and tribal members have been impacted by major bottlenecks preventing them from fully accessing jobs, housing, schools and health care. Thanks to our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, these delays will be a thing of the past.

"I've fought to secure the funding for this expansion since I came to the Senate, and it was a top priority of mine when negotiating that law. This project will reduce congestion, improve shipping, and make I-10 safer," said U.S. Sen. Mark Kelly. "This investment — one of the largest ever in transportation infrastructure in a tribal community — will be a game-changer for the Gila River Indian Community and is a testament to the leadership of Governor Lewis."

"When we passed our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, it was with projects like widening the I-10 in mind. Tens of thousands of people — and millions of dollars in commercial goods — travel along the I-10 every day, and anyone who's driven it will tell you two lanes are just not enough. The heavy congestion and daily bottlenecks aren't just inefficient — they're dangerous," U.S. Rep. Greg Stanton, the only Arizona member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, said. "I'm thrilled that, thanks to years of hard work at the federal, state, and tribal level, this project is finally moving forward.

"Thanks to our leadership in Congress to shape and pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Arizona families and businesses will be better connected along the vital I-10 corridor," said U.S. Rep. Ruben Gallego. "With the billions of dollars we delivered already pouring into Arizona, this historic project is set to be a boon to our state's economy. Because of reliable partners, including Governor Hobbs and Governor Lewis, this project will soon be a reality."





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ADOT Receives \$95 Million Federal Grant For I-10 Expansion (Cont'd)

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"I-10 is an infamous thoroughfare in Arizona notoriously known for its delays and traffic. This federal funding is a long-term investment that will benefit our state by making certain this corridor has the capacity to serve Arizonans," said U.S. Rep. Raùl Grijalva. I'm proud to have supported this funding in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and will continue to support economic investments that provide modernization, accessibility and sustainability to our transportation network."

"ADOT is excited to receive this funding and to work on this critical project," said ADOT Director Jennifer Toth. "The federal grant dollars are critical for expanding the principal roadway between Phoenix and Tucson. The project will deliver the best infrastructure to improve drive times and enhance safety. We thank the Gila River Indian Community for their tremendous partnership and collaboration, along with our federal, regional and local partners."

The grant — funded through investments from the bipartisan infrastructure law — provides necessary funding for the southernmost segment of the 26-mile stretch and completes funding for the upcoming expansion of I-10 between Phoenix and Casa Grande.

The overall project adds a third lane, meaning the freeway will have three lanes both ways between Arizona's two most populous cities. It also includes the reconstruction of the I-10 Bridges over the Gila River and six interchanges. The federal grant is a competitive funding award through the U.S. Department of Transportation INFRA Grant Program.

The grant will contribute to the construction of the section of the project from just south of Casa Blanca Road to just south of State Route 387. Construction on I-10 is scheduled to launch in early 2024, with the first work including the removal and replacement of the Gila River bridges over I-10.

Significant partnerships with the Gila River Indian Community and other nearby communities have taken place over the past few years. An engineering and environmental study for the project is currently being completed in coordination with GRIC and MAG and includes the following proposed improvements:

Corridor Improvements - Capacity and Safety:

- Adding a new general-purpose lane in the east- and westbound directions, extending the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane on I-10 from Loop 202 to Riggs Road, and improving interchanges and crossroads will increase capacity and access. This improves safety by reducing congestion and travel times and lessening detoured traffic on the Gila River Indian Community.
- Replacing I-10 bridges over the Gila River will maintain a state of good repair by modernizing this key infrastructure.
- Building new and improved traffic interchanges creates safer crossings for farm equipment, bicyclists and, pedestrians and boosts connections and quality of life.
- Installing fiber optic infrastructure within ADOT right-of-way will allow for the installation of sensors, cameras, and other highway safety-related technology.

Key Commerce Corridor, Arizona Jobs, and Local Connections:

- As the principal roadway between metro Phoenix and Tucson for commuters, cross-country travelers, and commercial traffic, I-10 is a Key Commerce Corridor for Arizona and the U.S. The freeway provides a vital link for freight traffic from the ports of southern California and for international commerce, with a significant amount of freight transported along the route daily. The proposed improvements will boost the reliability of freight traffic in the corridor.
- The project, coupled with others around the state, will help attract employers and create jobs in Arizona.
- Locally, the route serves the Gila River Indian Community by improving connections to employment, medical, educational, and other critical services both within and outside of the Community.

