



**The Henry County School Construction Project**

**PARTNERSHIP**

**Between**

**Occupational Safety and Health Administration**

**Atlanta-East Area Office,**

**And**

**MEJA Construction Inc.**

## **I. PURPOSE/SCOPE**

This Partnership was developed jointly by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and MEJA Construction Inc (MEJA). The Georgia Institute of Technology On-site Safety and Health Consultation Program (Georgia Tech) will also serve as a stakeholder in this Partnership. Georgia Tech will support the Partnership for benefit of the small employers engaged as subcontractors on the jobsite. This Partnership will cover the construction of the new Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematic (STEM) high school and the Stockbridge Elementary gymnasium (the Project). To reduce occupational-related fatalities and serious injuries within the construction industry, OSHA and MEJA will implement an agreement (Agreement) under the OSHA Strategic Partnership Program (OSPP). The common objectives and goals of the Partnership will include the following:

- A. Reduction in injuries and illnesses.
- B. Increased safety and health training.
- C. Reduction in the overexposure of workers to health and safety hazards.
- D. Increased numbers of employers with comprehensive safety and health management systems.

The new STEM school will be in downtown Stockbridge, Georgia, off South Lee Street. The Project will start with the demolition of the existing free-standing Stockbridge Elementary gymnasium and Patrick Henry High School. After the demolition is complete, a new gymnasium will be constructed that connects to the elementary school with walkway canopies. The gymnasium will be approximately 9,804 square feet (SF), with another 4,117 SF of walkway canopies. The gymnasium will also feature type IIB construction (fully sprinklered), comprised of a structural steel frame with concrete block infill, brick veneer, metal wall panels, as well as a thermoplastic polyolefin (TPO) roof system. The adjacent Henry County STEM High School will be approximately 171,855 SF, with 9,647 SF of outdoor covered area. The new STEM High School will also feature type IB construction (fully sprinklered), comprised of a structural steel frame with concrete block infill, brick veneer, metal wall panels, as well as a TPO roof system. Additional school features will include a collaborative workspace, a central courtyard, and a media center.

By combining their efforts, skills, knowledge and resources, OSHA, MEJA, and Georgia Tech expect to reduce exposure to hazards and thereby decrease the possibility of serious injuries and fatalities at the construction site. This Partnership is consistent with OSHA's long-range efforts to develop a contractor / government partnership approach to safety management. It allows for better use of OSHA resources and innovation in safety management. It also encourages more participation in the safety process from the construction community.

## **II. IDENTIFICATION OF PARTNERS**

The Partnership will include:

- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- MEJA Construction Inc. (MEJA)

The Partnership Stakeholder(s) will include:

- Georgia Institute of Technology On-site Safety and Health Consultation (Georgia Tech)

### III. GOALS/STRATEGIES/PERFORMANCE MEASURES

The primary objective of this Partnership is to create a working relationship that focuses on 1) preventing work-related fatalities; 2) controlling or eliminating serious workplace hazards; and 3) establishing a foundation for the development of an effective safety and health program. The goals employed to achieve these results will include the following:

GOALS	STRATEGIES	MEASURES
Reduce the injury and illness rates 10 percent below the 2022 BLS national average for the specific SIC/NAICS code, thereby providing a safe and healthy work environment for employees at the Project.	<p>1) Review the OSHA 300 log data of the Partnership participants. Review injury and illness trends and implement effective corrective action(s).</p> <p>2) Calculate the Project's Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) and Days away from work, restricted, or job transferred (DART) <sup>1</sup> rates.</p>	This goal will be measured by comparing the Project's TRC and DART rates to the established 2022 BLS Rates for Non-Residential Construction NAICS 2362, which is 1.7 (TCIR) and 0.9 (DART).
Develop or enhance the employer's safety and health program based on the Safe + Sound model (To include Management Leadership; Worker Participation; and Find & Fix Hazards).	<p>1) Review the number of employers that receive comprehensive consultation visits.</p> <p>2) Review the number of employers establishing safety and health programs, based on the Safe + Sound model. These items may include, but are not limited to, the following: safety and health policies statement; job hazard analysis; accident investigation; and hierarchy of controls.</p> <p>3) Hold comprehensive Site-Specific Safety Plan (SSSP) reviews with subcontractors to promote management systems</p> <p>4) Hold detailed planning meetings for tasks including confined space entry, excavations greater than 5', crane work, and public interface work</p>	<p>a) Measure the number of participants that develop and implement effective safety and health management systems, as a result of participating in the Partnership, compared to the (baseline) initial year of the Partnership.</p> <p>b) Review the planning meetings held and their effectiveness, as well as the engagement in full planning meetings</p>

