DESIGN-BUILD TODAY:
A Survey of State DOTs
The Design-Build Institute of America surveyed state Departments of Transportation on the status of design-build programs around the nation in the transportation sector. The survey -- developed by DBIA's Transportation Markets Committee -- examines the extent of design-build use, project types, procurement, best practices and education and training needs.

Results from 35 DOTs have revealed that design-build has grown faster in transportation than any other market sector, and it’s still growing.

In 2002, the Federal Highway Administration reported that state DOTs had completed 140 design-build projects over the course of 12 years, representing $5.5 billion.

Fourteen years later, DBIA's survey asked state DOT owners how many design-build projects their department had completed. The results show over 1,300 projects - a more than 800% increase!

Of respondents, 87% have design-build authority and 62% have a centralized design-build office with dedicated staff for design-build.

Owners who have used design-build like it; 87% of those who’ve responded so far said they would use design-build in the future. Of the 13% who are not planning to use design-build in the future, the primary reason is the lack of statutory authority. DBIA has worked to pass legislation granting design-build authority in all 50 states and will continue this advocacy until all owners have design-build as another tool in their project delivery toolbox.

Those states using design-build are using it on a broad spectrum of project types. 95% use design-build on highways, 65% on bridges and...
9% on rail. Interestingly, the survey results show no major differences between the use of design-build regarding project size. On average, owners are just as likely to use design-build on projects under $20 million as they are larger projects.

States use design-build for these project types

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Highways</td>
<td>95%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bridges</td>
<td>65%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Railroads</td>
<td>9%</td>
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Owners use various selection processes and procurement methods depending on the project, but they favor the best value selection process – used by 85% of the DOTs. Additionally, 40% use low-bid, while 11% use Qualifications-Based Selection. Owners are also far more likely to use the “two step” procurement method (100%) than the “one step” procurement method (44%).

About Owners

- 66% have design-build manual processes
- 44% have post-award processes in manuals
- 87% are interested in owner-focused training

87% of the owners indicate they are interested in owner-focused training.

Those interested in training are primarily interested in best practices. There is also strong interest in teaming, collaboration and cultural shift training.

Additionally, DBIA is highly recognized by state DOT representatives – two-thirds of respondents have attended a DBIA conference and 42% are members.

Going Forward

As DBIA continues to define, teach and promote best practices in design-build project delivery, we now have further validation that design-build is incredibly popular in the transportation market. Owners from state DOTs are encouraged to view DBIA’s Design-Build Best Practices for the transportation sector, and attend DBIA’s Design-Build in Transportation Conference every Spring, where more than 1,000 professionals attend more than 20 educational programs and networking events – all geared toward how to save time, control costs and increase the quality of our nation’s transportation projects through Design-Build Done Right™.

In addition, stipends – a DBIA Best Practice – are universally accepted, with 100% of those reporting having used them. However, owners are split evenly on whether to use a set amount, set percentage or a range.

The survey results also show a clear desire for improved processes and owner education and training. While 66% of the owners who responded said they have a design-build manual to define their processes, only 44% said that the manual covers their post-award processes. In addition,
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