Funding:

- The total estimated project cost is approximately \$1 billion.
 - \$692 million allocated in the state budget
 - \$221 million in MAG funding
 - \$95 million in DOT INFRA grant funding

Timeline:

- Following completion of the required environmental review and clearance, work is expected to start in 2024, beginning with expanding the bridges that carry traffic over the Gila River.
- The target completion date for the full project has not been determined.

For more information on the I-10 Wild Horse Pass study: <u>i10wildhorsepasscorridor.com</u>.

ADOT works in partnership with MAG on the planning and construction of new freeways, additional lanes, and other improvements in the Phoenix area as part of the Regional Transportation Plan.

Corridor Improvement Segments

The corridor improvements will be delivered in four individual project segments:

I-10 Gila River Indian Community Project | Mileposts 161–172 Expected Construction: Late 2025 – Early 2028

I-10 Bridges over the Gila River Project | Mileposts 172–174 Expected Construction: 2024 – 2026

Gila River to Gasline Road | Mileposts 174–177 Expected Construction: Late 2026 – Mid 2028

Gasline Road to South of SR 387 | Mileposts 177–187 Expected Construction: Mid 2025 – Early 2027



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Steps to Help Business Owners Adapt to Major Shifts

How to Navigate Current Talent Resource Trends

In recent decades, the design and construction industry has faced one of its biggest human resource challenges: finding qualified people to work. The lack of skilled workers is changing professions and the entire built environment.

"Across the nation, leading civil engineers and human resources managers can point to numerous challenges created by the labor shortage, which vary by firm and region, according to "Why U.S. civil engineering firms face a labor shortage," by the American Society of Civil Engineers. "But one thing most note is that the problem has been a long time coming, dating as far back as the first decade of the century and the Great Recession in 2008-09, which reduced the number of what would today be the most sought-after personnel — midlevel engineers with a decade or more of experience."

Multiple factors lie behind the labor shortage, primarily simple demographics:

- The baby-boom generation is retiring and subsequent generations had fewer children.
- Within a limited supply of potential engineers, not enough earned college degrees in the design and construction fields.
- Students who might otherwise have become civil engineers pursued careers in other engineering disciplines or fields, including finance and other more lucrative and less cyclical industries.
- The COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the number of experienced civil engineers who decided to retire, some earlier than they might have otherwise, leaving gaps in middle management who would eventually take over firm leadership.

Nearly every business owner understands that today's talent shortage impacts their ability to serve clients well and plan for future projects that build the firm's long-term sustainability.

The "2024 HR Trends Report" by ExtensisHR offers valuable insights that help small design and construction firms aiming to stay competitive and innovative. Among the numerous trends highlighted, five stand out as particularly influential:

- 1. Enhance Leadership Effectiveness: As the industry evolves, the role of leaders in small firms becomes more critical. Emphasizing leadership development can drive innovation and adaptability. Leaders must have the skills to manage diverse teams, integrate new technologies and make strategic decisions in a rapidly changing market. Study successful firms, join a Mastermind or Executive Peer Group, or get a mentor to provide candid feedback and guidance in your leadership skills.
- Cultivate Organizational Culture: A strong, positive organizational culture is vital for employee retention and job satisfaction. Small firms can benefit from fostering a culture that values collaboration, creativity and employee well-being. This culture can attract top