<sup>1</sup>Days Away from work, Restricted, or job Transferred (DART) rate: This includes cases involving days away from work, restricted work activity, and transfers to another job. It is calculated based on  $(N / EH) \times (200,000)$  where N is the number of cases involving days away, and/or restricted work activity, and/or job transfer; EH is the total number of hours worked by all employees during the calendar year; and 200,000 is the base number of hours worked for 100 full-time equivalent employees. For example: Employees of an establishment including management, temporary, and leased workers worked 645,089 hours at this worksite. There were 22 injury and illness cases involving days away and/or restricted work activity and/or job transfer from the OSHA 300 Log (total of column H plus column I). The DART rate would be  $(22 / 645,089) \times (200,000) = 6.8$ .

GOALS	STRATEGIES	MEASURES
Increase the number of employees, employers and supervisors who are provided effective safety and health training, such as the OSHA 10-hour course.	<p>1) Review the number of the employers that establish effective safety and health training programs.</p> <p>2) Review the number of the employers that provide employees with OSHA 10-hour/ OSHA 30-hour training.</p> <p>3) Require all subs to have a 30-hour trained competent person on site at a minimum</p>	<p>a) Measure the number of employers with effective safety and health training programs.</p> <p>b) Measure the number of managers, supervisors and employees provided with OSHA 10-hour/ OSHA 30-hour training compared to the (baseline) initial year of the Partnership.</p>
Conduct effective self-inspections, sampling, monitoring, training, and consultative activities in areas where employees might be exposed to health and safety hazards such as the following: hazardous noise levels; lead; silica; asbestos; ergonomic stressors; and other hazards. The overall outcome of this goal should be the reduced exposure of workers to health and safety hazards.	<p>1) Track health and safety hazards related program improvements, as well as training focused on the prevention of health and safety hazards.</p> <p>2) MEJA will track the number of self-inspections and site audits, as well as the number of health and safety hazards identified during these activities.</p>	A comparison will be made between the number of health and safety hazards identified during self-inspections and audits conducted during the (baseline) initial year of the Partnership.

#### IV. OSPP MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION

##### A. MEJA Construction will:

1. Establish a jobsite safety walkaround team, to include a representative of all primary trades active on site to develop an understanding and awareness that all accidents are preventable. This action will be accomplished by implementing the MEJA's Safety Vision, a comprehensive safety and health management system, which includes:
  - a. Management commitment and employee involvement.
  - b. Hazard analysis.
  - c. Hazard control; and
  - d. Arrangement of training assistance for other stakeholders on site.
2. Mentor subcontractors in safety and health management systems. The term "subcontractors" shall include all multi-tiered subcontractors that arrive on the site.
3. Where the potential for airborne silica exposure exists, require the use of wet cutting, or soft cutting techniques and/or dust collection system in compliance with Table 1 of 29 CFR Part 1926.1153, and when employee exposure levels require, mandatory use of approved respiratory protection. Where the potential for airborne silica exposure exists, personal air monitoring will be conducted to assess employee exposure levels. Where the potential for exposure to other health hazards exists (i.e., carbon monoxide, lead, or large-scale use of chemicals in the building interior during floor finishing), MEJA will coordinate with the

subcontractor responsible for creating the hazard and ensure that air monitoring is accomplished to assess employee exposure levels. MEJA will compile and track sampling results.

