

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Procedures



Updated: April 2026

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Michigan Department of Transportation

DBE Program Procedures

The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in compliance with regulations of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) at 49 CFR Part 26. As a condition of receiving federal financial assistance, MDOT has signed an assurance with USDOT that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

Federal DBE Program Commitment

The Michigan State Transportation Commission (STC) established a policy for a DBE program consistent with USDOT objectives found at 49 CFR § 26.1. MDOT's program procedures, incorporated in this document, are consistent with STC policy.

Responsibilities

MDOT has been delegated responsibility for the administration and management of public transportation systems by Michigan's Public Act 51 of 1951, as amended.

The director of MDOT shall be responsible for implementation of the DBE program. The director shall designate a DBE liaison officer who shall be responsible for administering all aspects of the MDOT DBE program and all related elements including the Small Business Program (SBP).

The DBE liaison officer and staff, supported by operating divisions, shall be responsible for developing, managing and implementing the program on a day-to-day basis. The DBE liaison officer shall also be responsible for carrying out technical assistance activities, for disseminating information on available business opportunities so that DBEs are provided with an opportunity to participate in MDOT's contracts and for maintaining an accurate and up-to-date directory of DBEs certified in Michigan.

Goals

The department will use DBE-neutral (DN) and DBE-conscious (DC) means to meet recommended DBE goals on projects funded in whole or in part with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds.

Contract goal(s) shall be set for suitable USDOT-assisted construction, consulting, procurement and service contracts or grants with subcontracting opportunities.

Prospective recipients of department contracts must assure the department of their intent to meet the established goal(s) in order to be eligible for award.

The department will not use quotas in any way in the administration of this DBE program.

Adopted by MDOT, April 2026.

E-SIGNED by Bradley C. Wieferich, P.E.
on 2026-04-17 13:06:39 EDT

Bradley C. Wieferich, P.E.
Director

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DBE Program Authority

On Feb. 2, 1999, the USDOT published in the Federal Register its final rule at 49 CFR Part 26, entitled Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Programs, as amended Sept. 8, 2000; June 16, 2003; Feb. 3, 2010; Jan. 28, 2011; Oct. 2, 2014; May 9, 2024; and the Interim Final Rule (IFR) on October 3, 2025. It superseded all DBE regulations, orders, circulars and administrative requirements concerning financial assistance programs issued by the USDOT before March 4, 1999. As a recipient of federal funds, MDOT is required to administer a DBE program in compliance with all laws, regulations, executive orders and guidance.

The Michigan Legislature, by Section 6a(h) of 1964 PA 286, as amended, MCL 247.806(h); MSA 9.216 (6), authorized the director of MDOT "to do anything necessary and proper to comply fully with the provisions of present or future federal-aid acts."

In addition to the procedures outlined in this program plan, MDOT will adhere to all current federal and state laws, regulations, executive orders and directives of the governor concerning the DBE program and subject to the availability of federal and state funds.

Funding Sources of the MDOT DBE Program

MDOT's DBE program applies to federally assisted projects awarded or administered by MDOT that are funded from the following sources:

1. Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Public Law (Pub. L.) 117-58.

DBE Program Overview

The USDOT Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program provides a vehicle for increasing the participation of socially and economically disadvantaged business owners in state and local procurement. DOT DBE regulations require state and local transportation agencies that receive DOT financial assistance to establish goals for the participation of DBEs. Each DOT-assisted state and local transportation agency is required to establish annual DBE goals, review the scopes of anticipated large prime contracts throughout the year, and establish contract-specific DBE subcontracting goals. There are three major DOT operating administrations involved in the DBE program: the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). State and local recipients are monitored for program compliance as part of the approved federal contracting process.

In addition to establishing goals, state and local recipients also certify the eligibility of DBE firms to participate in DOT-assisted projects. The main objectives of the DBE program are:

- To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of federally funded transportation-related projects in the department's highway, transit, and airport financial assistance programs;
- To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for federally funded transportation-related projects;
- To ensure that the department's DBE program operates in a nondiscriminatory manner without regard to race or sex, while maximizing efficiency of service;
- To ensure that only firms that fully meet this part's eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts;
- To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally assisted contracts and procurement activities conducted by recipients;
- To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program; and
- To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

49 CFR Part 23.13 outlines assurances of non-discrimination that recipients and contractors of federal funds must make and can be found in Attachment A.