- talent and improve the firm's overall performance. Get to know the "Best Companies to Work For" winners. Create an in-house team to evaluate and activate your company's culture.
- 3. **Promote Career Mobility:** Offering career development and mobility opportunities can be a game-changer for small firms. Employees, particularly the younger generation, value the chance to grow and learn new skills. Providing these opportunities can help retain employees and keep them engaged and motivated. Create "Shadow Days" so employees can see what their colleagues do, offer an in-house mentoring program and help employees develop their career goals.
- 4. Adapt to Workforce Demographics: The workforce is becoming increasingly diverse, and understanding these demographic shifts is essential. Small design and construction firms should embrace diversity and inclusivity to benefit from broader perspectives and ideas, leading to more innovative design solutions and a better understanding of diverse client needs. Sponsor community events that celebrate diversity initiatives, bring in speakers to share their culture and traditions and make sure your teams and committees reflect diversity in race, ethnicity, gender, age and orientation.
- 5. Embrace Hybrid and Flexible Work Models: The construction industry has traditionally been site-centric, but there are aspects of the work, especially in the design and planning phases, that can adapt to flexible models. Incorporating hybrid work models where feasible can improve work-life balance, attract a broader talent pool and increase productivity.

For small design and construction firms, these trends offer a roadmap for navigating the complexities of the modern business landscape. By focusing on these critical areas, firms can enhance their competitiveness, foster a more dynamic workforce and adapt to the industry's evolving demands.





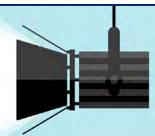
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DBE SPOTLIGHT

Cormax Rigging Supply LLC cormaxriggingsupply.com | (520) 260-8831

Certifications: DBE/SBE





COMPANY DESCRIPTION:

Cormax Rigging Supply is a rigging supplier and manufacturer. We offer wire rope, lifting hardware and hoist. We also manufacture slings, chain slings and tie-down straps.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS:

Broadway Curve

We have been providing the Broadway Curve project with rigging for their projects. We have manufactured slings for lifting and provided hardware such as shackles, hooks and clips.

Arizona DEMA

We are suppliers for all rigging product for DEMA in Camp Navajo. We have provided them with custom made slings for heavy lifting projects. We also provide them with all lifting hardware.

McMillen Jacobs Associates

We built a four-way wire rope custom bridle to be used under water. This was an extensive project that was very specific in measurements and certifications needed, all was built to government specifications.

COMPANY HISTORY:

Cormax Rigging Supply is a company that was founded with the dream of creating a family legacy. Cormax started fulfilling small orders for the Department of Defense and quickly gathered enough expertise and became a DBE firm that has been working with primes providing high quality rigging and service. Cormax Rigging has domestic rigging products and will deliver free anywhere in Arizona, and ship to projects outside of Arizona. Cormax has had a steady growth since 2017 and is ready to continue to expand their operations throughout our state.

MEET THE OWNERS:

Sandra Cornejo

Sandra is the owner of Cormax Rigging Supply LLC. She has worked hard to learn the ins and outs of being a DBE firm and making sure she can help meet the goals of prime contractors. She is also a graduate of the <u>ADOT Business Development Program</u> for the year 2020.

Eli Cornejo

Eli has been working in the field of rigging since 2004. Since he began working in the rigging field, it has become his passion. He has experience with all things rigging, can consult, inspect and manufacture as needed.







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Arizona Construction Shed 600 Jobs in December

Arizona's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was unchanged from November to December, remaining at 4.3%, according to the latest report published by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity.

The national unemployment rate was also unchanged month-to-month at 3.7%. Last December, Arizona had a seasonally adjusted rate of 4.0%, while the national rate was 3.5%.

The Construction sector lost 600 jobs around the state last month.

Arizona had a gain of 8,100 jobs in nonfarm employment in November. "Prior to the pandemic (2010-2019), NSA nonfarm employment gained 5,600 jobs on average in December," the report states.

The private sector gained 10,200 jobs over the month, led by Financial Activities adding 3,800 and Trade, Transportation & Utilities gaining 3,300. Government gained 2,100.

Five of the 11 sectors tracked reported gains in December, while three reported losses. Three were unchanged. Year-over-year, eight of the 11 sectors reported gains, including Construction's addition of 12,000 jobs.

Construction Employment

Statewide construction employment totals 204,500 jobs. In December 2022, the sector reported 192,500.

