

Memorandum

Center for Equal Opportunity
4201 E. Arkansas Ave., Room 200
Denver, Colorado 80222



TO: Transportation Commission & Transportation Commission DBE Committee

FROM: Heidi Bimmerle, Director of Human Resources and Administration

RE: DBE Committee November 2012

DATE: November 2, 2012

DBE Committee Action Item for November - Emerging Small Business Program Changes:

The new ESB program has been in effect for approximately one year. Over the past year, we have been able to determine the successful changes and those that need improvement. The latter area includes the work code system developed for the ESB program. One of the main objectives is to keep the ESB program simple so that primes are more likely to seek small business participation on contracts. We feel the current system is cumbersome and does not achieve that objective.

We are proposing to change the ESB certification to be based only on the primary industry of the applicant firm. The firm would then be eligible to count toward the ESB incentives for any work performed. The revisions also include changes to the timeline for the application process to better sync such procedures with the DBE program.

We have posted revised ESB Guidelines at <http://www.coloradodot.info/business/equal-opportunity/emerging-small-business-program>. Per the ESB Program Rules, these revised ESB Guidelines must be approved by the DBE Committee and we are seeking such approval at the November meeting.

Program Highlights:

US 6 Reverse Trade Fair: In order to be eligible for proposing on the US6 Bridge Replacement Project (approximately \$100 million) all firms that submitted a Letter of Interest for the project had to attend a reverse trade fair where DBEs and ESBs hosted booths to present their skills and qualifications. The fair was held at the Barnum Recreation Center, which is on the project location, and was co-hosted by the CDOT Center for Equal Opportunity and the Denver SBDC. The US 6 Project has a DBE goal for design of 10%, a DBE goal for construction of 12% and an ESB incentive of \$100,000 for \$1 million dollars of ESB participation).

ESB Restricted Projects: A restricted project in Region 2 will be let on November 8, 2012. Region 3 is also considering a restricted project to be let this winter.

DBE Participation Report:

During Federal Fiscal Year 2012, CDOT exceeded its overall goal of 13.29% for DBE participation on CDOT contracts. CDOT reached 14.2% in DBE commitments from October 1, 2011- September 30, 2012. See attached report for more information.

Connect2DOT Update:

Please see attached for more information.

DBE Specification Changes:

The Center for Equal Opportunity has been working on a revision to the DBE specification for construction projects for the past year. We piloted new specifications on a number of design-build specifications and have tracked the response to the changes. Additionally, staff has held focus groups to review the changes with contractors. In September, the Center for Equal Opportunity put forth a revised Standard Special Provision to the joint CDOT/CCA Specification Committee. Later this month, we will submit the draft for formal approval. The rollout of the new specification will be accompanied by regional trainings for internal and external stakeholders.