MDOT's Program Procedures will be updated and approved by FHWA when there have been significant changes to the current approved plan.

All sub-recipients of FHWA funds must comply with MDOT's DBE Program Procedures and may not have an independent plan. Each sub-recipient has an agreement that includes the responsibility to implement the DBE program. Sub-recipients and their projects are subject to the same DBE requirements set forth in 49 CFR Part 26 and in the Commercially Useful Function (CUF) section of this document.

All forms mentioned in this document are available at [Michigan.gov/MDOT](https://www.michigan.gov/MDOT), "Business," "MDOT Forms."

This page will include the most requested forms necessary for doing business with MDOT. All MDOT forms can be found by searching the library of MDOT online forms.

A. DBE Program Goals

Pursuant to requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, MDOT submits its overall goal for DBE participation on contracts funded in whole or in part with funds from FHWA, FAA and FTA by Aug. 1 on a staggered three-year schedule. The year of submission is established by each federal agency and is published on its website.

MDOT regularly reviews its progress toward meeting its overall goal and may make adjustments to the overall goal during the three-year period based on changed circumstances.

MDOT's proposed FHWA overall DBE goal is forwarded for review and approval by the FHWA Michigan Division and FHWA legal counsel.

DBE participation goals are designated on individual projects in order to meet the DBE-Conscious portion of the overall goal. Refer to "The Contract Selection Team and DBE Participation Goals" for detailed information about the project-level process.

MDOT's proposed FAA and FTA overall goals are submitted to the respective Great Lakes Region Office for review and approval.

The overall goal reflects the relative availability of DBEs who are ready, willing and able to work for MDOT, in comparison to all firms within MDOT's marketplace. The overall goal is MDOT's determination of the level of DBE participation that could be expected.

Based on revisions to the federal regulations that took effect Jan. 28, 2011, if MDOT does not meet its projected overall DBE goal at the end of a fiscal year, the reasons for not achieving the goal must be analyzed and specific steps taken in order to fully meet the goal in the new fiscal year. The analysis and corrective actions must be submitted within 90 days of the end of the fiscal year to the appropriate USDOT operating authority.

Every three years, pursuant to the Feb. 3, 2010, amendment to DBE regulations at 49 CFR Part 26, MDOT will publish a notice of its proposed overall DBE participation goal. This is done to inform the public that the proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection, and to solicit comment.

Methodology

MDOT uses a two-step process to determine its overall DBE participation goal:

Step 1. Determine the base figure for the overall goal

Calculate the actual relative availability of DBEs to perform the types of federally assisted prime and subcontracts MDOT intends to let: heavy construction, materials supply, engineering and other professional services, and transit services.

Weigh availability figures by the respective contract dollars to be expended in each type of federally assisted prime contract and subcontract.

Disaggregate the resulting weighted availability figures.

Step 2. Adjust the base figure using factors relevant to MDOT's marketplace. If the evidence does not suggest an adjustment is necessary, then no adjustment shall be made.

The methodology used includes an explanation of how portions of the forecasted tri-annual overall goal are achieved using DBE-Neutral and DBE-Conscious means.

Additional Information About Steps 1 and 2

The Step 1 base figure is calculated individually for heavy construction, professional services and transit services pursuant to guidance provided by federal regulations at 49 CFR §26.45 and Federal Register Vol. 64, No. 21 dated Feb. 2, 1999.