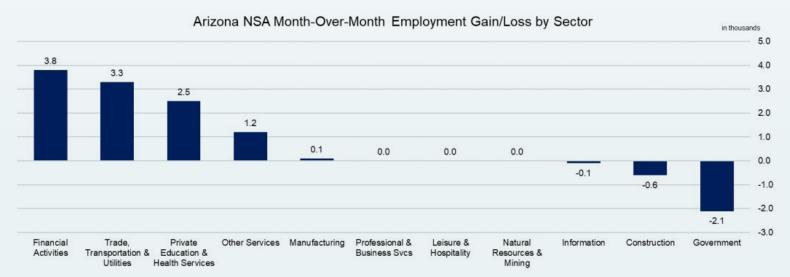
The Arizona Construction sector features three major segments: Buildings, Heavy, and Specialty Trades. There are currently 46,700 jobs in Buildings, which is up 1,000 from November and up 5,800 from December 2022. Heavy Construction lost 200 for the month, for a total of 23,700, but added 1,900 over the year. Specialty Trades lost 1,400 over the month for a total of 134,100, and the segment gained 4,300 year-over-year.

Construction jobs in the Phoenix Metro Area (Phoenix-Mesa-Scottsdale) fell 1,500 over the month for a total of 163,500. The December 2022 number was 153,100. Metro Tucson added 100 construction jobs over the month at 20,600, which is an increase of 900 year-over-year.

Yuma, Flagstaff, Prescott, Lake Havasu City-Kingman and Sierra Vista-Douglas combine Mining and Construction jobs in reporting their job sector totals. All were unchanged over the month. Yuma reported 4,200. Flagstaff had 3,100. Prescott totaled 7,200. The Lake Havasu City-Kingman count was 4,300, and Sierra Vista-Douglas reported 2,100.

Arizona & U.S. Construction Employment Year-to-Year Percent Change





Source: Produced by the Arizona Office of Economic Opportunity in cooporation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics



INDUSTRY EVENTS

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Business Engagement and Compliance





ATTENTION TO ALL FIRMS

Need help preparing DBE affidavits? Please see our tutorial video below:

"Preparing DBE Affidavits"



FEBRUARY



AAED Summit - Controlling the Narrative

8 - 11:30 a.m.

Location: Rio Salado College **Conference Center** 2323 W. 14th St., Tempe



APWA: Rio Reimagined

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Location: Maricopa Association of Governments

302 N. First Ave., Ironwood Room,

Phoenix



15

SMPS: Winning in The Interview

7:30 - 9 a.m.

Location: DPU Training Center 600 W. 24th St., Tempe



CAP University: Deeper Dive on Water

9 - 10:30 a.m.

Location: Virtual





City of Phoenix: 2024 Aviation **Business Summit**

7:45 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Location: Warehouse 215 215 E. Grant St., Phoenix



AZCREW: The Art of Microvisioning

8 - 9:30 a.m.

Location: Clayco

4300 E. Camelback Road, Ste. 300 Phoenix



ABA: Membership Dinner Tucson

5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

6541 E. Tanque Verde Road, Tucson



CURRENT OPEN SOLICITATIONS

Igbal Hossain, Group Manager

of Contracts and Specifications,

at ihossain@azdot.gov.

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Featured Federal-Aid Projects

Solicitation / **Due Date Project** DBE Type **Project Owner and Description** Contact **Valuation** Goal **Project Number** 2/9/24 \$3.5 million 3.75% 191-C(226)T; F056701C IFB ADOT - Pavement Preservation, Safford Igbal Hossain, Group Manager 11:00 a.m. to Springerville Highway (US 191) from of Contracts and Specifications, US 70 to Black Hills Country Byway. The at ihossain@azdot.gov. work consists of milling the existing friction course and replacing it with a hot applied chip seal coat and micro-surfacing. 2/9/24 \$15.56 million 4.94%

ADOT - Pavement Rehabilitation, Cordes

Junction Highway (I-17) to Happy Valley

Road (SR 74), Phoenix. The work consists

of milling one inch of the existing pavement on I-17, repairing Portland Cement Concrete Pavement, diamond grinding the surface of existing PCCP, and milling one inch of the

IFB

					existing pavement on ramps and the shoulders. In addition, the work includes bridge repairs, pavement markings and other related work.	
2/23/24 11:00 a.m. MST	\$160.2 million	8.36%	040-A(212)S; H799301C	<u>IFB</u>	ADOT - New System Interchange, Topock to Kingman Highway (I-40). The work consists of new system interchange to provide free flow, grade separated ramps to widen and rehabilitate multiple roads.	Iqbal Hossain, Group Manager of Contracts and Specifications, at ihossain@azdot.gov.

