

Volume 15, Edition 23 • June 10, 2025

Diversity in Action Published by Small Business Exchange, Inc.

The Basics of Lean Construction Methods

By Holly Welles

Lean construction is a way to manage building projects by cutting waste and adding more value for clients. It focuses on teamwork, making improvements, and treating workers with respect. By reducing inefficiencies, lean construction helps projects finish on time, improves the quality of the work, makes workers happier, and reduces risks. Teams can adopt lean construction by empowering workers, pursuing continuous improvement, maintaining equipment proactively, using pull scheduling, and aligning goals with client priorities.

Most construction companies want to deliver the best possible results for their clients while expending the least possible resources. Yet, the construction industry has traditionally been littered with waste and inefficiencies. Today, some of the most successful companies use lean construction philosophy to guide their operations. Such companies regularly impress clients, maintain high morale, and create high-quality structures.

Many industry professionals have heard of lean construction, but they may not know what exactly it is or how they can apply it effectively. Let's take a look at the basics of lean construction and its benefits below.

What Is Lean Construction?

Lean construction is a relationship-focused production management system that aims to eliminate waste from the entire construction process and deliver greater value to clients.

The method has its roots in the Toyota Production System. First developed in Toyoda Automatic Loom Works in Japan in the 1920s and later implemented in Toyota automobile manufacturing facilities after World War II, the system focused on providing greater customer satisfaction while reducing waste and giving workers more meaningful jobs. Toyota's strategies were found to be so successful that lean concepts were adapted for use outside of manufacturing.

In the United States, lean construction has become heavily associated with tools such as justin-time inventory, in which companies receive



materials on an as-needed basis. However, as a philosophy, lean construction involves much more than effective inventory management.

Lean construction offers a framework for improving the entire construction process, from

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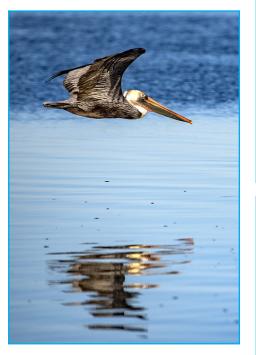
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NEW ORLEANS REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE OF

PROPOSED OVERALL DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

(DBE) GOAL FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 - 2028

The New Orleans Regional Transit Authority (RTA), in accordance with requirements of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part 26, as amended, hereby notifies the public that it is recommending an overall 34% DBE goal for participation in Federal Transit Administration (FTA) - assisted contracts during Fiscal Years 2026 - 2028.

The proposed methodology and its rationale used to determine the level of DBE participation will be available for public review for 30 calendar days from the date of this notice from 8:30 a.m. to 4:45 p.m., CST, Monday - Friday, Regional Transit Authority Administrative Facility located at 2817 Canal Street, New Orleans, La. 70119. Written comments on this goal will be accepted for 45 days from the date of this notice and may be sent to Adonis C. Expose', Principal DBE/SBE Liaison Officer, at the above address or submitted to aexpose@rtaforward.org



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For more info contact Valerie Voorhies at vvv@sbeinc.com

EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS





Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small

Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer addional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. For this and other events, one goal is to better address the needs of attending current and soon-to-be business owners. To register for this free webinar, visit https://www.sba.gov/event/65168

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Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar Tuesday, June 17, 2025, 1:00 pm-3:00 pm CDT Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at https://www.eventbrite. com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosbcertification-program-tickets-1123663631169

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar Wednesday, June 18, 2025, 9:30 am-11:30 am CDT Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar Thursday, June 26, 2025, 12:00 pm-3:00 pm CDT Online

Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086,

george.tapia@sba.gov Fee: Free; registration required

Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register online at https://www. eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federalgovernment-tickets-21790713611 SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting.



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