Step 1: Determine the base figure for the overall goal

MDOT's directories of certified DBEs, prequalified firms and approved suppliers provide relevant and reliable data to measure its marketplace. These data sources are used for the following reasons:

- The State of Michigan requires prime contractors and most subcontractors wishing to do business with MDOT to be prequalified. Firms that perform work as trucking and hauling firms, as well as construction suppliers (among some other limited services), are not required to be prequalified.
- MDOT maintains a database of approved suppliers and publishes the list on the web.
- MDOT's Vendor Availability Questionnaire (MDOT Form 0168A) is used to survey the universe of vendors seeking work with MDOT.
- This form requests the firm's contact information, as well as its gross receipts and company status.

A review of submissions supports MDOT's determination that its marketplace consists of vendors who are DBE-certified, prequalified or approved suppliers, per 49 CFR Part 26.11(c). MDOT staff requests updated forms from applicable firms annually.

To determine MDOT's local market area, MDOT provides analysis to see where 75 percent of the available contractors reside that perform work on projects in Michigan. MDOT also provides this information to determine what percentage of contract dollars went to these Michigan firms.

The Step 1 base figure is determined for each operating authority (FHWA, FAA or FTA) by adding weighted DBE-relative availability in heavy construction, professional services or transit services, as applicable.

Projected weighted dollar value × DBE-relative availability = Weighted DBE-relative availability

Estimated federally assisted heavy construction contract dollars

Total federally assisted program dollars
 = Projected weighted dollar value heavy construction (%)

$\frac{\text{Number of DBEs in heavy construction}}{\text{Number of non-DBEs and DBEs in heavy construction}}$
 = DBE-relative availability in heavy construction (%)

Projected weighted dollar value × DBE-relative availability
 = Weighted DBE-relative availability (heavy construction)

The base figure reflects only the sum of the weighted relative DBE availability in heavy construction, professional services or transit services for FHWA, FAA or FTA-assisted contracts, as applicable, and is not in itself a direct measure of capacity.

Step 2: Adjusting the base figure for the overall goal

Factors relevant to MDOT’s contracting market are used to make adjustments to the Step 1 base figure. These factors may include:

- Median DBE participation for the past five years. Comparative analysis of the mix of projects, the dollar volume of the projected program and the availability of DBEs in the types of work needed.
- The number of projects that may not be conducive to DBE DBE-Conscious participation designations due to small project size.
- The number of projects that may not be conducive to DBE participation due to the location of the contract.
- Initiatives taken by MDOT to encourage small business participation.
- Feedback and consultation regarding the proposed goal as required by 49 CFR § 26.45 (g)(1) and posted on MDOT's DBE website at Michigan.gov/MDOTDBE.

Projecting DBE-Neutral/DBE-Conscious Portions of the Goal

Once the Step 1 base figure has been adjusted to determine the overall goal, MDOT projects the portion of the goal to be met using DBE-Neutral (DN) or DBE-Conscious (DC) means.

- DN DBE participation includes instances when a DBE wins a prime contract through customary competitive procurement procedures, is awarded a subcontract on a prime contract that does not carry a DBE goal, or is awarded a subcontract from a prime contractor that did not consider its DBE status in making the award (e.g., a prime contractor that uses a strict low bid system to award subcontracts).

To promote DN participation, MDOT uses small business outreach, technical assistance and networking sessions, conferences, reimbursement programs, support, license subsidies, and targeted training.

- DC DBE participation includes instances when a DBE receives subcontracts from a prime contractor because of required DBE contract goals.

DC participation is assigned to federally assisted construction projects by MDOT's Contract Selection Team (CST). The selection process is described later in this document.

