

NORTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION SPECIAL PROVISION: DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM

PROJECT _____

RACE/GENDER CONSCIOUS GOAL The DBE goal for this project is: _____%

NDDOT Contact Information	
Contractor Sign In & Submit Advertisements at: https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/login.htm	Amy Conklin, DBE Program Administrator 701-328-3116 - or - aconklin@nd.gov
Submit quotes and post bid documentation to: subquotes@nd.gov or Fax: 701-328-0343	Ramona Bernard, Civil Rights Division Director 701-328-2576 - or - rbernard@nd.gov
Search DBE Directory https://dotnd.diversitycompliance.com/	All times are stated in Central Time. The day of the bid opening is not counted as one of the business days.

PURPOSE

These provisions:

1. Provide an explanation of the federal law and outline the obligations to comply with the Federal DBE requirements applicable to this contract,
2. Explain the process NDDOT will follow to evaluate bidders' efforts to obtain DBE participation
3. Provide the standards NDDOT will use to measure compliance with the requirements
4. Identify sanctions for failing to comply with DBE program requirements.

This Special Provision is written per 49 CFR Part 26 and Appendix A – Guidance Concerning Good Faith Efforts.

Contract award will be made to the lowest responsive bidder whose proposal substantially complies with the requirements prescribed herein, has submitted all required documentation and who has met the goal for DBE participation, or has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of the Department, adequate good faith efforts to do so.

QUOTES:

All bidders and all subcontractors over \$500,000 (regardless of whether they are apparent low bidder or their quote was used on a project in this bid opening) should submit a completed [SFN 52013-List of Businesses Submitting Quotes](#) (Form B), or a spreadsheet containing all the information on Form B by 4:00 pm CST within 5 business days after the bid opening. **(Copies of quotes are no longer accepted)** This process is necessary in identifying "ready, willing, and able" contractors upon which to base the NDDOT Triennial DBE Goal. The number of contractors and the types of work they have bid/quoted will be used in the calculation of the DBE goal for each goal setting period.

All subcontractors, suppliers, manufacturers, regular dealers, vendors, and brokers should fax or email quotes to the Department no later than 9 PM the day before each bid opening.

All DBEs quoting on this project MUST submit all quotes and a list of contractors they quoted to NDDOT no later than 9 PM the day before each bid opening.

Prime contractors preparing to bid on NDDOT highway projects have requested that quotes be sent to them the day before the bid opening by:

- 2 PM Central - Suppliers (brokers/regular dealers), vendors, & manufacturers
- 5 PM Central - Subcontractors under \$500,000
- 8 PM Central - Subcontractors over \$500,000

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BIDDERS:

- ALL BIDDERS are strongly encouraged to submit all documentation at the time of bid opening.
- Must submit Form A with bid package at the time of bid opening.
 - The DBE participation (amount committed to DBEs) will be based on the information identified on Form A at the time your bid is submitted, **NOT** what is submitted on [SFN 52160 Notification of Intent to Use](#) (Form C) if the amounts do not match. Additional DBE participation attained after the bid opening is acceptable and will count toward the Department's overall goal but will not be counted towards the individual project goal submitted at the time of bid.
 - For example: The project goal is 5.00%, the DBE participation listed on Form A submitted with the bid shows 4.89% and the Form C(s) identify 5.15% DBE participation at time of submission. The Department's view is the project goal has not been met, therefore GFE will be scrutinized on participation at the time of bid listed on Form A.
- Completed Form B, or a spreadsheet containing all the information on Form B, should be submitted by 4:00 pm CST within 5 business days after the bid opening.
- Prime contractors are strongly encouraged to submit their bid documentation in one electronic file. Forms incorrectly submitted could result in a technicality, forcing the Department to award to the next responsive bidder.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALB WHEN THE PROJECT DBE GOAL IS MET AT THE TIME OF BID OPENING:

- Follow REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BIDDERS above, and in addition, include:
- Must submit Form C for DBE's used in all tiers of subcontracting by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days after the bid opening.
- When the goal is met, if required documents are not submitted by the deadline, the Department may consider the bid non-responsive and could be rejected per 102.12 Irregular Bid, NDDOT Standard Specification for Road and Bridge Construction.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALB WHEN THE PROJECT DBE GOAL IS NOT MET AT THE TIME OF BID OPENING:

