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# CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS

Detroit and Southeast Michigan's premier business news and information website

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## Website aims to move Detroit workers into pipeline for new construction jobs

By Amy Halmer

Major infrastructure projects are coming to Southeast Michigan in the next five years, and that means lucrative construction contracts and thousands of jobs will be up for grabs.

The **New International Trade Crossing**, for example, is a \$2.1 billion project that is expected to create 12,000 direct jobs. Add **M-1 Rail**, the 3.2-mile streetcar line running along Woodward Avenue in Detroit, as well as the widening of I-94 and I-75, a new hockey arena for the **Detroit Red Wings**, and there is the potential for more than 25,000 new jobs in the coming years.

But there may not be enough trained people to fill them. A new website and educational effort by the **Michigan Department of Transportation** and a host of others aim to fill that gap.



Robert Davis

"There is an aging community within the labor unions that will be retiring soon, and there will be a huge call for these construction jobs and not enough on the supply side," said Robert Davis, senior adviser at MDOT.

**The Partnership for Diversity and Opportunities in Transportation** — a committee of state and federal agencies, such as MDOT, as well as area industry representatives, nonprofits, trades and unions — recently launched a new website, **MiRoad2Work.org**, that educates Detroit residents about apprenticeships so they can be trained and shovel-ready as those jobs come available.

These jobs are good jobs, they say. The jobs in the skilled trades, such as boilermakers or masons or equipment operators, pay between \$17 and \$40 an hour and offer paths to long-term careers, not just jobs. In fact, the website has dubbed these apprenticeships "The Other Four-Year Degree" because some can take as many as four years to complete and are as rigorous as a traditional degree.

Unlike aid for college education, however, there was no website that presented all of the information in one place. Job seekers would have to hear about the opportunity, then find out prerequisites, like educational requirements and deadlines, and then determine how to actually apply.

All of that information is now available at [MiRoad2Work.org](http://MiRoad2Work.org).

[www.crainsdetroit.com/print/article/20131215/NEWS/312159991/website-aims-to-move-detroit-workers-into-pipeline-for-new](http://www.crainsdetroit.com/print/article/20131215/NEWS/312159991/website-aims-to-move-detroit-workers-into-pipeline-for-new)

### Partners in the Mi2Work.org Website

- Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan
- Cadillac Asphalt, LLC
- Detroit Employment Solutions Corp.
- Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice
- Federal Highway Administration – Michigan Division
- HART & Associates
- Focus: HOPE
- Go Green Contracting Inc.
- HNTB Michigan Inc.
- Metro Strategies Inc.
- Michigan Department of Transportation
- Michigan Economic Development Corp.
- Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- Operating Engineers Local 324
- Parsons Brinckerhoff
- Raven Loon Communications
- Rickman Enterprise Group
- SEMCOG, the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
- SER Metro-Detroit, Jobs for Progress, Inc.
- Southwest Detroit Business Association
- The Prewitt Group
- Transportation Riders United (TRU)
- URS Corp.
- USA Energy Group
- USDOL/Office of Apprenticeship
- Workforce Development Agency