The CST and DBE Participation Goals on MDOT-Let Highway Projects

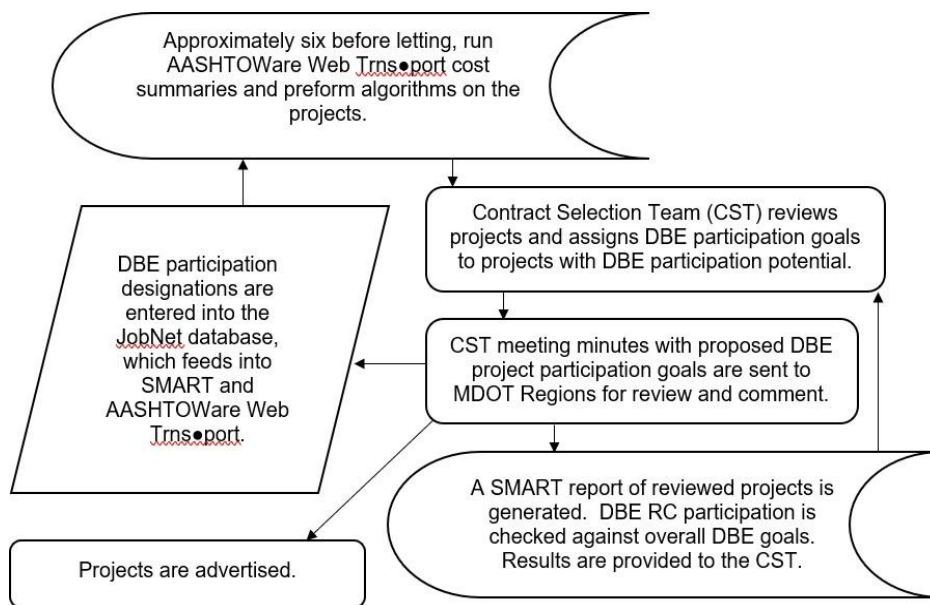
MDOT's CST reviews federally funded trunkline projects for DBE participation potential. CST members include individuals from MDOT's DBE program, Finance and Administration, Highways, Transportation Planning and Aeronautics. The CST meets at least monthly.

1. Prior to project advertisement, approximately six weeks before each letting, the CST reviews the quarterly running tally. Then, Web Transport Preconstruction is used to generate a "Cost Summary" for each project. The Cost Summary includes project identification numbers, location and general type of work (preventive maintenance, roadside construction, etc.), project description, engineer's estimated value, project work classifications, a list of DBE firms certified and/or prequalified to perform each work classification, and the primary business address of each DBE firm. Using a standard algorithm to calculate DBE availability and other relevant information, the committee sets the final goal.
 - a. A version of the Cost Summary specifically created for vendor use is available on the Letting link at Michigan.gov/MDOTDBE.

- b. DBE participation recommendations are tracked using MDOT's SMART/Jobnet system.

Following each CST meeting, DBE program staff prepare meeting minutes that are electronically distributed to MDOT region representatives for review and comment. CST will then forward the final goal to Contracts Services Division (CSD) prior to project advertisement.

The following is a flow chart of the contract selection and review process for trunkline and local agency projects.



DC DBE participation is checked against overall DBE goals. Results are provided to the CST.

Composition of the Contract Selection Team (CST)

The CST brings a wealth of expertise in areas such as project work to be performed, firsthand location knowledge, financial factors (such as performance incentive/disincentive), effect of night work, airport considerations, local agency considerations (for example county-wide performance), project materials needed, proportion of trucking needed, etc. This information is vital in determining appropriate goal setting not available to the algorithm.

Note: All CST members will have alternate representatives:

- Office of Business Development (OBD) - Three representatives (including the team chair: Lansing Business and Workforce Engagement manager).

- Regions - Three representatives.
- Finance and Administration - One representative.
- Construction Field Services Division - One representative.
- Transportation Planning - One representative.
- Executive Office - One representative.
- Aeronautics - One representative.
- Highway Development – One representative.

When the CST reviews service consulting contracts, representatives from the respective contracting area will participate. Service consulting includes Construction Services, Design Services, Real Estate, Passenger Transportation, Planning, Traffic and Safety, etc.

The chair of the CST has the authority, with the advisement of the OBD administrator, to make final decisions on individual project goals.

Setting Goals on Individual Projects

The following is the algorithm for computing project-specific DBE participation goals:

Step 1: Run “Cost Summary by Proposal” statements for each project to generate the engineer’s estimate, required work classifications, and the percentage of total project for each work classification.