- Follow REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL BIDDERS above, and in addition, include:
- A cover letter, submitted with SFN 60829 explaining actions taken attempting to meet the project goal. See Page 3, questions # 1-8 to help explain your actions in the cover letter. Cover letter must be submitted by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days of the bid opening.
- SFN 60829, [Contractor Good Faith Efforts Documentation](#), (GFE) **and** supporting documentation must be submitted by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days of the bid opening. Failure to demonstrate GFE may cause the Department to "Not Award".
- If a non-DBE is used over a DBE, or a prime wants to self-perform, a bid differential table in SFN 60829 should be completed, showing a comparison of like items, (apples to apples) along with the reason for not using the DBE. (Primes may need to supplement the DBE or Non-DBE quote to get an apples to apples comparison). Any Bid Differential (BD) that does not clearly address all items quoted by the DBE, the non-DBE, prime or combination of quotes, will not be considered.
- Must submit Form C for DBE's used in all tiers of subcontracting & non-DBE's used in a bid differential by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days after the bid opening.
- When the goal is not met, if required documents are not submitted by the deadline, the Department may consider the bid non-responsive and could be rejected per 102.12 Irregular Bid, NDDOT Standard Specification for Road and Bridge Construction.

GOOD FAITH EFFORTS

The bidder is responsible for taking actions toward achieving the project goal as required by 49 CFR Appendix A to Part 26 – Guidance Concerning Good Faith Efforts. Therefore, it is a bidder's responsibility to either achieve the project goal at the time of bid opening, or to follow a course of actions that would, by their scope, intensity, and appropriateness, reasonably be expected to obtain sufficient DBE participation, even if they were not fully successful.

NDDOT will measure the bidder's efforts by actions demonstrated/taken prior to submitting their bid. The description and documentation of these efforts must adequately show NDDOT that the bidder took all necessary and reasonable steps to achieve the DBE goal.

The efforts employed by the bidder should be those that one could reasonably expect if the bidder were actively and aggressively trying to obtain DBE participation sufficient to meet the DBE contract goal.

The following questions are not intended to be a checklist or an exhaustive list of what is considered in evaluating GFE, but will help organize your explanation of your efforts to obtain DBE participation in your cover letter.

- 1) Did you use the DBE Directory to solicit DBEs who are certified to perform the work on the project?
 - 2) Did you send timely written (fax, e-mail, etc.) solicitation notices to certified DBE's?
 - 3) Did you maintain a follow-up log to track responses to your initial solicitations?
 - 4) Did you provide DBEs with information about the plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract so they are able to respond to your solicitation in a timely manner?
 - 5) Did you solicit DBE participation for work you could have self-performed?
 - a. It is the bidder's responsibility to make a portion of the work available to DBE subcontractors and suppliers and to select those portions of the work or material needs consistent with the available DBE subcontractors and suppliers, so as to facilitate DBE participation. The fact that there may be some additional costs involved in finding and using DBEs is not in itself sufficient reason for a bidder's failure to meet the contract DBE goal, as long as such costs are reasonable.
 - 6) Did you ask your firm's subcontractors to solicit DBE work for the subcontractors' portion of the project?
 - 7) Did you receive and evaluate all quotes given? If not, what are your reasons?
 - a. The quotes **must be** converted to an acceptable format, whether the quotes are calculated by ton-mile, hour, acre or square mile.
 - 8) Did you advertise using one or both of the following options? Submit a copy with your Good Faith Efforts documentation.
 - OPTION 1:** Place an advertisement soliciting DBE participation using the electronic DBE Advertisement System.
 - o Submit the required information online at <https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/login.htm> no later than noon, 15 calendar days before the bid opening.
 - OPTION 2:** Directly contact by email or fax, all DBEs certified in the specific work type (NAICS) required for the job.
 - o Make contact with DBEs no later than 5 pm 7 calendar days before the bid opening.
 - o Use the DBE Directory to determine the DBE firms certified in the work to be subcontracted.
- Either method of advertisement must:
- o Provide the name, email address, telephone, and fax number of the company contact who will be available to discuss and/or receive quotes.
 - o Offer assistance to DBEs in interpreting plans; quantities; expected overtime; project scheduling; pit and batch plan locations, length of haul, type of road; method of measurement (seeding by the mile or acre, hauling by hour or by ton-mile) or other issues that may affect a price quote.
- 9) Did you sign-in?

