



Department of Transportation  
Two Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02903

Office: xxx-xxx-xxxx  
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11/14/2025

Re: RIDOT DBE Interim Final Rule (IFR) Notice

Dear Contractors,

On October 3, 2025, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued an *Interim Final Rule* (IFR) initiating changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program effective immediately.

The IFR removes race and sex-based presumptions from the definition of “*socially and economically disadvantaged individual*” as defined by DBE regulations 49 CFR Part 26.

**Key DBE Impacts to Existing and Future RIDOT Projects:**

- **Existing Projects:** Until further notice, RIDOT will suspend DBE monitoring and enforcement on all existing federally funded contracts signed before October 3, 2025. However, all provisions of RIDOT’s existing contracts remain in full force and effect. For guidance, see Official Frequently Asked Questions (USDOT guidance), Section B.
- **Future Projects:** Until further notice, no DBE goals will be set on federally funded RIDOT contracts signed after October 3, 2025.
- **Existing DBE firms:** The certification of all existing DBE firms have been suspended pending reevaluation and recertification by the State’s Unified Certification Program (UCP), led by RI Division of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (DEDI), consistent with the new standards outlined within the IFR. Once the recertification process is complete, additional guidance will be provided regarding RIDOT projects.

A copy of the IFR and USDOT guidance can be found on the USDOT website or by clicking the link below:

[DBE IFR](#)

[Official Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#)

The information above is based on public information provided by the United States Department of Transportation and not intended as legal advice. Should you have questions regarding IFR implications specific to your circumstances, please seek the advice of counsel. RIDOT will provide updates regarding changes to the DBE program, as additional information becomes available. Please email any questions to [DOT.DBE@dot.ri.gov](mailto:DOT.DBE@dot.ri.gov).

Sincerely,

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