Step 2: Calculate the DBE multiplier using the following formula for all work classifications:

$$\frac{\text{Number of prequalified/certified DBE contractors, DBE truckers, and DBE suppliers per work classification}}{\text{Number of prequalified contractors, truckers, and approved suppliers per work classification (including DBEs)}}$$

MDOT will use suppliers and truckers per the sources approved in the DBE goal methodology. We will update the sources indicated in Step 2 on a bi-annual basis.

Step 3: For each work classification compute:

$$\begin{aligned} & \$ \text{ value of work classification} \times \text{DBE multiplier (refer to Step 2)} \\ & = \text{DBE } \$ \text{ value of work classification} \end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Compute total project DBE participation goal for contractors:

$$\frac{\text{Sum of all DBE } \$ \text{ values of work classifications}}{\text{Engineer's estimate of project}}$$

The CST will determine if putting a goal on each project will help MDOT meet the overall goal. If the determination is “no,” the CST will document the reasons and maintain them on file. DBE contract goals will be rounded to the nearest whole number.

DBE Participation Designations on Design-Build Projects

Design-build (DB) is a construction project contract that combines engineering design services, construction services and sometimes maintenance services into a single contract. The design-builder is usually the general construction contractor but, in some cases, it also is the engineering design firm. The CST reviews a DB project summary to establish a DBE participation goal in advance of advertisement. A template of the DBE Special Provision that is included in every DB project is included as Attachment C in this document.

DBE Goal Monitoring and Reporting

As a recipient of USDOT federal funds, MDOT must report all contracting opportunities available to firms, DBE and non-DBE, paid for with DOT dollars. Refer to 49 CFR 26.11(a). Payment information is collected in order to complete the Uniform Report of DBE Commitments/Awards and Payments.

All dollar values listed on this form should represent the DOT share attributable to the Operating Administration (OA): FHWA, FAA or FTA to which this report will be submitted.

These federal reports are due June 1 and Dec. 1. The June 1 report should cover the Oct. 1-March 31 period while the Dec. 1 report should cover the April 1-Sept. 30 period. If the report is due to the FAA, data should cover the entire fiscal year.

The collection of this information is reviewed by FHWA and USDOT to determine if recipients are meeting their approved overall goal. Refer to 49 CFR 26.47(c).

DBE Overconcentration

The DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO) or designee will review DBE Commitment Reports quarterly that show specific types of work and contracting dollars by region. If these DBE participation numbers are overly-concentrated in certain types of work (e.g. 20% or more) that are unduly burdening to Non-DBE subcontractors/subconsultants, the DBELO or designee will develop appropriate measures to address the overconcentration. Once measures are developed, the DBELO or designee will seek approval from the appropriate operating administration, as required. Upon receipt of an allegation of overconcentration, the DBELO or designee will investigate the allegation and coordinate with the appropriate operating administration(s), as required. Any measures undertaken will become an integral part of MDOT's DBE Program.

Measures to address DBE overconcentration in a particular field may include, but are not limited to the following:

- Outreach efforts;
- Use of incentives;
- Technical assistance;
- Capacity building;
- Mentor/Protégé programs;
- Business development programs; and
- Other appropriate measures such as providing assistance with obtaining bonding and capital designed to assist the DBEs in performing work outside of the specific field where over-concentration is occurring.
- The DBELO, or designee, may vary the use of DBE contract goals.
- The DBELO, or designee, may work with prime contractors and consultants to find and use DBEs in other industry areas.

B. Michigan Unified Certification Program (MUCP)

USDOT regulations at 49 CFR §26.81 (b)(2) state: “The UCP shall provide ‘one-stop shopping’ to applicants for certification, such that an applicant is required to apply only once for a DBE certification that will be honored by all recipients in the state.” All recipients of funds from the FAA, FHWA and FTA in each state were required to unite and implement the Unified Certification Program (UCP).