Indicate your intention to bid and/or receive quotes on specific jobs by using the Department's Bid Opening Sign in System

 - o The **Bid Opening Sign-In** web application located at

<https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/login.htm>.

Sign-In opens at 8 am 7 calendar days prior to the bid opening and closes at 11 AM the day before the bid opening.

- Fill in the online form fields as required.
- Log in to download the “Bid Opening Contact Report” at <https://apps.nd.gov/dot/cr/csi/public/listBidOpenings.htm>

EVALUATION OF GOOD FAITH EFFORTS

Proposals may be considered irregular and may be rejected by the Department if there is non-compliance with the DBE requirements, or submitted documentation is incorrect or received after 4:00 pm CST 2 business days after the bid opening. The Department reserves the right to waive minor irregularities and/or certain elements of this special provision.

Federal regulations require the Department to scrutinize a bidder’s documented good faith efforts (see appropriate actions on pages 3-4).

If the Committee determines the ALB has adequately demonstrated GFE, the committee will recommend “Award”.

If the Committee determines the ALB has not adequately demonstrated GFE, the committee may recommend “Not Award”. Some of the factors considered are:

1. Whether the ALB fails to meet the contract goal, but others meet it
2. If the ALB fails to meet or exceed the average DBE participation of other bidders
3. If the ALB fails to submit adequate GFE documentation by 4:00 pm CST 2 business days after the bid opening
4. If the ALB submits no documentation of its good faith efforts (GFE)
5. If the ALB submits incorrect forms

Upon notification of a recommendation for a Not Award determination, the Director’s designee(s) will consider the Committee’s recommendation. If the Designee(s) agrees with the Committee’s recommendation, the Designee(s) will contact the ALB to inform them of the determination, the reasons for it, and that administrative reconsideration is available.

Administrative Reconsideration 49 CFR § 26.53 (d)

- An in-person reconsideration meeting is available at the ALB’s request.
- The Director’s designee(s) will consider any information submitted prior to or presented at the hearing as to whether the ALB met the goal or made adequate efforts to do so.
- The NDDOT reconsideration decision will be made by the Director’s designee(s), who will not have taken part in the original determination.
 - If the Director’s designee(s) determines the ALB made adequate good faith efforts to meet the goal, the job will be recommended for award.
 - If the Director’s designee(s) determines that the ALB has failed to sway the decision from “Not Award”, the ALB will receive written notice of the decision.
- Director will make the final decision and may exercise such discretion as deemed appropriate.
- The decision is not subject to administrative appeal to the U.S. Department of Transportation (49 CFR § 26.53(d)(5)).

POST-AWARD REQUIREMENTS

FEDERAL AUTHORITY

The following paragraph must be included in all subcontracts of all tiers in accordance with 49 CFR § 26.13(b):

The contactor or all tiers of subcontractors 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 § 26.13 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 NDDOT 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

It is the prime contractors' responsibility to ensure all tiers of subcontractors, brokers, manufacturers, suppliers, vendors, and regular dealers comply with the requirements of this special provision. In addition, the prime contractor has the responsibility to monitor DBE performance on the project, and to ensure that the DBE performs a commercially useful function (CUF).

PRIME CONTRACTOR'S MONITORING, RESPONSIBILITIES, REPORTING

For the life of the project, the prime contractor is responsible for the DBEs listed on Form C and for the specific spec/code items or products that the prime committed to during the award process.

The prime is responsible to:

- Report payments to DBEs used to meet the project goal. **Payments on the contract must be entered and stored in the CCS. Use of CCS on the project eliminates the requirement to submit SFN 60638 and SFN 14268.**
- Invite and encourage all subcontractors and all DBEs listed on Form C to the pre-construction conference.
- Provide minutes to any DBE not in attendance at the pre-construction conference.
- Ensure their firm as well as any subcontractors, manufacturers, and regular dealers/suppliers comply with the requirements of this special provision.
- Provide all subcontractors with Proposed Project Schedules and any necessary updates.
- Monitor DBE performance on the project.
 - [Submit SFN 60597, DBE Performance – Commercially Useful Function](#) (CUF) Certification to the project engineer with [SFN 5682- Prime Contractor's Request to Sublet](#). Project engineers will not approve Requests to Sublet without the CUF Certification.
- Maintain project records and documentation of payments to DBEs for three years following acceptance of the final payment from NDDOT (per FHWA-1273, Section II Nondiscrimination #11).
 - This reporting requirement also applies to any certified DBE.
 - NDDOT may perform interim audits of contract payments to DBEs to ensure that the actual amount paid to DBEs equals or exceeds the dollar amount stated on Form C.
 - Make these records available for inspection, upon request, by an authorized representative of the NDDOT or USDOT.

