

W E S T V I R G I N I A
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CARR CONCRETE CORPORATION

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CARR CONCRETE: CEMENTED IN THE PRECAST INDUSTRY

In an overcast economy, Carr Concrete Corporation, Waverly, offers a ray of sunshine. As a result of funding for projects through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, they have acquired two large contracts and added sixteen employees, which has kept them busy through the uncertain economic conditions and the winter months.

The first project, a \$5 million prime contract, requires the fabrication of 130 precast restroom facilities for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District. The second project, a subcontract with Vecellio & Grogan, Inc., Beckley, requires fabrication of 265 precast concrete box culverts for a section of Corridor H in Grant County.

Restroom Facilities

Carr Concrete began casting the 130 restroom facilities destined for parks in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri in September 2009.



In late 2009, Carr Concrete Corporation, Waverly, won a \$5 million contract to construct 130 precast restroom facilities for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District. The project is wholly funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 and gave the company the opportunity to hire 16 workers.

"We are constructing 130 independent restroom facilities that have 13 different types of designs for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Kansas City District," Dave Dunbarger, Senior Project Manager, said. "Although it sounds fairly straight forward, because of the differing delivery locations and special requirements of the facilities, we have had to operate the project as if it were 15 independent contracts."

Shipment of the facilities will begin in March with completion expected in June.

"We are running two shifts to keep up with the production required by this project, along with the other 20-plus building projects that we have ongoing right now," Dunbarger said, noting that 85 percent of the precast work is currently complete.

Each panel weighs 27,000 to 70,000 pounds, based on its size, and crews are able to pour four complete panels in a shift. Panels then need to be finished which may include coloring the concrete, applying wood grain or stone.

Windows and doors, toilets, sinks, plumbing, painting and roofing are all included in the contract. Some of the facilities also have heating and cooling systems, but all of the facilities are designed to arrive at their destination ready to use.

Member firms working as sub-contractors include Cemex / Kosmos Cement Company, Louisville, KY, and Tri-State Roofing and Sheet Metal Company, Charleston.

Carr Concrete has direct purchase order contracts with many government agencies throughout the United States for precast buildings.

"Over the past year and a half, the precast building sector of our business has expanded greatly," Dunbarger said. "We have ongoing projects in 11 different states and are working fairly heavily along the East Coast and in the Midwest."



Workers pour the wall panels for the restroom facilities. In March, Carr Concrete will begin to ship the precast structures to various park and recreation locations in Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas and Missouri.



Each of the 130 facilities has one of 13 designs. Size, layout, materials and finishes vary. Workers apply woodgrain, stone and other finishes to the exterior of the panels after they are poured.

Carr is finding many bidding opportunities for precast buildings through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Dunbarger noted that 90 percent of their precast buildings are destined for the parks and recreation sector which received a great deal of funding through the Recovery Act.

Box Culverts

In addition to the restroom facilities, Carr Concrete is in the process of producing 265 box culverts for a section of Corridor H in Grant County. In late 2009, Vecellio & Grogan began building a new, 1.9-mile section of Corridor H in Grant County.

The \$32 million contract with the WV Department of Highways involves more than 5.7 million cubic yards of excavation and construction of a four-lane, 613-foot-long bridge rising over wetlands and a county road.

The project also includes more than a quarter-mile of 10-foot x 10-foot precast concrete box culvert for drainage.

“Based on the lane length and depth of cover, each box culvert has a wall thickness of 4-feet, 5.5-feet or 7-feet,” said Burr Stanley, project manager – Bridge Division. “The wall thickness requirements are larger than the typical box culvert in order to accommodate slope changes.”

Crews are able to pour three of the box culverts in a shift. Currently, about 30 percent of the precast work is complete.

Installation will begin in the Spring and should be complete by Summer 2010.

The box culverts, because of their 10-foot height, have unique shipping requirements.

“We typically transport them standing up, but because of their height, we have to ship each of the roughly 57,000-pound box culverts lying down,” Stanley said. “In addition, an access road must be built so that we can get the culverts where they need to go,” Stanley said. “Once we start the delivery and installation process we should be able to set about 30 box culverts per week.”

Stanley noted that Carr Concrete was incredibly happy to be working with Vecellio & Grogan on the project.

“Vecellio and Grogan has been wonderful to work with,” Stanley said.

Corridor H is a long planned, partly built, four-lane divided highway extending along a 140-mile route from Weston through the Potomac Highlands to the Virginia state line. A 40-mile section from Weston to Elkins



The restroom facilities contract includes all finishes, plumbing fixtures and roofing. In order to maintain the aggressive production schedule throughout the winter, Carr Concrete utilizes a mobile garage. The schedule has also permitted the company to operate two shifts, allowing them to keep up with the project along with their other building production work.

is finished, with construction of the remainder taking place in sections as state and federal funding allow.

Vecellio and Grogan has built multiple sections of the roadway over the years, including a recently-completed Corridor H bridge in Hardy County.

About the Company

Carr Concrete produces a wide variety of precast concrete products, which has helped them remain solvent in the current economic climate.

The company began in 1974 by producing burial vaults. In the 1980s they began making agricultural products, septic tanks and cisterns. In the late 1990s, Carr started making bridge beams and box culverts. They became a subsidiary of R.W. Sidley, Inc., in 2001.

"Our willingness to take on a challenge and our diverse product base have helped us remain in production during the economic downturn," Dunbarger said, explaining that R.W. Sidley has two other precast concrete plants which are shut down right now as a result of economic conditions.

The company still makes funeral and agricultural products, but also creates preassembled buildings and has a strong presence in the bridge and box culvert industry both in West Virginia and in surrounding states.

"We are very fortunate to have both the restroom facilities contract and the box culverts for Corridor H," Stanley said. "We are a success story in that we have added employees as a direct result of the Recovery Act. But, our true success lies in our ability and willingness to diversify and offer a dynamic product line."

Dunbarger added that with a great deal of experience and a strong work force, they are always happy to take on a new challenge, and, it is that attitude which has allowed the company to cement its place in the precast concrete industry.

By Lindsay Stephens



Carr Concrete is also producing 265 box culverts for a section of Corridor H in Grant County under construction by Vecellio and Grogan, Inc., Beckley. A worker assembles the rebar for the box culvert.



Burr Stanley, project manager - Bridge Division, stands in a newly cast box culvert. Delivery, which requires special accommodation due to the 10-foot height of the box culverts, will occur in the Spring and Summer of 2010.