

**DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
PLAN
PART 26
October 2023**

for the

**MOBILE COUNTY COMMISSION
JEREMIAH A. DENTON AIRPORT
DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA**

Submitted to:

Federal Aviation Administration
Office of Civil Rights

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Attachment 2	Organizational Chart
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**DBE PROGRAM
JEREMIAH A. DENTON AIRPORT
DAUPHIN ISLAND, ALABAMA
POLICY STATEMENT**

Objectives /Policy Statement (§§26.1, 26.23)

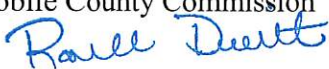
The Mobile County Commission, Alabama (Sponsor), owner of the Jeremiah A. Denton Airport has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. Sponsor has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the Sponsor has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26 (hereafter referred to as “Part 26”).

It is the policy of the Sponsor to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy –

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts; and
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
7. To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.
8. To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contract and procurement activities.

Bryan Kegley II, County Engineer, Mobile County Commission, has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO) and is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the Sponsor in its financial assistance agreements with the Federal Aviation Administration.

The Sponsor has disseminated this policy statement to all branches of the Sponsor’s government and posted it for public viewing. It will be distributed to DBE and non-DBE communities that perform work for the Sponsor on DOT-assisted contracts by website postings of the public notice.

Randall Dueitt
Commission President
Mobile County Commission


Date: 10-27-2023

SUBPART A – GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 26.1 Objectives

The objectives are found in the policy statement on the first page of this program.

Section 26.3 Applicability

The Sponsor is the recipient of Federal airport funds authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47101, *et seq.*

Section 26.5 Definitions

The Sponsor will use terms in this program that have the meaning defined in Section 26.5.

Section 26.7 Non-discrimination Requirements

The Sponsor will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 49 CFR Part 26 on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

In administering its DBE program, the Sponsor will not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the DBE program with respect to individuals of a particular race, color, sex, or national origin.

Section 26.11 Record Keeping Requirements

Reporting to DOT: 26.11

Sponsor will provide data about its DBE Program to the Department as directed by DOT operating administrations.

DBE participation will be reported to the FAA as follows:

Sponsor will transmit to FAA annually, by or before December 1, the information required for the “Uniform Report of DBE Awards or Commitments and Payments”, as described in Appendix B to Part 26. Sponsor will similarly report the required information about participating DBE firms. All reporting will be done through the FAA official reporting system, or another format acceptable to the FAA as instructed thereby.

Bidders List: 26.11(c)

The Sponsor will create and maintain a bidders list. The purpose of the list is to provide as accurate data as possible about the universe of DBE and non-DBE contractors and subcontractors who seek to work on our DOT-assisted contracts for use in helping to set our overall goals. The bidders list will include the name, address, DBE and non-DBE status, age of firm, and annual gross receipts of firms.

The Sponsor will collect this information as an attachment to the bid documents. All bidders will provide this above information pertaining to themselves and any subcontractor which they intend to employ, Attachment 3 to this Program.

Records Retention and Reporting:

All certification or compliance related records will be retained for a minimum of three (3) years unless otherwise provided by applicable record retention requirements for the financial agreement, whichever is longer.

Section 26.13 Federal Financial Assistance Agreement

The Sponsor has signed the following assurances, applicable to all DOT-assisted contracts and their administration:

Assurance: 26.13(a) - Each financial assistance agreement the Sponsor signs with a DOT operating administration will include the following assurance:

“The Sponsor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of any DOT-assisted contract or in the administration of its DBE program or the requirements of 49 CFR part 26. The Sponsor shall take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR part 26 to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. The DBE program for the Sponsor as required by 49 CFR part 26 and as approved by DOT, is incorporated by reference in this agreement. Implementation of this program is a legal obligation and failure to carry out its terms shall be treated as a violation of this agreement. Upon notification to the Sponsor of its failure to carry out its approved program, the Department may impose sanctions as provided for under 49 CFR part 26 and may, in appropriate cases, refer the matter for enforcement under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and/or the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (31 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*).”

Contract Assurance: 26.13b – The Sponsor will ensure that the following clause is included in each contract signed with a contractor and each subcontract the prime contractor signs with a subcontractor:

“The contractor, sub recipient, or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the Sponsor deems appropriate, which may include, but is not limited to: (1) Withholding monthly progress payments; (2) Assessing sanctions; (3) Liquidated damages; and/or (4) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible.”

SUBPART B - ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Section 26.21 DBE Program Updates

The Sponsor is required to have a DBE program meeting the requirements of this part as it will receive grants for airport planning or development and will award prime contracts, cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 in FAA funds in a federal fiscal year. We are not eligible to receive DOT financial assistance unless DOT has approved our DBE program and we are in compliance with it and this part. We will continue to carry out our program until all funds from DOT financial assistance have been expended. We do not have to submit regular updates of our program, as long as we remain in compliance. However, we will submit significant changes in the program for approval.

Section 26.23 Policy Statement

The Policy Statement is elaborated on the first page of this DBE Program.

Section 26.25 DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO)

We have designated the following individual as our DBE Liaison Officer:

Bryan Kegley II, P.E., P.L.S.
County Engineer
Mobile County Public Works
205 Government Street
Mobile, Alabama 36644
bryan.kegley@mobilecountyal.gov

In that capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program and ensuring that the Sponsor complies with all provisions of 49 CFR Part 26. The DBELO has direct, independent access to the Commission President concerning DBE program matters. An organizational chart displaying the DBELO's position in the organization is found in Attachment 2 to this program.

The DBELO is responsible for developing, implementing, and monitoring the DBE program, in coordination with other appropriate officials. The DBELO will use his staff of two to assist in the administration of the program. The duties and responsibilities include the following:

1. Gathers and reports statistical data and other information as required by DOT.
2. Reviews third party contracts and purchase requisitions for compliance with this program.
3. Works with all departments to set overall annual goals.
4. Ensures that bid notices and requests for proposals are available to DBEs in a timely manner.
5. Identifies contracts and procurements so that DBE goals are included in solicitations (both race-neutral methods and contract specific goals) and monitors results.
6. Analyzes the Sponsor's progress toward attainment and identifies ways to improve progress.

7. Participates in pre-bid meetings.
8. Advises the governing body on DBE matters and achievement.
9. Determine contractor compliance with good faith efforts.
10. Acts as liaison to the Uniform Certification Process.
11. Provides outreach to DBEs and community organizations to advise them of opportunities.