If SFN 60597, and reports of payment are not received in a timely manner, progress payments will be withheld from the prime until submitted.

If award of the contract is made based on the contractor's good faith efforts, the goal will not be waived; the contractor must make good faith efforts throughout the duration of the project.

The prime contractor shall not terminate or replace a DBE subcontractor without the Department's prior written consent. 49 CFR 26.53(f) (1) i.

The Department's contract includes a provision stating:

- (A) That the contractor shall utilize the specific DBEs listed to perform the work and/or supply the materials unless the contractor obtains written consent; and
- (B) That, unless the Department's 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.

[SFN 60595 - Replacement Approval Request](#) must be submitted and approved prior to replacement of each DBE firm(s), or Non-DBE/BD(s), or any work the prime originally intended to self-perform prior to the commencement of any replacement work. No payment will be made if work commences without written approval. The form may be

accessed at the Department's website: <http://www.dot.nd.gov/forms/sfn60595.pdf>

If the prime has not achieved the goal and additional work becomes available, the prime must follow the replacement approval request process using SFN 60595.

EXCEPTION FOR REPLACEMENTS DUE TO PUBLIC NECESSITY

When replacement work is required as a matter of public necessity, (e.g., safety, storm water issues), the contractor must immediately notify the project engineer and the DBE or Non-DBE/BD intended at the time of award. If the DBE or Non-DBE/BD is unable to perform the work within the time specified by permit or administrative rule, the DBE or Non-DBE/BD must notify the prime immediately; and, within one business day, a written explanation must be submitted to the prime with a copy to the project engineer. The project engineer refers all replacement approval requests to the Assistant District Engineer (ADE). In a case of public necessity, the ADE has the authority to allow the contractor to self-perform the replacement work or to find another contractor to complete it.

TERMINATION FOR CAUSE

A DBE or Non-DBE/BD may not be terminated without the Department's prior written consent. (49 CFR 26.53(f)(1)(I))

The Department will provide such written consent if the Department agrees that the contractor or subcontractor has good cause to terminate the DBE firm or Non-DBE/BD.

Circumstances which may be considered good cause for termination include when the listed DBE or Non-DBE/BD:

- Fails or refuses to execute a written contract
- Fails or refuses to perform the work of its subcontract in a way consistent with the contract and/or with normal industry standards, provided, that good cause does not exist if the failure or refusal of the listed DBE or Non-DBE/BD to perform its work on the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime or subcontractor
- Fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable nondiscriminatory bond requirements
- Becomes bankrupt, insolvent, or exhibits credit unworthiness
- Is ineligible to work on public works projects because of Federal Highway Administration suspension and debarment proceedings.
- Is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required
- Dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed DBE or Non-DBE/BD is unable to complete its work on the contract
- Other documented good cause that the Department determines compels the termination of the listed DBE or Non-DBE/BD

Good cause does not exist if the prime contractor or subcontractor seeks to terminate a DBE or Non-DBE/BD which was relied upon to obtain the contract so that the contractor can self-perform the work for which the DBE or Non-DBE/BD was engaged or so that the contractor can substitute another DBE or Non-DBE contractor after contract award.

The contractor must immediately give written termination notice to DBE or the Non-DBE/BD. At the same time, SFN 60595 and its supporting documentation must be provided to the project engineer for review and analysis of the reasons for the intended termination.

The contractor must give the DBE or Non-DBE/BD 5 business days to respond to the termination notice. Within that time, the DBE or Non-DBE/BD should respond with a written explanation of their reasons and/or objections to the proposed termination and specifically address why the Department should deny the contractor's request. This explanation should be submitted in reply to the contractor with a copy to the project engineer.

