

March 2002 Monthly Report

Introduction

March saw the second in a series of workshops sponsored by the Authority that are intended to educate contractors regarding the pre-qualification/classification requirements for bidding on Authority school construction projects. The program was hosted by the Paterson School District and more than 225 contractors attended. Since the start of the Authority's "Are You Ready To Bid?" campaign, applications from contractors for classification to bid on State construction projects has risen 250 percent from a monthly average of 40 applications to 140 applications during March. Additional contractor workshops are being held throughout the State. Details of the month's activities follow.

1. [Construction Update](#)
 2. [Predevelopment and Land Acquisition](#)
 3. [School District Grants](#)
 4. [Conferences/Presentations](#)
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I. Construction Update

A. **Construction Underway**

Construction contracts were executed and notices-to-proceed were issued for seven health and safety construction projects during the month of March. Two of these contracts, totaling approximately \$1.4 million, were for roof replacements and masonry restoration at two elementary schools in the Millville School District and a roof replacement at the West Kinney Alternate High School in the Newark School District. A third contract, in the amount of \$60,570.00, was for HVAC improvements in the Union City School District. Two contracts were let for the Plainfield School District, one for roof upgrades at Plainfield High School and Cedarbrook Elementary School at \$513,100, and the other for electrical system repairs in the same schools for \$384,950. The sixth contract totals \$1,528,000 and will cover repairs to the Veterans Memorial Middle School and the Yorkship Elementary School in Camden. The seventh contract is for roofing and related masonry work worth \$1,182,200 for the Lincoln Elementary School, Washington Middle School, and Harrison High School in Harrison.

B. **Procurement of Construction Contractors**

Twenty-four construction projects were advertised in the month of March for 63 schools in eight Abbott school districts. The chart below details the information as to school districts, description of work, and bid due dates for the respective projects.

School District	Work Description	No. of Schools	Bid Due Date
Jersey City	General Construction	2	3/29/02
Jersey City	Electrical	2	3/29/02
Elizabeth	Roofing	1	3/28/02
Elizabeth	General Construction	1	3/28/02
Union City	Roofing	1	3/21/02
Paterson	Window Replacements	1	3/26/02
Camden	Roof Replacement	2	4/2/02
Camden	Fire Alarm	2	4/2/02
Harrison	Boiler Replacement	2	3/26/02
Jersey City	Roof Replacement	1	3/28/02

Passaic	Roof Replacement	1	4/1/02
Passaic	Roof Replacement	2	4/5/02
Jersey City	General Construction	2	4/16/02
Newark	Window Replacement	6	4/11/02
Newark	Window Replacement	4	4/11/02
Newark	Window Replacement	7	4/11/02
Newark	Window Replacement	5	4/11/02
Jersey City	Masonry & Exterior	4	4/10/02
Jersey City	Windows & Security	3	4/10/02
Jersey City	Door & Hardware	5	4/10/02
Paterson	Window Replacement	1	4/15/02
Elizabeth	Roofing & Masonry	3	4/15/02
Elizabeth	General Construction	3	4/15/02
Elizabeth	General Construction	2	4/15/02

1. *Classification of Contractors*

EDA began a significant outreach effort for contractors in Abbott districts, to facilitate their enrollment on the list of contractors classified to do work for EDA on school projects. The outreach is spearheaded by workshops being held in many Abbott districts around the State, at which contractors are taught which forms must be submitted, and how to complete them in order to become classified. The workshops also provide information on the preparation of bids for EDA projects. We have also created a **"one-stop shop" for contractors** who can now find at one page on our website, all four forms required by the four State agencies that govern contractor classification. Finally, we established a **Contractor Helpline** (609 943-4143) specifically to support contractors with questions about classification, bidding, and other matters. Combined, these efforts have spurred contractor classification dramatically: enrollments in March were up 250% (from 40 per month to 140 per month) over the level of enrollment established in prior months.

2. *Procurement of Design Professionals*

Design contracts totaling more than \$6 million were executed during the month of March for health and safety facilities projects at 50 schools in 10 Abbott school districts. The estimated construction costs for these projects are approximately \$68.4 million.