Section 26.27 DBE Financial Institutions

It is the policy of the Sponsor to investigate the full extent of services offered by financial institutions owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the community, to make reasonable efforts to use these institutions, and to encourage prime contractors on DOT-assisted contracts to make use of these institutions. Based on our search and the listings in the Federal Reserve Register of Minority Owned Banks, <http://www.fdic.gov/regulations/resources/minority/mdi.html>. Alabama has two minority owned banks. These banks may be accessed by following the above referenced website.

The Sponsor will investigate annually any new banks established in the area in the future that are owned by minorities and women and use their services, when feasible.

The Sponsor will provide the following notification to each prime contractor who will perform on a DOT-assisted project:

"The Sponsor encourages you to make the greatest feasible use of the services offered by banks owned and controlled by minorities and women. Information on these services may be obtained from the DBELO of the Sponsor or by contacting, Alabama Bankers Association, 445 Dexter Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104 Phone: (334) 244-9456."

Section 26.29 Prompt Payment Mechanisms

Sponsor requires that all subcontractors performing work on DOT-assisted contracts shall be promptly paid for work performed pursuant to their agreements, in accordance with all relevant federal, state, and local law.

In accordance with 49 CFR §26.29, the Sponsor established a contract clause implementing this requirement and requires prime contractors to pay subcontractors for satisfactory performance of their contracts no later than 30 days from the prime contractor's receipt of each payment from the Sponsor.

Sponsor ensures prompt and full payment of retainage from the prime contractor to the subcontractor within 30 days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed. Pursuant to §26.29, Sponsor has selected the following method to comply with this requirement:

- (1) Hold retainage from prime contractors and provide for prompt and regular incremental acceptances of portions of the prime contract, pay retainage to prime contractors based on these acceptances, and require a contract clause obligating the prime contractor to pay all retainage

owed to the subcontractor for satisfactory completion of the accepted work within 30 days after our payment to the prime contractor.

To implement this measure, the Sponsor includes the following clause from FAA Advisory Circular 150/5370-10 in each DOT-assisted prime contract:

“The Contractor is required to pay all subcontractors for satisfactory performance of their contracts no later than 30 days after the Contractor has received a partial payment. The Sponsor must ensure prompt and full payment of retainage from the prime Contractor to the subcontractor within 30 days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed. A subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed when all the tasks called for in the subcontract have been accomplished and documented as required by the Sponsor. When the Sponsor has made an incremental acceptance of a portion of a prime contract, the work of a subcontractor covered by that acceptance is deemed to be satisfactorily completed. From the total of the amount determined to be payable on a partial payment, not to exceed 10% of such total amount will be deducted and retained by the Sponsor until the final payment is made except as may be provided (at the Contractor's option) in the subsection 90-08 title Payment of Withhold Funds of this section. The balance [Insert balance] of the amount payable, less all previous payments, shall be certified for payment. Should the Contractor exercise his or her option, as provided in subsection of 90-08 Payment of Withheld Funds of this section, no such percentage retainage shall be deducted. When at least 95% of the work has been completed the Engineer shall, at the Sponsor's discretion and with the consent of the surety, prepare estimates of both the contract value and the cost of the remaining work to be done. The Sponsor may retain an amount not less than twice the contract value of estimated cost, whichever is greater of the work remaining to be done. The remainder, less all previous payments and deductions, will then be certified for payment to the Contractor.”

Section 26.31 Directory

The Sponsor is a non-certifying member of the Alabama Unified Certification Program (UCP). The UCP maintains a directory identifying all firms eligible to participate as DBEs, which contains all the elements required by §26.31.

Section 26.33 Over-concentration

The Sponsor has not identified that over-concentration exists in the types of work that DBEs perform.

Section 26.35 Business Development Programs

The Sponsor has not established a business development program.

Section 26.37 Monitoring Responsibilities

Sponsor implements and carries out appropriate mechanisms to ensure compliance with 49 CFR Part 26 program requirements by all program participants, including prompt payment, and describes and set forth these mechanisms in Sponsor's DBE program.

Sponsor actively monitors participation by maintaining a running tally of actual DBE attainments (e.g., payments actually made to DBE firms), including a means of comparing these attainments to commitments.

Monitoring Payments to DBEs and Non-DBEs

The Sponsor requires prime contractors to maintain records and documents of payments to subcontractors, including DBEs, for a minimum of three (3) years unless otherwise provided by applicable record retention requirements for the Sponsor's financial assistance agreement, whichever is longer. These records will be made available for inspection upon request by any authorized representative of the Sponsor or DOT. This reporting requirement extends to all subcontractors, both DBE and non-DBE.

The Sponsor proactively reviews contract payments to subcontractors including DBEs no less than once a month. Payment reviews will evaluate whether the actual amount paid to DBE subcontractors is equivalent to the amounts reported to Sponsor by the prime contractor.

The Sponsor will actively implement the enforcement actions detailed above.

Prompt Payment Dispute Resolution

Sponsor will take the following steps to resolve disputes as to whether work has been satisfactorily completed for purposes of §26.29. These steps will include but are not limited to 1) Written certification that Sponsor has reviewed contracting records and monitored work sites for this purpose. 2) Upon either party's written request to the DBELO for dispute resolution, a meeting will be voluntarily set within ten days of the request. The meeting shall include representatives with authority to take enforcement action, to include but not limited to, prime contractor, sub-contractor and Sponsor representative(s).

Sponsor has established, as part of its DBE program, the following mechanism(s) to ensure prompt payment and return of retainage:

The Sponsor will include the following clause in each DOT-assisted prime contract:

“The prime contractor agrees to pay each subcontractor under this prime contract for satisfactory performance of its contract no later than thirty (30) days from the receipt of each payment the prime contractor receives from the Sponsor. The prime contractor agrees further to return retainage payments to each subcontractor within thirty (30) days after the subcontractor's work is satisfactorily completed. Any delay or postponement of payment from the above referenced time frame may occur only for good cause following written approval of the Sponsor. This clause applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontractors.

Failure to comply with the prompt payment provision of the contract may result in sanctions under the contract, as listed below.