In support of this requirement, the State of Michigan established an MUCP Committee. This committee agreed to certify DBE firms based on mandatory reciprocity among the certifying entities in the state. As a result, these organizations will certify DBEs in Michigan:

Michigan Department of Transportation
Office of Business Development
P.O. Box 30050
425 W. Ottawa St., Lansing, MI 48909
Telephone: (Lansing Office) 866-323-1264 or (Detroit Office) 866-323-4009
Fax: 517-335-0945
Email: MDOT-DBE@Michigan.gov

Wayne County Airport Authority

Detroit Department of Transportation Contract Compliance
1301 E. Warren
Detroit, MI 48207
Telephone: 313-833-3658
Fax: 313-833-3542

While each individual MUCP-certifying agency may process any application received, the agencies agree that all firms seeking Airport Concessionaire DBE (ACDBE) Certification within the state of Michigan shall file the initial application with Wayne County Airport Authority. Each agency has their own procedures for managing their respective DBE program. For specifics on the MUCP, please review the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Attachment B.

MDOT’s DBE program procedures are outlined in this plan.

MUCP-Certifying Agency Requirements

Each certifying agency will notify all MUCP agencies and certification applicants of their certification decisions. Certifying agencies must keep complete files on applicants and provide information as required. Certifications that do not follow MUCP guidelines will not be valid.

Each certifying agency agrees to provide information and documentation, upon request, to any out-of-state certifying agency where an MUCP DBE firm is seeking certification. All MUCP agencies agree to refer any UCP inquiries from out-of-state UCPs to the appropriate certifying agency. Information on the certifying agency will be included on the DBE approval letter and certificate.

Each certifying agency agrees to require home-state certification as a prerequisite to certifying an out-of-state firm. The certifying agency where an out-of-state DBE firm is seeking certification may contact the applicant or the home state in order to address questions and concerns.

Annual Declaration of Eligibility (DOE) Requirement

Each certifying agency will annually require its DBE firms to submit an annual DOE due on their certification anniversary date from the firm's jurisdiction of certification (JOC). If a firm is certified outside of the state of Michigan, the firm's annual will be due on the anniversary of certification from the firm's home state JOC. Completion of this form is required for continued certification eligibility. The certifying agencies will notify all MUCP agencies of the firm's continued eligibility.

DBE Directory

The MUCP directory of all certified DBE firms in Michigan is available online at Michigan.gov/MUCP.

The MUCP has determined the firms listed in the MUCP directory meet the DBE certification requirements to perform the specific work codes granted. All requests for additional work codes and/or North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes must be approved prior to the execution of any contract the DBE firm wishes to perform work on as a DBE.

The DBE firm must meet MDOT prequalification requirements, as well as all other state and federal requirements to perform work on MDOT projects.

The DBE directory includes an alphabetical list of certified DBE firms (including the name, address, telephone, certifying agency, certification date, certification type (DBE, ACDBE or both)), NAICS coding, and work classifications that the firms have been DBE-certified to perform. A hardcopy directory of DBE-certified firms is available from MDOT and is available to the public. The printed directory is published and updated upon request.

To obtain a copy of the DBE directory, please visit the MUCP website at Michigan.gov/MUCP or contact MDOT at:

Michigan Department of Transportation
Office of Business Development
P.O. Box 30050
425 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48909
Toll-free phone: 866-323-1264

C. Certification Standards for DBE Applicants

The integrity of the MUCP DBE program depends upon the establishment of systematic procedures to ensure only small firms independently owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged owners (SEDO) are certified to participate in the USDOT DBE program. The MUCP will use the following standards to establish DBE certification eligibility in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26, as amended, and 49 CFR Part 23 formal USDOT guidance, the MUCP Memorandum of Understanding, and USDOT interpretations of the regulations contained in their appeal decisions.

Small Business Size

In order to be certified, a business must qualify as a small business as defined by U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations at 13 CFR Part 121, as amended.

Size standards for each applicant shall be determined by identifying the firm's primary area(s) of work, the related NAICS code(s) and applying the corresponding SBA size standard.

In addition, no business shall be considered small if average annual gross receipts of the business and its affiliates exceeds the current DBE certification program statutory cap averaged over a three-year period, even though receipts do not exceed the threshold for the applicable NAICS code.

This maximum size standard is adjusted periodically to offset inflation and can be found on the USDOT website at: www.transportation.gov/DBESizeStandards.

