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Hardin Construction Completes Its Design-Assist Role For Prototype Redo's of I-75 Rest Areas

Tracking toward LEED Gold certification

TAMPA, FL (July 29, 2011) — Two I-75 rest areas in Pasco County, Florida are well on the road to makeovers that will transform them into ultra-modern, prototype, interstate comfort stops, thanks in part to Hardin Construction Company's involvement as a design-assist contractor for the project.

Hardin Construction collaborated early on with the project's prime contractor, Cone and Graham, Inc., of Tampa, to provide the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) with project scope, budgeting and scheduling expertise that helped redefine the job. The project's architect of record is RS&H, Tampa office.

Once envisioned as rest area rehabilitations and add-ons, the revamped project will serve as a standard for future interstate rest areas in Florida.

The program involves the demolition of existing north- and southbound rest area buildings at I-75 mile marker 278 and new construction of two 14,000-square-foot main buildings plus other facilities and amenities.

Efficient, Environment Friendly

Designed to earn enough energy-efficiency credits to become the FDOT's first LEED Silver-certified project, the project is now on track to achieve LEED Gold certification. Its environment friendly features and construction practices include water efficiencies, the buildings' significant use of daylight, all-concrete surfaces for vehicles; use of low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) paints and adhesives; and waste management practices that will divert 96% of construction waste from landfills.

As the design-assist contractor, Hardin Construction has completed its work with the project, which is scheduled to wrap up in November of 2011.

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According to the FDOT, the I-75 rest areas at mile marker 278 are Florida's busiest, and, at more than 30 years old, had become outmoded and overburdened. Site redesigns and the construction of the new facilities will improve accommodations and promote more efficient use of the sites. The two new visitor center buildings will each include a covered breezeway; two men's, women's and family restrooms; employee break room; security office, and vending machine room. New ancillary outbuildings, garages and other facilities will house maintenance equipment, backup utility systems, solid waste dumpsters and vehicles. Nine new picnic shelters will be built between the two rest areas, and spaces for tractor-trailer parking will increase.

FDOT and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) plan to use the rest areas as command centers for hurricane evacuations and other major emergencies.

ABOUT HARDIN CONSTRUCTION:

Celebrating 65 years of excellence, Hardin Construction Company, LLC is one of the nation's leading construction services firms, providing unequalled expertise for projects of broad scope and complexity through its culture of integrity, innovation and opportunity. With capabilities in general construction, construction management, design-build and renovation, Hardin is a leader in green building and sustainable practices and is recognized nationally for their safety practices. Privately-held, Hardin's headquarters is in Atlanta, Ga., with offices in Tampa, Fla., Orlando, Fla., Raleigh, N.C., and Austin, Texas. For more information, visit www.hardinconstruction.com.

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