- A. Refusal to issue proposals
- B. Damages
- C. Suspension of work on the project
- D. No additional progressive payments may be processed
- E. Suspension of prequalification”

Prompt Payment Complaints

Complaints by subcontractors regarding the prompt payment requirements are handled according to the following procedure:

If affected subcontractor's relationship with contracting prime responsible for direct payment does not exist in order to resolve payment discrepancies with prime, subcontractor should contact DBELO to initiate complaint. If filing a prompt payment complaint with the DBELO does not produce a timely resolution, the subcontractor may contact the Commission President, then to the FAA.

Pursuant to Sec. 157 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, all complaints related to prompt payment will be reported in a format acceptable to the FAA, including the nature and origin of the complaint and its resolution.

Enforcement Actions for Noncompliance of Participants

Sponsor will provide appropriate means to enforce the requirements of §26.29. These means include:

The Sponsor will take the following monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with 49 CFR Part 26.

1. We will bring to the attention of the Department of Transportation any false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection with the program, so that DOT can take the steps (e.g., referral to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution, referral to the DOT Inspector General, action under suspension and debarment or Program Fraud and Civil Penalties rules) provided in 26.107.
2. We will consider similar action under our own legal authorities, including responsibility determinations in future contracts. Attachment 7 lists the regulation, provisions, and contract remedies available to us in the events of non-compliance with the DBE regulation by a participant in our procurement activities.
3. We will also implement a monitoring and enforcement mechanism to ensure that work committed to DBEs at contract award is actually performed by the DBEs. This mechanism will provide for a running tally of actual DBE attainments (e.g., payment actually made to DBE firms), including a means of comparing these attainments to commitments. This mechanism will include a written certification that we have reviewed contracting records and monitored work

sites for this purpose. This will be accomplished by requiring DBE utilization updates at each pay request and at final contract closeout. The Sponsor's engineer along with the DBELO will review all pay requests and DBE utilization forms, ensuring that DBE utilization is in accordance with all contract requirements.

4. In our reports of DBE participation to DOT, we will show both commitments and attainments, as required by the DOT uniform reporting form.
5. Sponsor will implement a mechanism that will provide for a running tally of actual DBE attainments (e.g., payment actually made to DBE firms), including a means of comparing these attainments to commitments. In our reports of DBE participation to the DOT, we will show both commitments and attainments, as required by the DOT uniform reporting form.

Sponsor will actively implement the enforcement actions detailed above.

Monitoring Contracts and Work Sites

Sponsor reviews contracting records and engages in active monitoring of work sites to ensure that work committed to DBEs at contract award or subsequently (e.g., as the result of modification to the contract) is actually performed by the DBEs to which the work was committed. Work site monitoring is performed by DBELO/ Sponsor's engineer. Contracting records are reviewed by the DBELO/Sponsor's engineer. Sponsor will maintain written certification that contracting records have been reviewed and work sites have been monitored for this purpose.

Section 26.39 Fostering Small Business Participation

The Sponsor has created a Small Business element to structure contracting requirements to facilitate competition by small business concerns, taking all reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to their participation, including unnecessary and unjustified bundling of contract requirements that may preclude small business participation in procurements as prime contractors or subcontractors.

The Sponsor's small business element is incorporated as Attachment 10 to this DBE Program. We will actively implement the program elements to foster small business participation; doing so is a requirement of good faith implementation of our DBE program.

SUBPART C – GOALS, GOOD FAITH EFFORTS, AND COUNTING

Section 26.43 Set-asides or Quotas

The Sponsor does not use quotas in any way in the administration of this DBE program.

Section 26.45 Overall Goals

The Sponsor will establish an overall DBE goal covering a three-year federal fiscal year period if we anticipate awarding DOT/FAA funded prime contracts the cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 during any one or more of the reporting fiscal years within the three-year goal period. In accordance with Section 26.45(f) the Sponsor will submit its Overall Three-year DBE Goal to FAA by August 1st as required by the established schedule below.

https://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/acr/bus_ent_program/dbe_program_adm/

The DBE goals will be established in accordance with the 2-step process as specified in 49 CFR Part 26.45. If the Sponsor does not anticipate awarding DOT/FAA funded prime contracts the cumulative total value of which exceeds \$250,000 during any of the years within the three-year reporting period, we will not develop an overall goal; however, this DBE Program will remain in effect and the Sponsor will seek to fulfill the objectives outlined in 49 CFR Part 26.1.

(c) Step 1. The first step is to determine the relative availability of DBEs in the market area, “base figure”. We will use the Alabama UCP DBE Directory and the US Census Bureau Data as a method to determine our base figure. The second step is to adjust the “base figure” percentage from Step 1 so that it reflects as accurately as possible the DBE participation the Sponsor would expect in the absence of discrimination based on past participation, a disparity study and/or information about barriers to entry to past competitiveness of DBEs on Contracts.

If we use a bidders list, we will do the following: Determine the number of DBEs that have bid or quoted (successful and unsuccessful) on our DOT-assisted prime contracts or subcontracts in the past three years. Determine the number of all businesses that have bid or quoted (successful and unsuccessful) on prime or subcontracts in the same time period. Divide the number of DBE bidders and quoters by the number of all businesses to derive a base figure for the relative availability of DBEs in our market. When using this approach, we will establish a mechanism (documented in our goal submission) to directly capture data on DBE and non-DBE prime and subcontractors that submitted bids or quotes on our DOT-assisted contracts.

Any methodology we choose will be based on demonstrable evidence of local market conditions and be designed to ultimately attain a goal that is rationally related to the relative availability of DBEs in our market. We understand that the exclusive use of a list of prequalified contractors or plan holders, or a bidders list that does not comply with the requirements of paragraph (c)(2) of this section (above), is not an acceptable alternative means of determining the availability of DBEs.

(d) Step 2. Once we have calculated a base figure, we will examine all of the evidence available in our jurisdiction to determine what adjustment, if any, is needed to the base figure to arrive at our overall goal. If the evidence does not suggest an adjustment is necessary, then no adjustment shall be made.

26.45 (g)(1) In establishing the overall goal, the Sponsor will provide for consultation and publication. This includes consultation with minority, women's and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations which could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and the Sponsors efforts to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs. The consultation will include a scheduled, direct, interactive exchange (e.g., a face-to-face meeting, video conference, teleconference) with as many interested stakeholders as possible focused on obtaining information relevant to the Sponsor's goal setting process, and it will occur before we are required to submit our goal methodology to the operating administration for review pursuant to paragraph (f) of this section. We will document in our goal submission the consultation process that we engaged in. Notwithstanding paragraph (f)(4) of this section, we will not implement our proposed goal until we have complied with this requirement.

