



Department of Transportation
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DBE Policy Statement and Objectives

49 CFR § 26.1; 26.23

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. RIDOT has received Federal financial assistance from USDOT, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, RIDOT has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of 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, sex, national origin, age, disability, income status, or limited English proficiency. 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 USDOT-assisted contracts in RIDOT's highway, transit, and airport financial assistance programs;
- b) To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for USDOT-assisted contracts;
- c) To ensure that 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 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 DBE compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by RIDOT in its financial assistance agreements with USDOT.

RIDOT has designated Sheree Gomes, as the Department's DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In that capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. The DBELO has direct and unimpeded access to the agency's director.

RIDOT has disseminated this policy statement to the Director's Office and 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 in a widespread email distribution and via our website, www.dot.ri.gov.

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

Date