In addition, design contracts totaling \$9.6 million were executed for a new middle school in the Jersey City School District and a new high school in the Long Branch School District, as well as for major additions in the East Orange, Plainfield and Neptune School Districts. The estimated costs of this new construction are approximately \$117 million.

Approvals to contract for Health and Safety related design services for various schools in the Burlington, Paterson, Trenton, Hoboken, Irvington, and Pleasantville school districts were granted by the School Review Committee as it exercised its new authority to review and approve Health and Safety projects on an expedited basis. The total value of the design contracts is \$10,244,560.

[Back to top](#)

II. Predevelopment and Land Acquisition

Scopes of work were developed and Requests for Proposals issued for site feasibility investigation services for seven prospective school sites, including an early childhood center in the **Pemberton** School District, an elementary school and a high school in the **Paterson** School District, an elementary school in the **Irvington** School District, an early childhood center and a middle school in the **Garfield** School District, and an elementary school in the **Plainfield** School District. In addition, consultants were selected and contracts executed for site feasibility investigations for the six sites in the **Elizabeth** School District reported in last month's report and for the site for the new high school in the **Harrison** School District.

The core elements of the site feasibility investigations include, boundary/ topographic/utility surveys, a geotechnical investigation to analyze soil and other subsurface conditions, an environmental investigation, an analysis of the ability of the existing utility infrastructure to support the proposed facility, site planning analysis, permit issues and requirements, as well as the preparation of necessary reports for development. Each of these investigations is also tailored to the individual characteristics of the properties involved and the proposed use of the site.

In addition, twenty-five review appraisals were solicited for properties designated for eight new schools.

[Back to top](#)

III. **School District Grants**

Abbott Districts: The Authority executed eleven grant agreements with three Abbott school districts for the total amount of approximately \$1.5 million. Pursuant to the grant agreement, the districts are authorized to procure design consultants and contractors for these projects, which are all estimated at under \$500,000.

Non Abbott Districts: The Authority executed twenty-seven grant agreements this month for facilities projects in thirteen non-Abbott school districts. The State share for these projects totals approximately \$26.3 million and the initial Authority disbursement for these projects was approximately \$1.5 million. The total disbursements made by the Authority for non-Abbott grants thus far are approximately \$17 million.

[Back to top](#)

IV. **Conferences/Presentations**

NJ Alliance for Action-Hudson County Chapter
March 1, 2002, Radisson Suite Hotel, Meadowlands, New Jersey

Paterson's "Works in Progress" Forum
March 6, 2002, The Brownstone, Paterson, New Jersey

AIA Educational Committee of New York and New Jersey
March 8, 2002, Metlife Building, New York, New York

NJ Association of School Business Officials Facilities "Cracker Barrel" Conference
March 10-11, 2002, Bally's Park Place Hotel, Atlantic City, New Jersey

AHERA Outreach Sessions "Are Your Schools in Compliance?"
March 13, 2002, Bloomfield College, Bloomfield, New Jersey

"Are You Ready to Bid?" Contractor Workshop for Paterson Region
March 13, 2002, LaNeve's Restaurant, Haledon, New Jersey

Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences Institute, Sixth annual Safe Schools Seminar
March 14, 2002, Union High School, Union, New Jersey

"Renovation and Construction of Schools" Program
March 14, 2002, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, New Brunswick,
New Jersey

"Everyday Heroes: Empowering Our Communities Through Faith"
March 16, 2002, New Life Outreach Church, Millville, New Jersey

Plainfield School Construction Program
March 16, 2002, Centennial Hall, Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center, Plainfield, New
Jersey

Paterson Coalition for Our Children's Schools: Community Forum
March 21, 2002, Paterson Museum, Paterson, New Jersey

Hudson County Contractor Forum
March 21, 2002, High School, West New York, New Jersey

The U.S. Green Building Council New Jersey Chapter
March 26, 2002, West Windsor Public Library, Princeton, New Jersey

Alliance for Action, "New Jersey's \$12 Billion School Construction Program: Where's
the Work?"
March 27, 2002, Ramada Conference Center, East Windsor, New Jersey

[Back to top](#)

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