

"[Wekiva Parkway] will give us the connectivity needed...for growth, but we will also maintain what Lake County is."

—COMMISSIONER WELTON CADWELL

## DRIVING SUCCESS

The Central Florida Expressway Authority does more than just build roadways; it supports hiring local businesses and creating jobs that make a positive impact on the communities it serves.

When the Central Florida Expressway Authority (CFX) needed a company to provide Florida's first fabricated curved U-beams for the State Road 417/Boggy Creek Road interchange in Orlando, it looked

to Leesburg-based Dura-Stress to get the job done.

The new fabricated beams used were the first in the state and only the second in the United States, an impressive feat for a local

company known nationally for its work. Lake County Commissioner Welton Cadwell, who was recently re-elected to serve another term as chairman of CFX, called Dura-Stress' recent work aesthetically and structurally innovative.

However, Dura-Stress is no stranger to working with CFX; the precast concrete company has done so for many years on many important roadway projects throughout the Central Florida region.

"We've worked on (State Road) 417, (State Road) 429, and (State Road) 408 over the years," says Tim Morley, general manager at Dura-Stress. "We have a great working relationship with them and, in turn, they've helped create a lot of jobs within our company." For example, the recent State Road 417/Boggy Creek Road interchange project created 40 full-time jobs for a year. Positions included everything from laborers to quality control to management.

Morley explains when jobs like these are created, it benefits Lake County as a whole.

"These workers then cash their checks here and then they go shop-

ping at Publix, or they go to the mall," he says. "It's a tremendous impact."

Because of Dura-Stress' work on the State Road 417/Boggy Creek Road interchange, the door was opened for the company to be awarded two more concrete U-beam bridge jobs. Both bridges will be part of another important CFX project that affects Lake County: the Wekiva Parkway (State Road 429). The estimated \$1.6 billion tolled expressway will connect to State Road 417, essentially closing the space between U.S. Highway 441 and Interstate 4. A majority of the the Wekiva Parkway will be finished in 2019 with the remainder targeted for completion in 2021. Morley anticipates the project will vet again create nearly 40 full-time jobs for people in Lake County.

"These multimillion-dollar projects put people right here in Lake County to work," Morley says. "There are very few local manufacturing jobs that offer decent pay; therefore, it's important to have projects of this magnitude come our way."

Once the Wekiva Parkway is complete, it will not only stimulate business growth and bring new residents to Lake County, it will also create new job opportunities that will positively impact the county's economy beyond the construction phase.

construction phase.

"It's a pretty big project that will have a truly amazing long-range effect on Lake County," explains Cadwell. "It will give us the connectivity needed to help us with our future ... We are prepared for growth, but we will also maintain what Lake County is. We will be a part of Metro Orlando without losing our identity."

With Chairman Cadwell at the helm, CFX proudly represents the vested transportation interests of Lake County and lends a voice to the one feature that connects us all: roadways. It's a source of pride for CFX, which has supported more than 12,000 local jobs and worked with nearly 600 local businesses.

"We always want to bring jobs to the communities that matter to us," says Cadwell. "We've become a great organization with great regional collaboration. We have a very dynamic Board where everyone serving brings so much to the table. Our hearts and heads are in the right place because before we do anything we consider how it will affect our customers and then our local businesses."

In looking to the future, Morley says Dura-Stress is excited to continue its relationship with CFX.

"(CFX) does the best they can to use local companies, so it is our hope we'll continue to have the opportunity to do projects with them, especially when the work is happening in our own backyard like the Wekiva Parkway."

CFX uses local toll proceeds to build, operate, and maintain the region's expressway network. It is also responsible for the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a 109-mile limited-access expressway system serving Lake, Orange, Osceola, and Seminole counties. E-PASS is CFX's local, pre-paid toll program.

## Why Life's Better with E-PASS

- E-PASS is free\* for residents in seven Central Florida counties.
- E-PASS works on all toll roads and most bridges in Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina.
- E-PASS can send personalized email alerts about construction and road closures.
- E-PASS customers, on average, pay 23 percent less than those paying with cash.
- E-PASS customers feel good knowing tolls paid while using the CFX system are invested back into Central Florida.

\*E-Pass Sticker

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

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