The project engineer will send the contractor's SFN 60595, the DBE or Non-DBE/BD's written response(s) and any other accompanying documentation to the Civil Rights Division (CRD). If the CRD concurs that a termination is warranted, the contractor must seek a DBE to perform the work.

All DBEs currently certified in the specific area of work to be performed, must be contacted in writing or by phone, and quotes solicited. If available, a DBE will be selected to perform a dollar value of work, equal to the value of the commitment not achieved, unless the contractor can demonstrate the DBE quote is unreasonable, using the same comparison in section “Good Faith Efforts Documentation.”

Upon receipt of appropriate written GFE documentation, and prior to commencement of any replacement work, CRD will consider the contractor’s efforts and provide a final written decision to the project engineer.

In instances where trucking replacements are sought, DBEs and/or Non-DBEs as allowed by regulation must be selected to cover all the trucking required until sufficient participation is met.

UNFULFILLED OBLIGATIONS

The Department requires SFN 60595 and its supporting documentation when a contractor, DBE, or Non-DBE/BD does not fulfill her or his obligations in any of the following situations:

- The prime contractor is unable to perform the full amount of work committed to be completed, by the prime’s workforce and equipment, at the time of award, or
- The DBE or Non-DBE/BD to which the prime contractor committed using at the time of award, is unable to perform the full amount of work, or
- The DBE or Non-DBE/BD withdraws voluntarily from the project and provides to the prime written notice of its withdrawal.

SFN 60595 and its supporting documentation must be provided to the project engineer for review and analysis. If the DBE or Non-DBE/BD is not able to perform, the prime contractor must provide written documentation from the DBE or Non-DBE/BD as to the reasons. The project engineer refers all replacement approval requests to the ADE. The Civil Rights Division will provide a written final determination to the project engineer.

If the Department concurs that a substitution is warranted, the prime contractor will seek a DBE to perform the work. All DBEs currently certified in the specific area of work to be performed, must be contacted in writing or by phone, and quotes solicited. If available, a DBE will be selected to perform a dollar value of work, equal to the value of the commitment not achieved, unless the contractor can demonstrate the DBE quote is unreasonable, using the same bid differential comparison in section “Good Faith Efforts Documentation.”

In instances where trucking replacements are sought, DBEs and/or Non-DBEs as allowed by regulation must be selected to cover all the trucking required until sufficient participation is met.

The prime contractor is responsible for any additional costs incurred as a result of the prime contractor’s failure or the subcontractor quoting over \$500,000 to fulfill the original commitment or the DBE or Non-DBE/BD’s failure to perform.

NON-COMPLIANCE, FAILURE TO PERFORM, AND SANCTIONS

If the Department determines that a contractor should be sanctioned, the Department will provide written notice to the contractor informing them of the sanction for the following:

- Not submitting required documentation in a timely manner
- Not paying a DBE or non-DBE subcontractor in a timely manner
- Not having a DBE perform the specified dollar amount of work (subject to plan quantity changes) tasks or bid items
- For otherwise not fulfilling the requirements of this DBE special provision
- Repeated instances of failure to perform the contract requirements
- Repeated instances of late contract-related payments
- documented fraudulent practices

If the Department determines that a DBE should be sanctioned, the Department will provide written notice to the DBE informing them of the sanction for the following:

- Failure to perform work as specified in the contract
- Failure to pay contract-related bills in a timely manner
- Failure to perform a commercially useful function
- Failure to notify the prime contractor orally and in writing if they are unable to perform a commercially useful function
- Otherwise not fulfilling the requirements of this DBE special provision

If sanctions are applied, the contractor or the DBE may make a written request to the Department for reconsideration. The contractor or the DBE must provide a written statement defending their actions within 3 business days.

If the Department does not receive a written request for reconsideration, or if the contractor or DBE does not provide sufficient evidence that the provisions have been met, the Department may suspend the contractor or the DBE bidding or quoting privileges and not allow the contractor or the DBE to participate in one or more scheduled bid openings after the date the sanction is imposed.

Further sanctions which may be imposed by the Department for failure on the part of the contractor may include, but are not limited to:

- Withhold the contractor's progress payment until the contractor complies with all DBE contract provisions
- Deduct, from the contractor's progress payments, the dollar amount of DBE participation committed to but not achieved by the contractor
- Find the contractor in default
- Liquidated damages
- Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding
- Take other corrective action determined by the Department to be appropriate
- Any combination of the above.