In addition, the Sponsor will publish a notice announcing our proposed overall goal before submission to the operating administration on August 1st. The notice will be posted on the Mobile County Commission website and the FAA website and may be posted in any other sources (e.g., minority-focused media, trade association publications). If the proposed goal changes following review by the operating administration, the revised goal will be posted on the Mobile County Commission website and the FAA website. We will inform the public that the proposed overall goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours at our principal office and that the Sponsor and DOT/FAA will accept comments on the goals for 30 days from the date of the notice. Notice of the comment period will include the addresses to which comments may be sent (including offices and websites) where the proposal may be reviewed. The public comment period will not extend the August 1st deadline.

Our Overall Three-Year DBE Goal submission to DOT/FAA will include a summary of information and comments received, if any, during this public participation process and our responses.

We will begin using our overall goal on October 1 of the reporting period, unless we have received other instructions from DOT.

Section 26.45 (e) - Project Goals

If permitted or required by the FAA Administrator we will express our overall goals as a percentage of funds for a particular grant or project or group of grants and/or projects, including entire projects. Like other overall goals, a project goal may be adjusted to reflect changed circumstances, with the concurrence of the appropriate operating administration. A project goal is an overall goal and must meet all the substantive and procedural requirements of this section pertaining to overall goals. A project goal covers the entire length of the project to which it applies. The project goal should include a projection of the DBE participation anticipated to be obtained during each fiscal year covered by the project goal. The funds for the project to which the project goal pertains are separated from the base from which our regular overall goal, applicable to contracts not part of the project covered by a project goal, is calculated.

If we establish a goal on a project basis, we will begin using our goal by the time of the first solicitation for a DOT-assisted contract for the project.

Section 26.45 (f) - Prior Operating Administration Concurrence

The Sponsor understands that we are not required to obtain prior operating administration concurrence with our overall goal. However, if the operating administration's review suggests that our overall goal has not been correctly calculated or that our method for calculating goals is inadequate, the operating administration may, after consulting with us, adjust our overall goal or require that we do so. The adjusted overall goal is binding. In evaluating the adequacy or soundness of the methodology used to derive the overall goal, the U.S. DOT operating administration will be guided by the goal setting principles and best practices identified by the Department in guidance issued pursuant to § 26.9.

A description of the methodology to calculate the overall goal and the goal calculations can be found in Attachment 5 to this program.

Section 26.47 Failure to Meet Overall Goals

The Sponsor cannot be penalized or treated by the Department as being in noncompliance with Part 26, because DBE participation falls short of an overall goal, unless the Sponsor fails to administer its DBE program in good faith.

The Sponsor will maintain an approved DBE Program and overall DBE goal, if applicable, as well as administer our DBE Program in good faith to be considered to be in compliance with this part.

If the Sponsor awards and commitments shown on our Uniform Report of Awards or Commitments and Payments at the end of any fiscal year are less than the overall goal applicable to that fiscal year, we will do the following in order to be regarded by the Department as implementing our DBE Program in good faith:

- (1) Analyze in detail the reasons for the difference between the overall goal and our awards and commitments in that fiscal year;
- (2) Establish specific steps and milestones to correct the problems we have identified in our analysis and to enable us to meet fully our goal for the new fiscal year;
- (3) Sponsor will prepare, within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year, the analysis and corrective actions developed under paragraph (c)(1) and (2) of this section. We will retain copy of the analysis and corrective actions in records for a minimum of three years and will make it available to FAA upon request.

Section 26.49 (e) How Are Overall Goals Established for Transit Vehicle Manufacturers?

As an FAA recipient we may, with FAA approval, use the procedures of this section with respect to procurements of vehicles or specialized equipment. If we choose to do so, then the

manufacturers of this equipment must meet the same requirements (including goal approval by FHWA or FAA) as transit vehicle manufacturers must meet in FTA-assisted procurements. See 26.49 (a) through (d)).

- (1) Sponsor affirms that only those transit vehicle manufacturers listed on FTA's certified list of Transit Vehicle Manufacturers, or that have submitted a goal methodology to FTA that has been approved or has not been disapproved, at the time of solicitation are eligible to bid.
- (2) A TVM's failure to implement the DBE Program in the manner as prescribed in this section and throughout Part 26 will be deemed as non-compliance, which will result in removal from FTA's certified TVMs list, resulting in that manufacturer becoming ineligible to bid.
- (3) Sponsor is aware that failure to comply with the requirements set forth in Part 26, §26.49(a) may result in formal enforcement action or appropriate sanction as determined by FTA (e.g., FTA declining to participate in the vehicle procurement).
- (4) Sponsor will submit, within 30 days of making an award, the name of the successful bidder and the total dollar value of the contract in the manner prescribed in the grant agreement.

Section 26.51 Means Recipients Use to Meet Overall Goals

Breakout of Estimated Race-Neutral & Race-Conscious Participation

Sponsor will meet the maximum feasible portion of its overall goal by using race-neutral means of facilitating race-neutral DBE participation. Race-neutral DBE participation includes any time a DBE wins a prime contract through customary competitive procurement procedures or is awarded a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE contract goal.

Race-neutral means include, but are not limited to the following:

- (1) Arranging solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitate participation by DBEs and other small businesses and by making contracts more accessible to small businesses, by means such as those provided under §26.39.
- (2) Providing assistance in overcoming limitations such as inability to obtain bonding or financing (e.g., by such means as simplifying the bonding process, reducing bonding requirements, eliminating the impact of surety costs from bids, and providing services to help DBEs, and other small businesses, obtain bonding and financing);
- (3) Providing technical assistance and other services;
- (4) Carrying out information and communications programs on contracting procedures and specific contract opportunities (e.g., ensuring the inclusion of DBEs, and other small businesses, on recipient mailing lists for bidders; ensuring the dissemination to bidders on prime contracts of lists of potential subcontractors; provision of information in languages other than English, where appropriate);
- (5) Implementing a supportive services program to develop and improve immediate and long-term business management, record keeping, and financial and accounting capability for DBEs and other small businesses;

- (6) Providing services to help DBEs, and other small businesses, improve long-term development, increase opportunities to participate in a variety of kinds of work, handle increasingly significant projects, and achieve eventual self-sufficiency;
- (7) Establishing a program to assist new, start-up firms, particularly in fields in which DBE participation has historically been low;
- (8) Ensuring distribution of the DBE directory, through print and electronic means, to the widest feasible universe of potential prime contractors; and
- (9) Assisting DBEs, and other small businesses, to develop their capability to utilize emerging technology and conduct business through electronic media.

