

Celebrating Fourth of July and Juneteenth

By Jeff Thomas

Editor's note: We are publishing this although Juneteenth has passed. Jeff Thomas enlightens by disclosing the unity in both celebrations, a unity that is beyond the months of June and July.

In the United States, two significant holidays reflect the nation's complex and diverse history: Juneteenth and the Fourth of July. While the Fourth of July has been celebrated by many Americans since the country's founding, Juneteenth has only recently gained recognition as a national holiday. Both days are deeply intertwined with the American values of freedom and liberty, and it is important for all Americans, including white Americans, to celebrate and understand the significance of both.

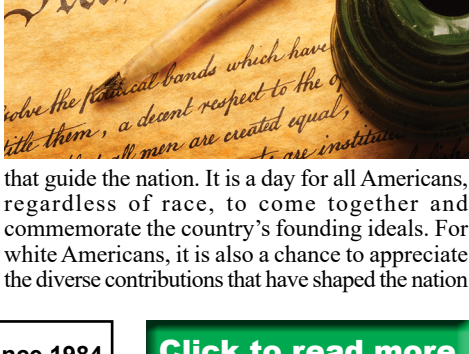
Juneteenth
Juneteenth, observed on June Nineteenth, commemorates the day in 1865 when Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, to announce the end of the Civil War and the abolition of slavery, as decreed by the Emancipation Proclamation two

and a half years earlier. This day marks a pivotal moment in American history when the nation took a significant step toward fulfilling its foundational promise of liberty for all.

Fourth of July
The Fourth of July, or Independence Day, is celebrated on July Fourth and marks the adoption of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. It is a day that symbolizes the birth of the United States as an independent nation and the beginning of its journey toward democracy and freedom.

For white Americans, celebrating Juneteenth is an opportunity to acknowledge and honor the contributions and sacrifices of African Americans in the pursuit of equality and justice. It is a time to reflect on the ongoing struggle against racial injustice and to commit to the ideals of liberty and equality that benefit all citizens. By recognizing the significance of Juneteenth, white Americans can show solidarity with their fellow citizens and help foster a more inclusive and understanding society.

Similarly, the Fourth of July is a celebration of independence and the democratic principles



that guide the nation. It is a day for all Americans, regardless of race, to come together and commemorate the country's founding ideals. For white Americans, it is also a chance to appreciate the diverse contributions that have shaped the nation

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IS SOLICITING COST PROPOSALS FROM NEW YORK STATE DBE SUBCONTRACTORS AND VENDORS

Design-Build Services for Second Avenue Subway, Phase 2—Tunneling and Structural Shell Project

MTA Construction and Development Contract No. C-26202

Bid Date: July 16, 2025

Description of project:
This contract is the second contract of Phase 2 of the Second Avenue Subway Program. Phase 1 of the program extended the Q Line subway service from 63rd Street and Lexington Avenue to 96th Street and 2nd Avenue and has been open to the public since 2017.

Phase 2 of the program will extend the Q Line subway service from the 96th Street Station to 125th Street and Lexington Avenue. This contract will be for the rehabilitation of an existing MTA tunnel constructed in the 1970s, the construction of two bored running tunnels and associated cross passages, and for the construction of the structural shells for the 116th Street and 125th Stations and associated construction of shafts and adits at the future ancillary and entrance sites, and for the construction of the shaft and adits at the end of tail-track tunnels.

Many bidding opportunities are available: geotechnical instrumentation, haul and dispose soil, rodent control, photography, rebar fabrication, electrical sub, soil and water sampling, office trailers, fencing, curbs and sidewalks, site work, security guard service, utility work, QA/QC inspections, CPM, MPT, road paving, striping, survey, landscaping, building demo, SOE/ground improvements, lead and asbestos abatement.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/Vet/Disabled

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AirTrain Newark Replacement Program—Maintenance and Control Facility (MCF) Project

PANYNJ Contract No. EWR-154.946

Bid Date: July 17, 2025

Description of project:
Construction of the maintenance, control and operations building and the elevated maintenance yard, as part of the program to replace the AirTrain Newark system. Project will be required to coordinate and interface with Guideway and Stations Contractor and System Technology Contractor, including phased construction.