NDDOT MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT MECHANISMS

The Department will bring any false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection with the DBE program to the attention of USDOT. USDOT may pursue action as provided in 49 CFR § 26.107. Actions include referral to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution or referral to the USDOT Office of Inspector General for action under suspension and debarment, or Program Fraud and Civil Remedies rules. The Department will also consider similar action under its own legal authority, including responsibility determination in future contracts.

COMMERCIALLY USEFUL FUNCTION

DBEs are required to perform a commercially useful function (CUF). CUF refers to those services the DBE is certified to perform. Certified services for each DBE are listed in the online DBE Directory. It is a DBE's responsibility to immediately notify the prime contractor in writing if the DBE is unable to perform a CUF or the services indicated on Form C.

The contractor must certify that DBEs working on the prime's contract are performing a commercially useful function. Submit [SFN 60597, DBE Performance – Commercially Useful Function](#) Certification to the project engineer with [SFN 5682 - Contractor's Request to Sublet](#). Project engineers will not approve the Requests to Sublet without the CUF Certification. A review of the certification must be performed by the project engineer to determine whether the contract dollar value of the DBE's work may be counted toward the project goal.

The Department counts participation to a DBE contractor toward DBE goals only if the DBE is performing a CUF on that contract.

- A. A DBE performs a CUF when it is responsible for execution of the work of the contract and is carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a CUF, the DBE must also be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies used on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, installation and paying for the material itself. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(1)
- B. A DBE does not perform a CUF if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(2)

- C. If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30 percent of the total cost of its contract with its own work force, the Department must presume that it is not performing a CUF. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(3)
- D. When a DBE is presumed not to be performing a CUF as provided in paragraph C (above), the DBE may present evidence to rebut this presumption. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(4)
- E. The Department's decisions on CUF matters are subject to review by Federal Highway Administration, but are not administratively appealable to USDOT. 49 CFR § 26.55(c)(5)

COUNTING RACE/GENDER CONSCIOUS DBE PARTICIPATION - 49 CFR § 26.55

The Department does not count the participation of a DBE subcontractor 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. 49 CFR § 26.55 (h)

The Department will count DBE participation toward our overall annual goal as provided in 49 CFR § 26.55 as noted below.

1. The Department will use the following factors in counting DBE trucking participation.
 - A. For purposes of this section, a lease must indicate that the DBE has exclusive use of and control over the truck. This does not preclude the leased truck from working for others during the term of the lease with the consent of the DBE, so long as the lease gives the DBE absolute priority for use of the leased truck. Leased trucks must display the name and identification number of the DBE. 49 § 26.55(d)(7)
 - B. The DBE must be responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible on a particular contract. 49 CFR § 26.55(d)(1)
 - C. The DBE must itself own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured, and operational truck used on the contract and receives credit for the total value of the transportation services it provides on the contract using trucks it owns, insures, and operates using drivers it employs. 49 CFR § 26.55(d)(2-3)
 - D. The DBE may lease trucks and drivers from another DBE firm and receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the lessee DBE provides. 49 CFR § 26.55(d)(4)
 - E. The DBE may also lease trucks with drivers and is entitled to credit for the total value of transportation services provided by non-DBE leased trucks equipped with drivers not to exceed the services under items 1C and 1D. Additional participation by non-DBE owned trucks equipped with drivers receives credit only for the fee or commission it receives as a result of the lease arrangement. 49 CFR § 26.55(d)(5)

Example to 1D: DBE Firm X uses two of its own trucks on a contract. It leases two trucks with drivers from DBE Firm Y and six trucks **with drivers** from non-DBE Firm Z. DBE credit would be awarded for the total value of transportation services provided by Firm X and Firm Y, and may also be awarded for the total value of transportation services provided by four of the six trucks provided by Firm Z. In all, full credit would be allowed for the participation of eight trucks. DBE credit could be awarded only for the fees or commissions pertaining to the remaining trucks Firm X receives as a result of the lease with Firm Z.

- F. The DBE may lease trucks without drivers from a non-DBE truck leasing company and if the DBE uses its own employees as drivers, it is entitled to credit for the total value of these hauling services.