The breakout of estimated race-neutral and race-conscious participation can be found in Attachment 5 to this program.

The Sponsor will arrange solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitate participation by DBEs and other small businesses and by making contracts more accessible to small businesses, by means such as those provided under §26.39.

Section 26.51(d-g) Contract Goals

If our approved projection under paragraph (c) of this section estimates that we can meet our entire overall goal for a given year through race-neutral means, we will implement our program without setting contract goals during that year, unless it becomes necessary in order to meet our overall goal.

We will establish contract goals only on those DOT-assisted contracts that have subcontracting possibilities. We need not establish a contract goal on every such contract, and the size of contract goals will be adapted to the circumstances of each such contract (e.g., type and location of work, availability of DBEs to perform the particular type of work).

We will express our contract goals as a percentage of the total amount of a DOT-assisted contract.

Section 26.53 Good Faith Efforts Procedures

Demonstration of good faith efforts (pre-award)

In cases where a contract goal has been established, the contract in question will only be awarded to a bidder/offeror that has made good faith efforts to meet the contract goal. The bidder/offeror can demonstrate that it has made good faith efforts by either meeting the contract goal or documenting that it has made adequate good faith efforts to do so. Examples of good faith efforts are found in Appendix A to Part 26.

The DBELO is responsible for determining whether a bidder/offeror who has not met the contract goal has documented sufficient good faith efforts to be regarded as Responsive.

The sponsor will ensure that all information is complete and accurate and adequately documents the bidder/offeror's good faith efforts before committing to the performance of the contract by the bidder/offeror.

In all solicitations for DOT-assisted contracts for which a contract goal has been established, the following information will be required of every bidder/offeror:

- (1) Award of the contract will be conditioned on meeting the requirements of this section;
- (2) All bidders or offerors will be required to submit the following information to the recipient, at the time provided in paragraph (3) of this section:
 - (i) The names and addresses of DBE firms that will participate in the contract;
 - (ii) A description of the work that each DBE will perform. To count toward meeting a goal, each DBE firm must be certified in a NAICS code applicable to the kind of work the firm would perform on the contract;
 - (iii) The dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm participating;
 - (iv) Written documentation of the bidder/offeror's commitment to use a DBE subcontractor whose participation it submits to meet a contract goal; and
 - (v) Written confirmation from each listed DBE firm that it is participating in the contract in the kind and amount of work provided in the prime contractor's commitment.
 - (vi) If the contract goal is not met, evidence of good faith efforts (as elaborated in Appendix A of Part 26). The documentation of good faith efforts must include copies of each DBE and non-DBE subcontractor quote submitted to the bidder when a non-DBE subcontractor was selected over a DBE for work on the contract; and
- (3) The bidder/offeror will be required to present the information stipulated in paragraph (2) of this section:
- (4) Under sealed bid procedures, as a matter of responsiveness, or with initial proposals, under contract negotiation procedures.

Provided that, in a negotiated procurement, including a design-build procurement, the bidder/offeror may make a contractually binding commitment to meet the goal at the time of bid submission or the presentation of initial proposals but provide the information required by paragraph (2) of this section before the final selection for the contract is made by the recipient.

Administrative reconsideration (26.53(d))

Within five (5) business days of being informed by the Sponsor that it is not responsive because it has not documented sufficient good faith efforts, a bidder/offeror may request administrative reconsideration. Bidder/offerors should make this request in writing to the following reconsideration official:

John Adams
Commission Attorney
205 Government Street
Mobile, AL 36602
(251) 574-5077

John.adams@mobilecountyal.gov

The reconsideration official will not have played any role in the original determination that the bidder/offeror did not document sufficient good faith efforts.

As part of this reconsideration, the bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to provide written documentation or argument concerning the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so. The bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to meet in person with our reconsideration official to discuss the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so. We will send the bidder/offeror a written decision on reconsideration, explaining the basis for finding that the bidder did or did not meet the goal or make adequate good faith efforts to do so. The result of the reconsideration process is not administratively appealable to the Department of Transportation.

Good Faith Efforts procedural requirements (post-solicitation)

The awarded contractor will be required to make available upon request a copy of all DBE subcontracts. The contractor shall ensure that all subcontracts or agreements with DBEs to supply labor or materials include all required contract provisions and mandate that the subcontractor and all lower tier subcontractors perform in accordance with the provisions of Part 26.

Prime contractors will be prohibited from terminating a DBE subcontractor listed in response to a covered solicitation (or an approved substitute DBE firm) without the prior written consent of Sponsor. This includes, but is not limited to, instances in which a prime contractor seeks to perform work originally designated for a DBE subcontractor with its own forces or those of an affiliate, a non-DBE firm, or another DBE firm.

Such written consent will be provided only if Sponsor agrees, for reasons stated in the concurrence document, that the prime contractor has good cause to terminate the DBE firm. For purposes of this paragraph, good cause includes the following circumstances:

- (1) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to execute a written contract;
- (2) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with normal industry standards. Provided however, that good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the DBE subcontractor to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor;
- (3) The listed DBE subcontractor fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, non-discriminatory bond requirements.
- (4) The listed DBE subcontractor becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit unworthiness;
- (5) The listed DBE subcontractor is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to 2 CFR Parts 180, 215 and 1,200 or applicable state law;
- (6) Sponsor determined that the listed DBE subcontractor is not a responsible contractor;
- (7) The listed DBE subcontractor voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides Sponsor written notice of its withdrawal;
- (8) The listed DBE is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required;

- (9) A DBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed DBE contractor is unable to complete its work on the contract;
- (10) Other documented good cause that Sponsor has determined compels the termination of the DBE subcontractor. Provided, that good cause does not exist if the prime contractor seeks to terminate a DBE it relied upon to obtain the contract so that the prime contractor can self-perform the work for which the DBE contractor was engaged or so that the prime contractor can substitute another DBE or non-DBE contractor after contract award.

