



DBE CONTRACTING UPDATE

News for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms and stakeholders
May 2007

Governor's commission to host public listening sessions

DBE businesses and other interested stakeholders are invited to address Governor Doyle's Business Opportunity Advisory Commission (BOAC) at two public listening sessions in coming weeks:

Monday, May 21, 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Northside YMCA
1350 W North Avenue
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Friday, June 22, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm
SC Grand Banquet & Convention Center
1250 Mid Valley Drive
De Pere, Wisconsin

Governor Jim Doyle appointed the 17-member commission last fall to identify new ways for the state to procure more goods and services from minority businesses. The commission co-chairs are State Senator Spencer Coggs and Milwaukee Urban League President Ralph Hollmon. The group has reviewed data and examined practices and policies in the state agencies to see how state government can meet and exceed the 5% annual Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) purchasing goal.

BOAC will host these open forums as a venue for businesses, stakeholders and the public to offer their ideas and concerns. No RSVP is necessary, although speakers will be asked to register at the event.

The commission held a similar listening session in Madison in April, in conjunction with the state Business Opportunities in the Government Sector (BOGS) Conference. Eleven individuals provided oral or written testimony. Most speakers were MBE and DBE business owners and operators who discussed various challenges of securing more business through state government. The firms represented a variety of industries, including engineering, environmental services, silk screening, furniture, landscaping and public relations.

For more information about BOAC and the public

listening sessions, contact Adam Plotkin of Senator Coggs' office at (608) 266-2500.

WisDOT debuts Hmong and Spanish Web sites for MBE firms

WisDOT has unveiled new Hmong and Spanish language Web sites for the department's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) purchasing program.

The new sites at www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/mbel/span-index.htm provide information on commodities purchased by the agency, purchasing agent contacts, the state's VendorNet system and MBE certification. The site also provides links to the directory of state-certified MBE firms (non-DOT sites may only be provided in English). The MBE program pertains to general supplies and services, and is separate from the highway improvement DBE program.

Last year, WisDOT purchased about \$2.8 million of goods and services from MBE firms, representing about 5.2% of all procurement dollars. By statute, the overall goal for MBE purchasing in Wisconsin state government is 5%, and WisDOT has met this goal for at least the past four years.

Watch for lettings!

DBE contractors are reminded to regularly check the Highway Construction Contract Information Web site at www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/bid-letting-information.htm to keep up on bid opportunities.

While this newsletter focuses on high-profile projects like the Marquette Interchange, WisDOT has hundreds of contracts each year for a variety of construction work with significant DBE goals. For instance, the June 12 letting seeks bids on 50 projects around the state, with DBE goals ranging from 5% to 20%. Stay alert for opportunities!

Wisconsin's Tribal Transportation Conference a Success

More than 150 participants convened in Green Bay last month for WisDOT's first Tribal Transportation Conference. With the theme, "We're Building More Than Roads," the two-day conference offered numerous opportunities for transportation officials and members of Wisconsin's eleven tribes to learn more about how to work productively together. Participants heard from state, federal and tribal officials from around the nation who shared their insights and experiences working on historic and cultural preservation, as well as business and economic development.

The conference opened with a drum processional by the Oneida Singers, Duck Creek Crossings, and the tribal presentation of colors by the Oneida Veteran Association. WisDOT Secretary Frank Busalacchi provided opening remarks in which he set the tone for conference, emphasizing the department's commitment to building strong partnerships with Wisconsin's tribal governments. He said, "When you leave this conference at the end of the day tomorrow, it is my sincere hope that you will leave with the feeling that it is the beginning; the beginning of a unique, long and successful partnership between governments – a partnership built upon understanding and respect."

The conference featured sessions explaining WisDOT procedures and processes and sessions on how to work with American Indian-owned businesses. David Lester, executive director of the Council on Energy Resource Tribes, gave a keynote entitled, "Tribes, Energy and Transportation – Planning for the Future."

Throughout the two-day conference at the Oneida-owned Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, three separate tracks created the context for presentations and roundtable discussions – Historic Preservation; Business/Economic Development; and Transportation and Transit.

The conference grew out of a series of consultation meetings that were launched after Governor Jim Doyle signed an executive order in 2005 that recognized tribes as sovereign nations. These resulted in a Partnership Agreement between Wisconsin's eleven federally recognized tribes, WisDOT and the Wisconsin Division of the Federal Highway Administration.

For more information about the conference or about how WisDOT is partnering with Wisconsin tribes, visit www.dot.wisconsin.gov/localgov/aid/tribal-affairs.htm.



Members of an Oneida veterans group pose with Oneida Tribal Secretary and Brown County Supervisor Patty Hoeft (4th from left) and WisDOT Tribal Liaison Gwen Carr (2nd from right) at the Tribal Transportation Conference held last month in Green Bay

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www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/newsletters.htm

Stats line - a look at the numbers on key projects

The *DBE Contracting Update* continues to track DBE contracting and labor data from several high profile projects. Projects may be added or removed from this feature over time as they progress from planning to completion.

Marquette Interchange project
Milwaukee County
www.mchange.org



Contracted dollars
Total - \$609.0 million
DBE - \$115.1 million
DBE share - 18.9%

Dollars expended
Total - \$474.9 million
DBE - \$86.4 million
DBE share - 18.2%

Labor hours worked
Total - 1,664,910 hours
Minority - 366,747 hours
Minority share - 22.0%
Women - 52,936
Women share - 3.2%

Notes:

- All data current through March 31, 2007
- Data for contracted and expended dollars includes design consultant, construction and construction administration activities.
- Labor hours worked is for construction only.

I-94 North/South Corridor study
Kenosha, Racine & Milwaukee counties
www.seffreeways.org



Contracted dollars
Total - \$12.9 million
DBE - \$3.7 million
DBE share - 28.4%

Dollars expended
Total - \$6.5 million
DBE - \$1.7 million
DBE share - 26.4%

Notes:

- All data current through March 31, 2007
- Data includes consultant work for design and environmental study activities.
- Dollars contracted data incorrectly reported in the previous edition

Milwaukee Intermodal Station
Milwaukee County
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/state/amtrak-term.htm



Contracted dollars
Total - \$12.6 million
DBE - \$3.3 million
DBE share - 26.0%

Dollars expended
Total - \$2.5 million
DBE - \$0.6 million
DBE share - 22.4%

Labor hours worked
Total - 19,201 hours
Minority - 2,615 hours
Minority share - 13.6%
Women - 136
Women share - 0.7%

Notes:

- All data current through March 31, 2007
- Data for contracted and expended dollars includes construction and construction management activities.
- Labor hours worked is for construction only.

US 41 expansion projects
Brown & Winnebago counties
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/us41expansion/index.htm
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/us41expansion/brown-index.htm



Contracted dollars
Total - \$13.3 million
DBE - \$2.7 million
DBE share - 20.3%

Dollars expended
Total - \$7.1 million
DBE - \$1.0 million
DBE share - 13.9%

Notes:

- All data current through March 31, 2007
- Data includes consultant work for design activities.

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Upcoming events

May 21, 2007

Business Opportunities Advisory Commission
Public listening session
Northside YMCA, Milwaukee
(608) 266-2500

June 22, 2007

Business Opportunities Advisory Commission
Public listening session
SC Grand Center, De Pere
(608) 266-2500

Useful WisDOT Web sites

Highway Construction Contract Information
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/bid-letting-information.htm

WisDOT DBE program
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/dbe-main.htm

WisDOT MBE program
www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/mbel/index.htm



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