Example to paragraph 1F: DBE Firm X uses two of its own trucks and drivers on a contract. It leases two additional trucks and drivers from non-DBE Firm Z. Firm X uses its own employees to drive the trucks leased from Firm Z. DBE credit would be awarded for the total value of the transportation services provided by all four trucks. 49 § 26.55(d)(6)

2. Only the value of the work actually performed by the DBE counts toward the project goal when a DBE participates in a contract provided the DBE is certified in this work.
 - A. The Department counts the entire amount of that portion of a construction contract, or other contract not covered by item 2. B, that is performed by the DBE's own forces. Included are the cost of supplies and materials obtained by the DBE for the work of the contract, including supplies purchased or equipment leased by the DBE (except supplies and equipment the DBE subcontractor purchases or leases from the prime contractor or its affiliate). 49 CFR § 26.55 (a)(1)
 - B. The Department counts the entire amount of fees or commissions charged by a DBE firm for providing a

bona fide service for which they are certified, such as professional, technical, consultant, or managerial services, or for providing bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of a USDOT-assisted contract, toward DBE goals, if the Department determines the fee to be reasonable and not excessive. 49 CFR § 26.55 (a)(2)

- C. When a DBE subcontracts part of the work of its contract to another firm, the value of the subcontracted work may be counted toward DBE goals only if the DBE's subcontractor is also a DBE. 49 CFR § 26.55 (a)(3)
3. The Department counts expenditures with DBEs for materials or supplies toward DBE goals as provided in the following:
- A. If the materials or supplies are obtained from a DBE manufacturer, count 100% of the cost of the materials or supplies toward DBE goals. 49 CFR § 26.55 (e)(1)(i)
 - B. If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE regular dealer, count 60 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies toward DBE goals. 49 CFR § 26.55 (e)(2)(i)
 - C. Packagers, brokers, manufacturers' representatives, or other persons who arrange or expedite transactions are not regular dealers within the meaning of 3B (above) 49 CFR § 26.55 (e) (2) (ii) (C)
 - D. With respect to materials or supplies purchased from a DBE which is neither a manufacturer nor a regular dealer, count the entire amount of fees or commissions charged for assistance in the procurement of the materials and supplies, or fees or transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies required on a job site, toward DBE goals, if the Department determines the fees to be reasonable and not excessive. Do not count any portion of the cost of the materials and supplies themselves toward DBE goals. 49 CFR § 26.55 (e) (3)
 - E. The Department determines the amount of credit awarded to a firm for the provisions of materials and supplies (e.g., whether a firm is acting as a regular dealer or a transaction expediter) on a contract-by-contract basis. 49 CFR § 26.55 (e)(4)
4. If a firm is not currently certified in ND at the time of the execution of the contract, the Department does not count the firm's participation toward any DBE goal. 49 CFR § 26.55 (f)
5. The Department does not count the dollar value of work performed under a contract with a firm after it has ceased to be certified toward the Department's overall annual goal. 49 CFR § 26.55 (g)

DEFINITIONS

The definitions specified below apply only to this Special Provision and may contain differences from NDDOT Standard Specifications.

Achievement means any DBE certified service dollar amount committed to at the time of award. Any achievement must be supported by a request to sublet and Monthly DBE Payment Records for each DBE.

Aggregate providers are considered subcontractors rather than regular dealers/suppliers, regardless of the amount of their quote.

Apparent low bidder (ALB) means the bidder whose bid is read as low bid at the bid opening.

Bid differential (BD) means written documentation provided by the low bidder comparing a Non-DBE quote to a DBE quote.

Bid Opening Sign-In System means the Department's online system to which all prime contractors and subcontractors must register to indicate their interest in quoting or bidding prior to each bid opening.

Bidder/prime contractor means bidders who are submitting proposals on this project, regardless of the size of the highway construction projects; a contractor intending to serve as the prime contractor.

Blanket quote means when a business provides the same quote, for all projects, at a bid opening, using the same price, at one rate, not project specific. Blanket quotes for the construction season are not allowed, i.e. trucking, striping, signing, construction supplies, etc.

Commercially Useful Function describes a DBE's responsibilities and involvement in a project, see section Commercially Useful Function of this SP.