Before transmitting to Sponsor a request to terminate and/or substitute a DBE subcontractor, the prime contractor must give notice in writing to the DBE subcontractor, with a copy to Sponsor, of its intent to request to terminate and/or substitute the DBE, and the reason(s) for the request.

The prime contractor must give the DBE five days to respond to the prime contractor's notice and advise Sponsor and the prime contractor of the reasons, if any, why the DBE objects to the proposed termination of its subcontract and why the prime contractor's action should not be approved. If required in a particular case as a matter of public necessity (*e.g.*, safety), a response period shorter than five days may be provided.

In addition to post-award terminations, the provisions of this section apply to pre-award deletions of or substitutions for DBE firms put forward by offerors in negotiated procurements.

Each prime contract will include a provision stating:

The contractor shall utilize the specific DBEs listed in the contractor's [*bid/solicitation*] response to perform the work and supply the materials for which each is listed unless the contractor obtains prior written consent of Sponsor as provided in 49 CFR Part 26, §26.53(f). Unless such consent is provided, the contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for work or material unless it is performed or supplied by the listed DBE.

Sponsor will require a contractor to make good faith efforts to replace a DBE that is terminated or has otherwise failed to complete its work on a contract with another certified DBE. These good faith efforts shall be directed at finding another DBE to perform at least the same amount of work under the contract as the DBE that was terminated, to the extent needed to meet the contract goal that was established for the procurement. The good faith efforts shall be documented by the contractor. If Sponsor requests documentation from the contractor under this provision, the contractor shall submit the documentation within 7 days, which may be extended for an additional 7 days if necessary at the request of the contractor. Sponsor shall provide a written determination to the contractor stating whether or not good faith efforts have been demonstrated.

If the contractor fails or refuses to comply in the time specified, the contracting office/representative of Sponsor may issue an order stopping all or part of payment/work until satisfactory action has been taken. If the contractor still fails to comply, the contracting officer may issue a termination for default proceeding.

Section 26.55 Counting DBE Participation

We will count DBE participation toward overall and contract goals as provided in 49 CFR 26.55. We will not count the participation of a DBE subcontract toward a contractor's final compliance with its DBE obligations on a contract until the amount being counted has actually been paid to the DBE.

If the firm is not currently certified as a DBE in accordance with the standards of subpart D of this part at the time of the execution of the contract, we will not count the firm's participation toward any DBE goals, except as provided for in 26.87(j).

Pursuant to Sec. 150 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, firms that exceed the business size standard in §26.65(b) will remain eligible for DBE certification and credit on FAA-funded projects as long as they do not exceed the Small Business size standard, as adjusted by the United States Administration, for NAICS code(s) in which they are certified.

SUBPART D – CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

Section 26.61 – 26.73 Certification Process

Sponsor is a non-certifying member of the Alabama DOT Unified Certification Program (UCP). Alabama UCP will use the certification standards of Subpart D of Part 26 to determine the eligibility of firms to participate as DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts. To be certified as a DBE, a firm must meet all certification eligibility standards. Certifying Alabama UCP members make all certification decisions based on the facts as a whole.

For information about the certification process or to apply for certification, firms should contact:

State of Alabama Department of Transportation
1409 Coliseum Blvd.
Montgomery, Alabama 36103
Phone: (334)-242-6335
www.dot.state.al.us/cboweb/DBE_Program.html

The certification application forms, and documentation requirements are found in Attachment 8 to this program.

SUBPART E – CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

Section 26.81 Unified Certification Programs

The Sponsor is the member of a Unified Certification Program (UCP) administered by the Alabama DOT. The UCP will meet all of the requirements of this section.

SUBPART F – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 26.101 Compliance Procedures Applicable to Sponsor

The Sponsor understands that if it fails to comply with any requirement of this part, the Sponsor may be subject to formal enforcement action under §26.103 or §26.105 or appropriate program

sanctions by the concerned operating administration, such as the suspension or termination of Federal funds, or refusal to approve projects, grants or contracts until deficiencies are remedied. Program sanctions may include, in the case of the FHWA program, actions provided for under 23 CFR 1.36; in the case of the FAA program, actions consistent with 49 U.S.C. 47106(d), 47111(d), and 47122; and in the case of the FTA program, any actions permitted under 49 U.S.C. chapter 53 or applicable FTA program requirements.

Section 26.109 Information, Confidentiality, Cooperation and Intimidation or Retaliation

We will safeguard from disclosure to third parties' information that may reasonably be regarded as confidential business information, consistent with Federal, state, and local law.

Notwithstanding any provision of Federal or state law, we will not release any information that may reasonably be construed as confidential business information to any third party without the written consent of the firm that submitted the information. This includes applications for DBE certification and supporting information. However, we will transmit this information to DOT in any certification appeal proceeding under § 26.89 of this part or to any other state to which the individual's firm has applied for certification under § 26.85 of this part.

All participants in the Department's DBE program (including, but not limited to, the Sponsor, DBE firms and applicants for DBE certification, complainants and appellants, and contractors using DBE firms to meet contract goals) are required to cooperate fully and promptly with the DOT and the Sponsor compliance reviews, certification reviews, investigations, and other requests for information. Failure to do so shall be a ground for appropriate action against the party involved (e.g., with respect to the Sponsor a finding of noncompliance; with respect to DBE firms, denial of certification or removal of eligibility and/or suspension and debarment; with respect to a complainant or appellant, dismissal of the complaint or appeal; with respect to a contractor which uses DBE firms to meet goals, findings of non-responsibility for future contracts and/or suspension and debarment).

The Sponsor, contractor, or any other participant in the program will not intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual or firm for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this part or because the individual or firm has made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. If we violate this prohibition, we are in noncompliance with this part.

