

The Oklahoma Department of Transportation (ODOT) is in the process of establishing its overall goal for the participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) in the Federal Highway Program and is seeking public input and comments. Public meetings will be held in Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

Information is also available at <http://www.okladot.state.ok.us> DBE Information

What is the purpose of the DBE Program?

To create a level playing field on which Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) may compete fairly for U.S. DOT-assisted contracts; To ensure the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with the law: To help remove barriers to participation of DBEs in U.S. DOT-assisted contracts.

The DBE Program provides opportunities for socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, through the use of project goals, to perform work on federally funded highway projects, either as professional services firms or as contractors, subcontractors, truckers, etc...

In order to participate in the DBE Program, a firm must be certified by ODOT according to the federal regulations found at 49 CFR Part 26. Only currently certified DBE firms may be counted towards a project goal.

How do we set the annual goal?

Each year by August 1, ODOT is required to submit an annual overall DBE goal to the Federal Highway Administration, along with the methodology used to determine the goal. The goal must be based on the availability of ready, willing, and able DBEs relative to all businesses ready, willing, and able to participate in the federal highway program, either as prime contractors, subcontractors, professional services, or Right-of-Way Service Providers. The goal is a percentage of the Federal aid highway funds we expect to expend in the upcoming federal fiscal year.

What are the steps involved?

Step 1 is determining a baseline goal based upon the available pool of ready, willing, and able DBE firms certified by ODOT and the entire pool of all firms ready, willing, and able to perform work on highway projects. We use a Bidder's List and the DBE Directory to determine the availability of firms who actually bid or quote highway work.

Step 2 any adjustments are then made based upon current capacity, past participation, or any other pertinent information. We then forecast what part of the goal will be met through race-conscious means (DBE Project

Goals), and through race-neutral means, such as a DBE is awarded a subcontract by a prime contractor on a project that has no goal, or if the prime is a cert

We have scheduled meetings at the following locations and encourage anyone who may have information or input into the goal setting process to attend. You may also email any comments to ODOT at: dbeinfo@odot.org or mail comments to: Civil Rights Division, Oklahoma Department of Transportation, 1-C-5 200 N.E. 21st. St., Oklahoma City, Ok. 73105.

May 11, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Metro Technology Center

Economic Development Center

1900 Springlake Drive

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73111

May 20, 6:00 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

Tulsa Technology Center

Peoria Campus—Greenwood Room

3850 N. Peoria Ave.

Tulsa, Oklahoma 74106