4. Have the authority to enforce safety rules and regulations. This enforcement authority will include holding contractors and employees accountable for following safety rules and regulations and, if necessary, removing contractors' employees and supervisors from the job site, following proper disciplinary procedures.
5. Ensure that a competent person performs a risk assessment of all fall hazards. The probability and severity of occurrence for each identified hazard will be evaluated to eliminate or reduce risks through conventional fall protection, engineering, or administrative controls to as low a level as possible. Regarding fall hazard risk assessment:
  - a. Critical risks will not be tolerated. A critical risk is defined by work that contains high probability in occurrence and high severity in consequence. No work will be performed until action is taken to reduce the level of risk to as low as reasonably feasible.
  - b. Bricklayers performing overhead bricklaying and related work above lower levels must be adequately protected. No fall protection "safety monitoring" system will be allowed.
  - c. Workers performing work on the face of formwork or reinforcing steel must be protected from falling by personal fall arrest systems, with the use of a positioning device and/or lanyards.
6. Ensure that serious ergonomic hazards will be identified and corrected.
7. Ensure that ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) are used to protect all electrical circuits that are installed for work. All contractors will ensure that employees are protected always using a GFCI.
8. Ensure that MEJA Project Managers and Safety Directors serve as points of contact and monitoring safety and health at the site and its progress toward achievement of the Partnership goals.
9. Confirm that MEJA, to include Superintendents, Construction Managers and Project Managers, verify that weekly Safety Audits are conducted (since this is a multi-employer worksite and all workers are to work together on safety issues). Upon request, MEJA will review subcontractors' daily reports and audits, note any hazards found, and then review the results with all Safety Committee members at the weekly coordination/subcontractor meeting.
10. Conduct and document weekly jobsite safety meetings/toolbox talks.
11. Submit any accident reports immediately to the Project Safety Committee, including first aid, injury, property damage and near miss reports.
12. Continually evaluate the Partnership's effectiveness and make recommendations for improvements.
13. Ensure that no employees are allowed to work directly below a suspended load except for situations where no other safe alternative may exist. In these rare cases, the following criteria must be met:
  - a. A lift plan will be submitted and reviewed by the Project Safety Committee prior to any crane lifts.

- b. Employees engaged in the initial connection of steel and employees engaged in work necessary for hooking or unhooking the load.
  - c. Material being hoisted shall be rigged to prevent unintentional displacement.
  - d. Hooks with self-closing safety latches or their equivalent shall be used to prevent components from slipping off the hook.
  - e. All loads shall be rigged by a qualified rigger.
  - f. Appropriate use of tag lines will be utilized to prevent work below suspended loads.
- 14. Require the use of appropriate personal protective equipment. A 100 percent eye protection and Hard Hat program will be implemented. Employees on-site shall wear high-visibility reflective clothing.
- 15. Ensure that all safety signs and warnings will be posted in English and Spanish, as well as in any other languages spoken frequently by workers on-site.
- 16. Implement a 100 percent Fall Protection Plan for all work performed 6 feet or more above lower surfaces.
- 17. Implement an effective Heat Illness Prevention Program (Heat Program) to educate workers about the hazards of working outdoors in the heat and steps needed to prevent heat-related illnesses. This should utilize tools such as OSHA's Heat Safety Tool Smartphone App and the National Weather Service Alerts and Advisories.
- 18. Provide all data to OSHA that is needed for the annual OSHA Strategic Partnership Program (OSPP) evaluation report.

## **B. Subcontractors will:**

- 1. Appoint a representative to the site Safety Committee responsible for resolving job safety matters and serving as a liaison to MEJA. Every prime trade contractor will have a person available to participate on the Safety Committee. Participation in this committee will consist of, but will not be limited to, participation in MEJA's walkthroughs and Weekly Safety Committee meetings.
- 2. Conduct job-site safety inspections for those employees under their control. These jobsite safety inspections will be in addition to the daily general inspections. If non-compliant activity or hazards are discovered, immediate correction is required. Abatement methods and verification documentation must be submitted to the appropriate MEJA Safety Director.
- 3. Participate in the weekly Safety Committee/subcontractor meetings and safety audits. Non-compliance must be corrected immediately. Abatement methods and verification must be submitted to the appropriate MEJA Safety Manager who will document the correction taken and share this information during the monthly update meetings.
- 4. Share the results of jobsite inspections with all workers by posting them in the Project office or on the jobsite bulletin board, to ensure all workers are notified of the results.

**C. OSHA will:**

1. Participate, to the extent resources permit, in the quarterly meeting with Partnership participants, but will not participate in the walk around inspection, except that the verification visits may be scheduled as part of the weekly walk around inspection.
2. Serve as a resource and liaison for Partnership participants and assist with safety and health training, as resources permit.
3. Give priority to the construction project when technical assistance is needed.
4. Audit the monthly reports/documents and make recommendations for improvements in the meeting of Partnership goals.
5. Conduct inspections in accordance with sections VIII and IX of this Partnership.
6. Conduct the annual Partnership evaluation report in accordance with section VII of this Partnership.