ATTACHMENTS

- Attachment 1 Regulations: 49 CFR Part 26 website link
- Attachment 2 Organizational Chart
- Attachment 3 Bidder's List Collection Form
- Attachment 4 DBE Directory or link to DBE Directory
- Attachment 5 Overall Goal Calculations
- Attachment 6 Demonstration of Good Faith Efforts or Good Faith Effort Plan - Forms 1 & 2
- Attachment 7 DBE Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms
- Attachment 8 DBE Certification Application Form
- Attachment 9 State's UCP Agreement
- Attachment 10 Small Business Element Program

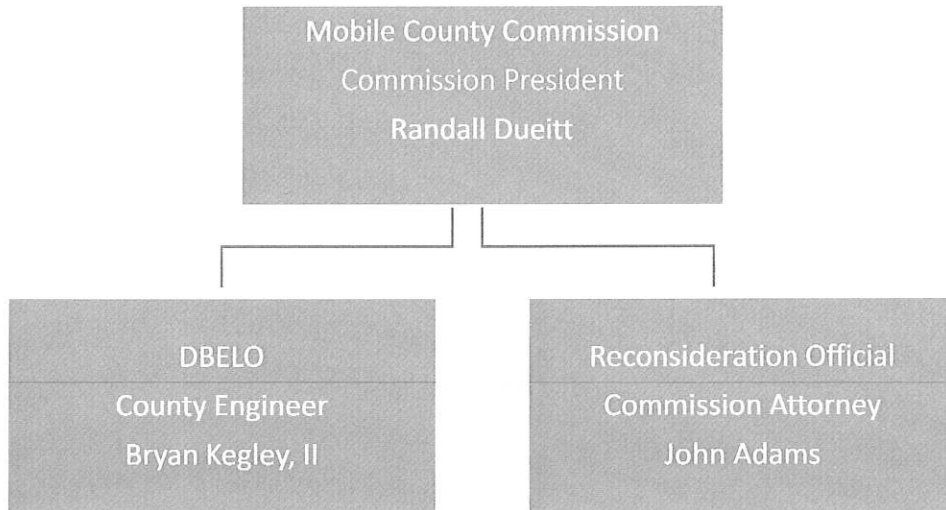
ATTACHMENT 1

Regulations: 49 CFR Part 26 link to website:

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-49/subtitle-A/part-26?toc=1>

ATTACHMENT 2

Organizational Chart



ATTACHMENT 3
Bidder's List Collection Form

Firm Name	Firm Address/ Phone #	DBE or Non-DBE Status (verify via State's UCP Directory)	Age of Firm	Annual Gross Receipts
			<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 1- 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$500K <input type="checkbox"/> \$500K - \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-2 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$2-5 million <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than \$5 million
			<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 1- 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$500K <input type="checkbox"/> \$500K - \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-2 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$2-5 million <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than \$5 million
			<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 1- 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$500K <input type="checkbox"/> \$500K - \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-2 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$2-5 million <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than \$5 million
			<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 1- 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$500K <input type="checkbox"/> \$500K - \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-2 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$2-5 million <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than \$5 million
			<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 1- 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$500K <input type="checkbox"/> \$500K - \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-2 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$2-5 million <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than \$5 million
			<input type="checkbox"/> Less than 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> 1- 3 years <input type="checkbox"/> 4-7 years <input type="checkbox"/> 8-10 years <input type="checkbox"/> More than 10 years	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than \$500K <input type="checkbox"/> \$500K - \$1 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$1-2 million <input type="checkbox"/> \$2-5 million <input type="checkbox"/> Greater than \$5 million

ATTACHMENT 4

The Alabama DBE web link to DBE directory is:

<https://cpmsapps2.dot.state.al.us/alucp/home>

ATTACHMENT 5

PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED

ATTACHMENT 6

Demonstration of Good Faith Efforts - Forms 1 & 2

Forms 1 and 2 should be provided as part of the solicitation documents.

FORM 1: DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) UTILIZATION

The undersigned bidder/offeror has satisfied the requirements of the bid specification in the following manner (please check the appropriate space):

_____ The bidder/offeror is committed to a minimum of _____ % DBE utilization on this contract.

_____ The bidder/offeror (if unable to meet the DBE goal of _____%) is committed to a minimum of _____% DBE utilization on this contract and should submit documentation demonstrating good faith efforts.

Name of bidder/offeror's firm: _____

State Registration No. _____

By _____ Title _____
(Signature)

FORM 2: LETTER OF INTENT

Name of bidder/offeror's firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Name of DBE firm: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Description of work to be performed by DBE firm:

The bidder/offeror is committed to utilizing the above-named DBE firm for the work described above. The estimated dollar value of this work is \$ _____.

Affirmation

The above-named DBE firm affirms that it will perform the portion of the contract for the estimated dollar value as stated above and that the firm is DBE certified to perform the specific trades.

By _____
(Signature)

Date: _____

(Title)

If the bidder/offeror does not receive award of the prime contract, any and all representations in this Letter of Intent and Affirmation shall be null and void.

Submit this page for each DBE subcontractor.

ATTACHMENT 7

DBE Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms

The Sponsor has available several remedies to enforce the DBE requirements contained in its contracts, including, but not limited to, the following:

The Sponsor will bring to the attention of the DOT any false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection with the program, so that the DOT can take the steps (e.g., referral to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution, referral to the DOT Inspector General, action under suspension and debarment or Program Fraud and Civil Penalties rules) provided in §26.109. The Sponsor may also use Alabama Statutes, prosecution for fraud in a government contract, and refer such matters to the proper audit authority, the District Attorney, or the Attorney General of the State of Alabama for enforcement of any and all applicable laws, both civil and criminal, of the State of Alabama.

In addition, the Federal government has available several enforcement mechanisms that it may apply to firms participating in the DBE program, including, but not limited to, the following:

The Sponsor is committed to monitoring the performance of project participants. We will utilize all regulations available as well as additional contractual remedies to enforce the program.

These remedies include, but are not limited to:

- (A) The use of liquidated damages for failing to utilize DBE or replacing one DBE with another.
- (B) The inclusion as part of a current package, a contractor's statement indicating commitment to the DBE program and steps they have taken to utilize them in prior contracts as well as the current contract.
- (C) The use of federal debarment (48CFR Sec. 9.402(b)).
- (D) Actions outlined in "Alabama State Code 1975", Titles 6 and 11 and other legal mechanisms as necessary.

ATTACHMENT 8

DBE Certification Application Form

Web link:

<https://www.transportation.gov/sites/dot.gov/files/2021-02/uniform-certification-application%202.8.2021.pdf>

ATTACHMENT 9
State's UCP Agreement

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**U.S. Department
of Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

GENERAL COUNSEL

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Mr. Joe Nix
Senior Transportation Planner
Alabama Department of Transportation
Bureau of Transportation Planning and Modal Programs
1100 John Overton Drive
Montgomery, Alabama 36110

August 10, 2010

Dear Mr. Nix:

In response to your inquiry, please be advised that the Department of Transportation (DOT) has reviewed the Unified Certification Program (UCP) your agency submitted to us on behalf of the Alabama Department of Transportation and other recipients of DOT financial assistance in Alabama. Your most recent submission has satisfactorily incorporated our earlier comments.