External Links:

MST

11:00 a.m.

MST

ADOT Current Advertisements

ADOT Engineering Advertisements

ADOT Public-Private Partnership Initiatives

ADOT Advertised Alternative Delivery Projects

F049501C; 017-A(261)T

Bidding Opportunities Around the State

DBE SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROGRAM

1801 W. Jefferson St., Ste. 101, Phoenix AZ 602.712.7761 DBESupportiveServices@azdot.gov



CALLING ALL
RURAL ARIZONA
SMALL BUSINESSES

LUNCH & LEARN: DBE CERTIFICATION WITH ADOT

Grab your lunch and join us for an informative webinar with the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). ADOT representatives will explain the benefits to DBE certification, walk you through the application process, eligibility criteria, required documentation, and best practices for a successful certification application.

Tuesday, March 5, 2024 • 12 PM - 1:30 PM LIVE WEBINAR



http://tinyurl.com/MCCSBDC-Webinar-AZDOT-DBE

For more info, contact: Jeanette Pigeon jpigeon@mohave.edu



Business Development Program

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE NEXT STEP?

The ADOT Business Development Program (BDP) provides a high-quality education and interaction with subject matter experts. From coaching & mentoring to practical tools and *more* - all to help **YOU** grow your knowledge and business!

CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT THE FORMS AND

Enroll Today

Questions?

Contact DBESupportiveServices@azdot.gov

I-17, ANTHEM WAY TI TO JCT. SR 69 (CORDES JUNCTION)



PROJECT OWNER

Arizona Department of Transportation

PROJECT NAME

I-17, Anthem Way TI to Jct. SR 69 (Cordes Junction) Phoenix – Cordes Junction Highway

Public-Private Partnership Design-Build-Operate-Maintain Agreement

PROJECT NUMBER 17 MA 229 H6800 01C / NHPP-017-A(228)S

DBE participation goal established for this project:

10.16% for Professional Services

10.88% for Construction Work

OUR TEAM

The Kiewit-Fann Joint Venture (KFJV) is a strategic partnership between two trusted Arizona firms that have extensive experience working in rural environments, delivering highway projects. KFJV team members have an extensive history together on successful design-build and CMAR projects and have long-standing relationships with ADOT, local jurisdictions, and the community.

POTENTIAL SUBCONTRACT OPPORTUNITIES

KFJV is seeking diverse and local firms interested in pursuing multiple scopes of work on the I-17 Anthem Way project. The following scopes are open for solicitation:

- Buy PVC & CIP Wall Embeds
- De-lead Existing Bridge Bearings
- Handra
- · Bridge Deck Grooving
- Nursery Stock Trees
- · Rock Bolt Walls

- · Install Rock Anchors/Shotcrete
- · Remove Ground Mounted Signs
- · Routine Maintenance Damaged Sign F&I
- · Weld Bearing Replacements
- · Slipform & CIP Concrete Barrier
- Flatwork

NORTH

Attachments: Wage Decision No. AZ20210008 Mod No. 0 - Dated 01/01/2021

TAKE THE FIRST STEPS

Head to https://www.kiewit.com/business-with-us/opportunities/i-17-anthem-way-project/ to complete the Subcontractor Questionnaire and create an account with Building Connected, or for additional information and future event dates.

QUESTIONS? CONTACT US!

Contact us to learn about anticipated subcontract opportunities on the I-17 Anthem Way project at Flex.Outreach@kiewit.com.

KFJV is committed to meeting or exceeding stated project participation requirements upon award of ongoing and upcoming Arizona Department of Transportation projects; assisting interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit or insurance; providing interested DBEs information related to the plans, specifications and requirements for work to be subcontracted or supplied by these DBEs; assisting interested DBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials or related assistance or services; sub-dividing bid items into economically feasible work units to DBEs every advantage to quoting the project.

KFJV is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