**D. Georgia Tech's On-site Consultation Program will:**

1. Perform quarterly jobsite inspections, to the extent resources permit.
2. Give priority consideration to requests for services to small contractors who are engaged in work at the Project

**V. SAFETY AND HEALTH MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

MEJA will use their systems to collect and analyze injury and illness trends (including near-miss incidents) by all contractors performing work at the site. This data will be used as a tool to ensure continual safety and health improvement at the site. The management of this agreement will be accomplished by MEJA implementing a comprehensive jobsite safety and health management system, which includes:

1. Using MEJA's - Job Hazard Analysis (JHA) and Pre-Task Plan forms, MEJA will complete a risk assessment prior to exposing any employee to potential safety and health hazards.
2. Working with OSHA, Georgia Tech, and Safety Committee members to provide the resources to conduct initial monitoring for ALL toxins, carcinogens, or hazardous substances currently emphasized by OSHA and which present inhalation hazards, such as silica, lead, cadmium, and/or isocyanates. Employee exposure will be assumed, and respiratory protection worn until the results of the initial monitoring studies are received and demonstrate no exposure problems or prior surveys show no hazard exists. MEJA will endeavor to ensure that no work with these materials will occur, thus preventing any exposure. MEJA will request periodic evaluation visits by Georgia Tech.
3. Ensure all contractors on-site will perform daily verification of safe activities and a Jobsite Safety Analysis (JSA). In addition, once each month, a review of the jobsite will be performed. A representative of the

subcontractors will be a safety participant in the job-site areas where their employees may be exposed to hazards. Any hazards found during the reviews will be corrected promptly. Items identified during the reviews will be annotated on a daily log. When hazards cannot be corrected immediately, they will be tracked until the abatement is completed. Employees exposed to these hazardous conditions will be informed of the hazard and effective interim control measures will be implemented. A record will be kept of all hazards found during the comprehensive site safety reviews and the number of hazards corrected because of the weekly reviews.

4. Implement an effective Fall Protection Plan to include fall protection in all cases where work is being performed 6 feet or more above lower surfaces.
5. Ensure employees receive safety and health training for the construction industry as follows:
  - a. Supervisory personnel should possess an OSHA 30-hour card or its equivalent. MEJA will work with all subcontractors to help each subcontractor's safety designer with an OSHA 10-hour training.
  - b. All employees will receive a site-specific construction safety orientation covering jobsite safety and health issues, procedures related to the work being performed, as well as the requirements outlined in this Agreement. In addition, employees shall receive training in the context of the risk assessment for operations they will encounter. This may require periodic retraining of employees on the content of the risk assessment as they become relevant due to entering new phases of construction. MEJA will provide this material to each subcontractor who has designated safety representative for completion.
  - c. Safety and health training will be provided to all workers in a language they understand. Bilingual instructors will perform this training. MEJA will provide a list of instructors to all subcontractors to ensure that all workers are effectively trained.
  - d. Hazard-specific training will be conducted on an as-needed basis.
  - e. Subcontractors can utilize other instructors if these instructors can provide a valid certification card showing completion of the OSHA 30-hour course. MEJA will have primary responsibility for coordinating these training opportunities. Georgia Tech will provide assistance and expertise, if and when available.
6. Each subcontractor with written safety and health management systems must submit them to MEJA for evaluation. Companies without safety and health management systems may adopt MEJA's Incident Prevention Plan or develop an adequate safety and health management system with the assistance of Georgia Tech.
7. Ensure MEJA and/or the affected subcontractors adequately address health-related issues, which arise during the course of the Project, with the assistance of OSHA, as its resources permit, and Georgia Tech. All health-related issues will be discussed monthly during the Partnership meetings. In addition:
  - a. An effective environmental monitoring program will be implemented to control airborne hazards, such as silica, and will include personal monitoring, employee training, implementation of engineering controls where possible, and the use of respiratory protection when necessary. Previous site-based data will be considered acceptable.



8. Ensure compliance with the NFPA 70E when working on live electrical equipment, including training and the availability and use of personal protective equipment. A permit system will be implemented whenever working near or on live electrical systems to ensure the implementation of appropriate protective measures prior to exposure. The permit form includes requirements for pre-task review and lockout/tagout procedures to be followed.
9. Ensure effective programs are employed, consisting of policies and procedures that comply with OSHA's Lockout/Tagout standards, as equipment and processes are brought live and on-line to the Project.