Consequently, I am informing you, on behalf of the DOT Office of the General Counsel, that the Alabama UCP has been approved, as provided by the DOT disadvantaged business enterprise regulations (49 FCR Part 26).

Please remember that any inconsistency or ambiguity in the UCP agreement shall be resolved by giving precedence to the following in this order: 49 CFR Parts 23 and 26, USDOT directives, the DBE program as approved by DOT, and applicable Alabama statutes and regulations.

DOT looks forward to working with you as you continue to implement the DBE program and the Alabama UCP.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Ashby
Deputy Assistant General Counsel
for Regulation and Enforcement

ATTACHMENT 10

Small Business Element

A. Objective (49 CFR Part 26.39)

Recognizing that the DBE Program goals should be met through a mixture of race conscious and race neutral methods and, that by definition, DBE firms are small businesses, The Sponsor seeks to implement a small business element into its current DBE policy in accordance with applicable law. The Sponsor is including this element to facilitate competition by and expand opportunities for small businesses. The Sponsor is committed to taking all reasonable steps to eliminate obstacles to small businesses that may preclude their participation in procurements as prime contractors or subcontractors. The Sponsor will meet its objectives using a combination of the following methods and strategies:

1. Set asides:

Where feasible, The Sponsor will establish a percentage of the total value of all prime contract and subcontract awards to be set aside for participation by small businesses on FAA-assisted contracts. A “set-aside” is the reserving of a contract or a portion of a contract exclusively for participation by small businesses. This requires that the Sponsor and its prime contractors/consultants set aside a portion of the value of each contract for participation by small businesses. A small business set-aside is open to all small businesses regardless of the owner’s gender, race or geographic location. The project manager and DBELO will review FAA-assisted purchases and contracts to assess the small business opportunities, giving consideration to the size and scope of each purchase or contract to establish the set aside percentage. This determination will be made based on the estimated availability of small businesses able to provide the requisite scopes of work regardless of DBE status. This set aside is in addition to the DBE contract goals which may be required pursuant to applicable law or policy. In the event that a set-aside is not established on an FAA-assisted contract, the project manager and DBELO will document why a small business set-aside is inappropriate and the factors which were considered in making that determination, including project scope and estimated availability of firms.

2. Unbundling:

The Sponsor, where feasible, may “unbundle” projects or separate large contracts into smaller contracts which may be more suitable for small business participation. The Sponsor will conduct contract reviews on each FAA-assisted contract to determine whether portions of the project could be “unbundled” or bid separately. This determination will be made based on the estimated availability of small businesses able to provide specific scopes of work and will consider any economic or administrative burdens which may be associated with unbundling. Similarly, the Sponsor will encourage its prime contractors or prime consultants to unbundle contracts to facilitate participation by small businesses. The Sponsor will assist prime contractors or prime consultants in identifying portions of work which may be unbundled and performed by small businesses. The Sponsor will document the factors used to determine whether or not an FAA-assisted contract will be unbundled or bid separately.

As described above, The Sponsor where feasible, may utilize several methods to facilitate small business participation. In each FAA-assisted contract, the DBELO will document the method in which the small business element will be implemented (i.e. set-aside, unbundling and/or outreach) and the process by which those methods were considered.

B. Definitions

1. Small Business:

Small businesses must meet the definitions specified in Section 3 of the Small Business Act and the Small Business Administration regulations implementing it (13 CFR Part 121). A small business is a business that is independently owned and operated, is organized for profit, and is not dominant in its field. Depending on the industry, size standard eligibility is based on the average number of employees for the preceding twelve months or on sales volume averaged over a three-year period.

2. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise:

A for-profit small business (as defined by the Small Business Administration) —

- That is at least 51 percent owned by one or more individuals who are both socially and economically disadvantaged or, in the case of a corporation, in which 51 percent of the stock is owned by one or more such individuals;
- Whose socially and economically disadvantaged owners do not exceed the personal net worth (PNW) described in 49 CFR Part 26. The current PNW cap is \$1.32 million.
- Whose average annual gross receipts, as defined by SBA regulations over the firm's previous three fiscal years is less than \$23.98 million.
- Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it; and
- Has been certified as a DBE by the Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) in accordance with 49 CFR 26.

For the purposes of the small business element of the Sponsor's DBE Program, small businesses which are also owned and controlled by socially disadvantaged individuals will be encouraged to seek DBE certification. Only DBE certified firms will be counted towards DBE race-neutral participation on FAA-assisted contracts.

C. Certification and Verification Procedures

The Sponsor will accept the following certifications for participation in the small business element of The Sponsor's DBE Program with applicable stipulations:

1. ALDOT DBE Certification – DBE Certification by the ALDOT which stipulates that a firm has been determined to meet all the requirements in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26. All certification determinations are evidenced by a letter of DBE certification issued by ALDOT.

2. ALDOT Small Business Enterprise (SBE) – Will require submittal of three years of business tax returns and page 2 of the ALDOT DBE Certification application after contract award.
3. SBA 8(a) Business Development Certification (as described in 13 CFR Parts 121 and 124) - will require submittal of three years of business tax returns.

Special Note: Minority and women-owned business enterprises which are awarded contracts under the small business enterprise set aside will be strongly encouraged to seek DBE certification in order to be counted towards race neutral DBE participation.

D. Monitoring/Record Keeping

As part of the reporting process, prime contractors will maintain records and documents of payments to small businesses for three years following the performance of the contract. These records will be made available for inspection upon request by any authorized representative of the Sponsor or DOT. This reporting requirement also extends to any small business subcontractor.

E. Assurances

The Sponsor makes the following assurances:

1. The DBE Program, including its small business element is not prohibited by state law;
2. Certified DBEs that meet the size criteria established under the DBE Program are presumptively eligible to participate in the small business element of the DBE Program;
3. There are no geographic or local preferences or limitations imposed on FAA-assisted contracts and the DBE Program is open to small businesses regardless of their location;
4. There are no limits on the number of contracts awarded to firms participating in the DBE Program;
5. Reasonable effort will be made to avoid creating barriers to the use of new, emerging, or untried businesses; and
6. Aggressive steps will be taken to encourage those minority and women owned firms participating in the small business element of the DBE Program that are eligible for DBE certification to become certified.