Many bidding opportunities are available: geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring, material inspection and testing, sitework, curb, sidewalk, asphalt, pavement, pavers, landscaping, fence, signs, guardrail, utilities, watermain, drainage, sewer, storm, precast, electrical, communications, fire alarm, site electric, sanitary, striping, pavement marking, concrete, rebar, reinforcing, formwork, structural steel, plumbing, fire protection, HVAC, elevator, miscellaneous metals, railings, stairs, MPT, lockers, acoustical ceiling, exterior walls, doors, windows, metal decking, painting, drywall, tile, carpet, vinyl base, acoustic panel, metal panel cladding, metal panels, roofing, insulation, waterproofing, trailers, cleaning, overhead doors, flooring, earthwork, dewatering, haul and dispose, contaminated soil, trucking, fills, stone, sewer cleaning, site clearing, trailers, cleaners, fireproofing, glass and glazing, concrete masonry unit, concrete block, disposal, containers, flagging, piles, groundwater treatment.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/Vet/Disabled

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Design-Build Services for LIRR West Side Yard Flood Mitigation Measures

MTA Construction and Development Contract No. 6401

Bid Date: August 22, 2025

Description of project:
Design, furnish, construct, and install concrete perimeter flood walls, seepage cut-off barriers below the concrete flood walls, flood gates, deployable flood barriers, sump pumps, a tide gate chamber, drainage system improvements, workable aisles and a diesel generator, an automatic transfer switch, ancillary electrical equipment, and required communications.

This project will develop flood protection solutions for the West Side Yard in order to prevent and mitigate flooding of the LIRR Tunnels. The flood protection along the WSY perimeter will be accomplished via a combination of permanent flood walls and deployable flood barriers.

Many bidding opportunities are available: deep foundations, minipiles, jetgrout, sheeting, rebar installation, concrete supply, site work, electrical work, painting, paving, curb and sidewalk, site utilities.

If you are interested in bidding on this project, please contact Skanska's Diversity and Outreach Coordinator: Aislinn.Speranza@skanska.com • EOE/M/F/Vet/Disabled

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NORTHEAST EVENTS FOR YOUR BUSINESS

2025

Federal Contracting: Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) Certification Program Webinar
Tuesday, July 15, 2025, 2:00 pm–4:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: Patrice Dozier, patrice.dozier@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
SBA is creating a space for Woman-Owned Small Businesses, via WOSB certification! Are you a woman owner of a small business? The federal government's goal is to award at least five percent of all federal contracting dollars to woman-owned small businesses each year. Join us for training on how to register for SBA's Woman-Owned Small Business (WOSB) program, which helps eligible small businesses to qualify for federal contracting opportunities. The monthly sessions include an overview of the self-certification process, and a discussion of the NAICS codes that qualify as WOSB or EDWOSB. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/woman-owned-small-business-wosb-certification-program-tickets-1123665025339>

8(a) Orientation and SAM Registration Webinar
Wednesday, July 16, 2025, 10:30 am–12:30 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: SBA Illinois District Office, 312-353-4528, illinois.do@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Join the Small Business Administration (SBA)

Illinois District Office for a virtual workshop providing an overview of the 8(a) Business Development program, eligibility requirements, and program benefits. Also learn how to increase your potential for federal contract opportunities through System for Award Management (SAM) registration, including information that you need for the registration process. SBA presenters will offer additional tips, address FAQs, give directions on where to get further assistance, and answer your other questions. For this and other events, one goal is to better address the needs of attending current and soon-to-be business owners. To register for this free webinar, visit <https://www.sba.gov/event/65169>

Selling to the Federal Government Webinar
Thursday, July 24, 2025, 1:00 pm–4:00 pm
Online
Main Sponsor(s): US Small Business Administration
Contact: George Tapia, 610-382-3086, george.tapia@sba.gov
Fee: Free; registration required
Did you know that the federal government is the largest purchaser of goods and services in the world? Interested in learning how your business can market your services or goods to the federal government? Register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-to-sell-to-the-federal-government-tickets-21790713611> SBA helps to ensure small businesses get fair opportunities to share federal government prime contracts. Topics will include: How to Register, Small Business Certifications, Finding Opportunities, Marketing Your Firm, Federal Supply Schedules, Getting Paid, Tips to Prepare Your Offer, How to Seek Additional Assistance. All training sessions are held via Microsoft Teams Meeting.

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