Commitment means the dollar amount of work the DBE will complete according to the bidder's submitted proposal.

Contractor means all DBE and Non-DBE firms, including prime contractors, subcontractors (under/over \$500,000), brokers, vendors, regular dealers/suppliers, and manufacturers at any tier.

DBE Goal means a percentage of the total contract targeted for the hiring of DBE subcontractors to do specific bid items for which the DBE has been certified to perform. Project goals are set by assessing the project's bid items, location, whether DBEs are available to do the work.

DBE Participation means the percentage achieved when the dollar amount committed to the DBE is divided by the dollar amount of all contract items.

DBE Participation Review summarizes the prime's participation at the time of award. A replacement approval request must be submitted to substitute a firm for any DBEs reported as being used at the time of award.

Department means the project owner regardless of whether the owner is NDDOT, a city or a county project.

Disadvantaged business enterprise or DBE means a for-profit small business concern that is certified by the Department and listed in the DBE Directory available on the Department's web site. DBEs must first be certified in the work intended before any DBE achievement may be counted toward the project goal.

Equipment supplier is a firm which provides equipment for sale or lease, without operators, and whose primary business function is equipment sales or leasing.

Good Faith Efforts (GFE) means efforts made by the prime contractor to achieve a DBE goal. This includes but is not limited to providing assistance to DBEs in preparing their quotes, advertise, sign in, etc.

Manufacturer means a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the contract and of the general character described by the specifications. 49 CFR § 26.55 (e) (1) (ii)

Materials means aggregate, steel, petroleum products, concrete, asphalt, and other construction supplies.

NAICS Codes means industry codes assigned by North American Industry Classification System. When certified, DBE businesses are assigned NAICS codes which are identified in the DBE Directory.

NDDOT Certification & Compliance System (CCS) refers to the online compliance reporting system whereby contractors report/submit job related payments, commitments, and Utilization Plan documentation.

Non-DBE means a contractor, subcontractor, supplier (broker or regular dealer), vendor, or manufacturer that has not been certified as a DBE by the NDDOT Uniform Certification Program.

Non-DBE used in bid differential (Non-DBE/BD) means a Non-DBE which, at the time of award, was approved for use due to a price comparison with a DBE. A Form C with the Non-DBE/BD must be included in the DBE Good Faith Efforts Review documentation. A replacement approval request must be submitted when the Non-DBE/BD is unable to complete the work.

Positive Contact means active and documented solicitation of DBE and other subcontractors. Advertising the prime's intention to bid or contacting individual DBEs is deemed a positive contact.

Project owner means any political subdivision such as a city or county which provides match to federal highway funds and uses NDDOT's electronic bidding system to let their projects to bid. The Department "owns" state projects.

Quoter means a DBE or a Non-DBE subcontractor (under/over \$500,000), brokers, vendors, regular dealers/suppliers, and manufacturers at any tier who submits quotes to another contractor.

Race/Gender Conscious (RGC) goals are those focused specifically on assisting DBEs.

Responsible Bid Proposal means a bidder's proposal in which the project goal has been achieved, or the bidder demonstrates Good Faith Efforts (GFE) as outlined in this Special Provision.

Subcontractor means any firm intending to perform work, or intending to perform work and supply the materials, which were intended for their work on the project. All subcontractors must attach a list of DBE subcontractors intended for use to their quote when submitting it to the prime contractor.

Subcontractor quoting over \$500,000 means a subcontractor whose quote is over \$500,000 on any project and who is not a supplier, broker, vendor, regular dealer, or manufacturer. All aggregate providers are considered subcontractors, regardless of the amount of their quote.

Supplier means a party providing goods, services, and supplies on the project.

Broker means an agent who, without having custody of the property, a) negotiates contracts of purchase, work, lease, or sale; b) buys and sells goods; or c) negotiates between buyers and sellers. See Counting DBE Participation section.

Regular Dealer means a DBE firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials supplies, articles, or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. See Counting DBE Participation section.

Tier means various levels of contractors on the job. For example a prime contractor's subcontractor (B) is referred to as the second tier. When B subcontracts with C, C becomes the third tier, etc.

Tied quote means the quote will be considered only if all of the bid items are included.

Untied quote means that any item or group of items quoted may be used for price noted on the quote whether one or all are used.