

Policy Statement and Objectives

The Rhode Island Department of Transportation (RIDOT) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The RIDOT has received Federal financial assistance from the USDOT, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the RIDOT has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the RIDOT to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT assisted contracts, regardless of race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression), parental status, disability, age, family medical history, genetic information, political affiliation, military service or other non-merit based factors. To this end, it is also RIDOT's policy to ensure that the following program objectives are achieved:

- (a) To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of the USDOT-assisted contracts in the RIDOT's highway, transit, and airport financial assistance programs;
- (b) To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for the USDOT-assisted contracts;
- (c) To ensure that the RIDOT's DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- (d) To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- (e) To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in the USDOT-assisted contracts;
- (f) To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities conducted by recipients.
- (g) To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program; and
- (h) To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

Implementation of the DBE program is given the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the RIDOT in its financial assistance agreements with the USDOT.

RIDOT has disseminated this policy statement to the Chief of Staff, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Engineer, Division Administrators and all of the related areas of our organization. We have distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for RIDOT on USDOT assisted contracts.

RIDOT has designated Richard M. Sparks, Chief Program Development, as the Department's DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). As the Chief Program Development (DBELO), Mr. Sparks has direct and unimpeded access to the agency's Director.



Peter Alviti, Jr., P.E., Director

Feb. 14, 2017

Date

The policy statement is available on RIDOT's website www.dot.ri.gov.