James (Jim) Nichols

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DISPUTE REVIEW BOARD CANDIDATE PROFILE

Experienced construction professional with more than 26 years of experience in heavy civil, transportation, utility, and infrastructure projects. Extensive background in FDOT contract administration, construction management, subcontractor management, Design/Build, change order evaluation, scheduling, claims mitigation, dispute resolution, and project delivery. Demonstrated ability to interpret contract documents, resolve complex construction issues, facilitate project partnering, and assist project stakeholders in achieving equitable and practical outcomes.

Qualified to serve as a Dispute Review Board member through broad experience with construction contracts, project execution, contractor-owner relations, and dispute avoidance practices.

CORE QUALIFICATIONS

- Construction Contract Administration
- FDOT Project Experience
- Claims Avoidance & Resolution
- Supplemental Agreement/Change Order Negotiation
- Dispute Resolution
- Project Management
- CPM Scheduling Analysis
- Construction Documentation
- Partnering Facilitation
- Risk Management
- Utility Coordination
- Subcontractor Management
- Cost Control & Budget Management
- Plans/Specifications Interpretation
- Evaluated Requests for Equitable Adjustment (REA's).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Project Administrator / Construction Manager

FDOT – District 1
12/2005 – 3/2025

Responsibilities:

- Managed transportation, utility, and infrastructure projects ranging from $1 million to $50 million.
- Administered construction contracts and specifications.
- Evaluated and negotiated change orders and contract modifications.
- Analyzed project impacts involving schedule delays, differing site conditions, and scope changes.
- Managed and coordinated LAP/JPA agreements within FDOT projects.
- Coordinated dispute resolution meetings/hearings between owners, contractors, consultants.
- Led project meetings and partnering sessions.
- Reviewed claims and developed recommendations for equitable resolution.
- Maintained compliance with project specifications, permitting requirements, and quality standards.

Key Accomplishments:

- Successfully delivered over $250 million in construction total projects.
- Resolved numerous contractor-owner disputes without formal litigation.
- Reduced project delays through proactive issue identification and claim avoidance practices.
- Developed strong working relationships with public agencies, contractors, design professionals & Consultant Engineering Inspection (CEI's) firms.

Jenkins & Charland, Inc.

Construction Project Manager
3/2003 – 12/2005

- Managed project cost, schedule, and quality performance.
- Interpreted plans, specifications, and contract documents.
- Negotiated subcontract agreements.
- Prepared and evaluated Requests for Equitable Adjustment (REAs).
- Monitored project claims and dispute issues.

- Conducted progress meetings and contract compliance reviews.

PSI, Inc.

Construction Project Manager
1/1998 – 3/2003

Testing and inspection for the Ringling Bridge from downtown Sarasota to St. Armands.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION EXPERIENCE

Throughout my career I have participated in the evaluation, negotiation, and resolution of construction-related disputes involving:

- Contract interpretation
- Scope of work conflicts
- Delay and disruption impacts
- Time extension requests
- Differing site conditions
- Utility conflicts
- Change order disputes
- Payment disputes
- Contractor & Subcontractor performance issues
- Schedule recovery efforts

I have consistently worked to achieve contract based and timely resolutions while maintaining project progress and preserving stakeholder relationships.

REPRESENTATIVE PROJECTS

US 41 at 10th & 14th St. Roundabouts
Sarasota, Fl – District 1

Contract Value: $10 million

Role: Construction Project Manager - FDOT

Highlights:

- Managed contract administration.
- Evaluated change orders and claims.
- Facilitated issue resolution among project participants.
- Handled complex PIO issues

US 41 at Fruitville Rd and Gulfstream Roundabouts
Sarasota, Fl – District 1

Contract Value: $10 million

Role: Construction Manager - FDOT

Highlights:

- Managed contract administration.
- Evaluated change orders and claims.
- Facilitated issue resolution among project participants.
- Oversaw construction operations and contract compliance.
- Resolved project disputes involving schedule and scope impacts.

US 17 from SW Collins to SR 761 widening
DeSoto County – District 1

Contract Value: $40 million

Role: Construction Manager - FDOT

Highlights:

- Managed contract administration.
- Evaluated change orders and claims.
- Facilitated issue resolution among project participants.
- Oversaw construction operations and contract compliance.
- Resolved project disputes involving schedule and scope impacts.

Additional Projects:

- **I-75 ITS/FMS Sarasota/Manatee Counties-$5m**
- **US 17 widening from CR 675 to Moccasin Wallow – Manatee County-$5m**
- **US 41 from Piney Point to Moccasin Wallow Concrete Pavement – Manatee County-$5m**
- **Stickney Point (SR 72) Bascule Bridge Rehab – Sarasota County – $2.5m**
- **Anna Maria Island (SR 64) Bascule Bridge Rehab – Manatee County – $5m**
- **Cortez Bridge (SR 684) Bascule Bridge Rehab – Manatee County – $5m**
- **SR 64 improvements from 75th to 43rd – Manatee County - $7m**
- **US 17 widening from Zolfo Springs to River Rd – DeSoto County – $15m**
- **SR 758 (Bee Ridge Rd) improvements from US 41 to Honore Ave – Sarasota County - $15m**
- **US 41 widening from Bird Bay to Center Rd – Sarasota County - $10m**
- **SR 64 improvements from 15th st to Kay Rd – Manatee County - $10m**
- **SR 70 widening Lorraine Rd to Waterbury – Manatee County - $15m**
- **SR 62 resurfacing from US 301 to CR 39 – Manatee County - $10m**

- **Numerous LAP/JPA and Hurricane restoration projects – Totaling $25m**

- **Dispute Resolution Board Foundation (DRBF) - Member**

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

- FDOT DRB Training Workshop (October 2026)
- OSHA Training 30 hour
- Construction Claims & Contract Administration Training
- Partnering and Alternative Dispute Resolution Training
- Multiple CTQP

DISPUTE REVIEW BOARD STATEMENT OF INTEREST

I seek appointment as a Dispute Review Board Candidate to assist project stakeholders in avoiding and resolving construction disputes. My experience in construction management, contract administration, Design/Build construction management, and dispute resolution provides the practical perspective necessary to help maintain project progress.