## **VI. WORKER INVOLVEMENT**

The site will establish an employee Safety Committee consisting of one member per key subcontractor that will meet monthly to share the results of jobsite inspections, information concerning accidents and near misses, and suggestions for improvement and recommendations for training the general workforce. Near misses and daily safety observations will be discussed during toolbox talks.

## **VII. ANNUAL EVALUATION**

The Partnership will be evaluated annually using the Strategic Partnership Annual Evaluation Format as specified in Appendix C of OSHA Instruction CSP 03-02-003, OSHA Strategic Partnership Program for Worker Safety and Health.

MEJA will be responsible for gathering required participant data to evaluate and track the overall results and success of the Partnership. This data will be shared with OSHA. OSHA will be responsible for writing and submitting the annual evaluation.

## **VIII. INCENTIVES**

Participant benefits from OSHA may include:

1. Maximum penalty reductions for good faith and history, to the extent allowed by the OSHA Field Operations Manual (FOM), OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-164 (April 14, 2020).
2. In the event that a citation with penalties is issued, the Area Director has the authority to negotiate the amount of an additional penalty reduction as part of the informal conference settlement agreement, which is consistent with OSHA's current policy regarding this matter.
3. Priority consultation service and assistance for small employers working on the construction site from the Georgia Tech Consultation program.
4. An OSHA-focused inspection is available where the Partnership participant has an effective safety and health management system fully compliant with 29 CFR Part 1926.20 and 29 CFR Part 1926.21 (For additional details refer to the Focused Inspection in Construction August 22, 1994, memo signed by then Deputy Assistant Secretary for OSHA James Stanley, which was revised on September 20, 1995).

## **IX. OSHA VERIFICATION**

1. Verification Enforcement Inspections: OSHA will conduct the initial verification enforcement inspection no sooner than three months, but within four months after Partnership participants formally enter into this

Agreement. During this period, Partnership participants should develop and implement the safety and health management systems required under this Agreement. After this period, OSHA will conduct the verification enforcement inspections annually after that. Verification enforcement inspections will be conducted as a focused inspection, per the appropriate OSHA guidelines. Compliance Safety and Health Officers (CSHOs) familiar with the Project will do verification enforcement inspections. Employee rights under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) will be awarded. During the verification enforcement inspections, if OSHA personnel identify serious hazards that site management refuses to correct, the inspection scope may be expanded.

2. Complaint/Referral Investigations: This Partnership provides for the immediate response to each allegation of a safety or health hazard brought to its attention by any person. Upon finding that an allegation is valid, the employer shall promptly abate the hazard.
3. OSHA agrees that a copy of each non-formal complaint/referral related to the work site and filed with OSHA will be forwarded by fax, or email, to the MEJA - Project Management office on-site. In accordance with applicable law, the name and identifying information of a complainant requesting confidentiality will not be revealed. MEJA agrees to investigate these complaints, regardless of the employer involved, and provide OSHA with a written response within five working days of receiving the non-formal complaint/referral.
4. Accident Investigations: Employers engaged in this Partnership recognize that OSHA fully investigates accidents involving fatalities or serious physical harm. If during the investigation OSHA determines that the incident resulted from violations of the OSHA standards, the employer will not be afforded Partnership incentives.

## **X. WORKER AND EMPLOYER RIGHTS**

This Partnership does not preclude employees and/or employers from exercising any right provided under the OSH Act, nor abrogate any responsibility to comply with rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the OSH Act.

## **XI. TERM OF PARTNERSHIP**

It is understood that this Agreement shall be in effect until completion of construction activities at the Project, but in no case longer than three-years. Should any "signatory" stakeholder choose to withdraw prior to project completion, a written notice shall be given stating the reason(s) and providing 30-day notice to the other party(s).

If OSHA chooses to withdraw its participation in the Partnership, the entire Partnership is terminated. Any party may also propose modification or amendment of the Agreement. Changes may be implemented if all parties agree that such changes are in the best interest of the Partnership.

**XII. THE PROGRAM - OSPP SIGNATURE PAGE**

Partnership Signing Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatory**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Therese Stawowy  
Acting Area Director  
Occupational Safety & Health  
Administration (OSHA)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ashley Bailey  
Project Manager  
MEJA Construction Inc.

**Signatory**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Doug House  
Safety Manager  
MEJA Construction, Inc.

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John Nicolella  
Superintendent  
MEJA Construction Inc.

**Signatory**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul Gable  
Vice President  
MEJA Construction, Inc.