



Design-Build Delivers Especially in Times of Crisis

Design-Build is the Key to Post-Harvey Reconstruction

Rebuilding Texas communities ravaged by Hurricane Harvey will be an immense task; however, there are important lessons learned after Hurricanes Katrina, Irene and Sandy which Texas can also utilize to turn tragedy into renewal. Key among them is authorizing the use of design-build to help speed recovery and deliver innovative and cost-effective results, not only to rebuild communities for today but also to build stronger and smarter for the future.

Current Law is a Roadblock to Effective Recovery

TXDOT Needs Full Design-Build Authority

- Texas law permits state agencies to use design-build for the construction of public buildings, water and waste water facilities.
- However, the Department of Transportation is limited to 3 projects annually over \$150 million. **Authority: Tex. Trans. Code 223.242)**
- This limit will not meet the state's needs to respond quickly and efficiently to rebuild the many large roads, bridges and other TXDOT properties damaged by Harvey.

Small Communities Need Design-Build Authority

- Hurricane Harvey destroyed many small Texas communities, which desperately need the innovation, time and cost efficiencies central to the design-build delivery system.
- Only local government entities with populations over 100,000 in Texas are permitted to use design-build without restriction. **Authority: Tex. Local Gov't Code Ann. Chapter 271, Subchapter J, §§ 271.181 et seq.**
- Rebuilding efforts should be equitable across all damaged areas, not just in large cities.

Clearing Legislative Roadblocks

Using Executive Authority Now

The Governor of Texas has the authority to expand the use of design-build in the case of emergency. Similar authority was used by Governors after Hurricanes Katrina, Irene and Sandy.

- TXDOT needs the authority to expand the use of design-build beyond its current 3 project limit and over \$150 million project threshold to properly rebuild after Hurricane Harvey.
- Preventing Texas' small communities from using a proven and effective project delivery system which has rebuilt hurricane-ravaged towns and counties nationwide is an obstacle to Harvey recovery efforts which Texas communities simply cannot afford. The state of Texas needs equitable reconstruction tools for all communities, regardless of population. Hurricane Harvey destroyed big cities and small towns. Texas should address recovery in the same way.

Preparing for the Future

The Texas legislature should provide full design-build authority so that agencies and communities can benefit from the proven efficiencies in project delivery not only in times of crisis but in good times as well.

The Design-Build Institute of America is the only membership organization bringing together thousands of organizations and individuals representing architects, engineers, owners, contractors, manufacturers (and more) to define, teach and promote best practices in design-build.

Find Design-build
Resources at:
dbia.org

Contact:

Richard Thomas

DBIA Director, State/
Local Legislative
Affairs

rthomas@dbia.org

(202) 454-7516