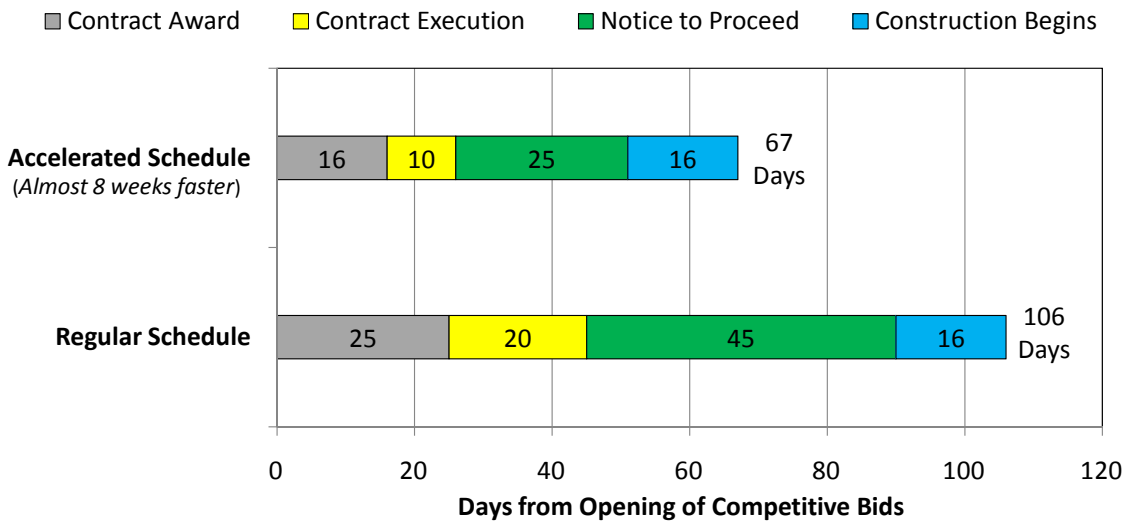


Accelerated Schedule for Construction Contracts for ARRA* and “Accelerate Florida” Projects

Florida Department of Transportation



*ARRA is the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

About Accelerated Schedules for Construction Contracts

In response to Governor Crist’s initiative to stimulate Florida’s economy, the Florida Department of Transportation accelerated more than \$1.4 billion in construction contracts in October 2008. A significant part of accelerating these contracts was to shorten the process of awarding contracts and getting construction underway. This is also being used for ARRA-funded projects.

The Department’s regular schedule, used to get more than \$2 billion in construction underway each year, takes up to 106 days from the time competitive bids are opened until construction actually begins. The Department analyzed each major step in this process and identified time-saving opportunities, reducing the schedule to 67 days. The 39-day difference means construction can begin up to 8 weeks sooner than under the regular schedule. Major steps, and process changes, include:

“Letting” to Contract Award (from 25 to 16 days)

Regular Process: The “contract letting” process begins with the opening of all bids received from contractors in response to project advertisements. A Technical Review Committee looks for bidding irregularities, with support from district and central office staff, and makes a recommendation to either make an award or reject the bids. The FDOT Contract Awards Committee meets 20 days after bid opening and considers this recommendation when it decides to make an award or reject all bids. The intent to award is posted within three days.

Change: The Contract Awards Committee meeting schedule was reduced from 20 days by having FDOT staff perform bid reviews at an accelerated pace by working extra hours.

Contract Award to Contract Execution (from 20 to 10 days)

Regular Process: Within 20 days of the award, the contractor must execute contract agreements and return them, along with a surety bond.

Change: Working with the contracting industry, contractors accelerate their paper work by at least 10 days.

Contract Execution to Notice to Proceed (from 45 to 25 days)

Regular Process: FDOT executes the contract within 15 days of receipt from the contractor. The contractor then submits documents and schedules within 30 days of FDOT contract execution.

Change: FDOT executes the contract within 5 days. The contractor then submits documents and schedules within 20 days of FDOT contract execution.

Notice to Proceed to Construction Begins (no change)

Process: The contractor procures materials, mobilizes, etc.