Social and Economic Disadvantage Status

Under the DBE and ACDBE regulations at 49 CFR § 26.67 and 23.31, each individual owner of a firm applying to participate as a DBE, whose ownership and control are relied upon for DBE certification, must certify that he or she has a personal net worth (PNW) that does not exceed \$2.047 million. The value of the individual's primary residence, qualified retirement accounts and ownership interest in the firm seeking certification is excluded from the calculation valuation. For individuals that own multiple businesses or a holding/parent company with subsidiary companies, the ownership interest held in only the firm seeking DBE certification (which may be a subsidiary company) is excluded in the PNW calculation valuation. A signed PNW statement is required as part of the application to accurately determine an individual's PNW. Supporting documentation, including personal income tax returns, is required evidence. The MUCP recipient may require additional financial information from the owner of an applicant firm on a case-by-case basis.

Firms must demonstrate that they meet federal regulations regarding social disadvantage as defined by federal regulations outlined in §26.67(a). MDOT requires that firms demonstrate that the socially and economically disadvantaged owner (SEDO) or owners demonstrate that they are socially disadvantaged based on their own experiences in American society without regard to race or sex. MDOT requires that firms provide MDOT with a social disadvantaged Personal Narrative (PN) that includes a full description of the type and magnitude of the impediments that have caused the SEDO economic harm; and must establish that the owner is economically disadvantaged in fact relative to similarly situated non-disadvantaged individuals.

A submitted PN must establish, by the preponderance of evidence, that a firm has experienced specific instances of economic hardship, systemic barriers, and has been denied opportunities that impeded the owner's progress or success in education, employment, or business, including obtaining financing on terms available to similarly situated, non-disadvantaged people.

Ownership

In establishing ownership, the MUCP is required by 49 CFR § 26.69 to consider all the facts in the record, viewed as a whole. Ownership is determined as follows:

1. Socially and economically disadvantaged owner(s) (SEDO) must own at least 51 percent of each class of ownership of the applicant firm.
2. SEDO(s) must acquire their ownership at fair value and by one or more investments, as defined by 49 CFR § 26.69(c). All applicants are required to establish the source of their contribution(s) to acquire ownership interest in the firm.
3. No owner derives benefits or bears burdens that are clearly disproportionate to their ownership shares.
4. SEDO(s) must maintain their investments in accordance with 49 CFR § 26.69(b)(3).

Control

In establishing control, the MUCP is required by 49 CFR § 26.71 to determine if a firm meets regulatory standards regarding control when making DBE certification decisions. MDOT must review all pertinent information and in the proper context when making certification decisions regarding control. Firms must demonstrate to MDOT that at least one SEDO controls the firm and that they meet all of the following:

1. A SEDO must be the ultimate decision-maker in fact, regardless of operational,

policy or delegation arrangements.

2. Governance provisions may not require that any SEDO obtain concurrence or consent from a non-SEDO to transact business on behalf of the firm.
3. At least one SEDO must have an overall understanding of the business and its essential operations sufficient to make sound managerial decisions not primarily of an administrative nature. The requirements of this paragraph (d) vary with type of business, degree of technological complexity and scale.
4. The firm must show that the SEDO critically analyzes information provided by non-SEDOs and uses that analysis to make independent decisions.
5. A SEDO may delegate administrative activities or operational oversight to a non-SED individual as long as at least one SEDO retains unilateral power to fire the delegate(s), and the chain of command is evident to all participants in the company and to all persons and entities with whom the firm conducts business.

Independence

MDOT is required by 49 CFR § 26.71(g) to determine whether DBE applicant firms are independent business concerns whose viability does not rely on any other entity or businesses and that they meet all of the following:

1. If the firm receives from or shares personnel, facilities, equipment, financial support or other essential resources with another business (whether a DBE or non-DBE firm) or individual on other than commercially reasonable terms, the firm must prove that it would be viable as a going concern without the arrangement.
2. The firm must not regularly use another firm's business-critical vehicles, equipment, machinery or facilities to provide a product or service under contract to the same firm or one in a substantially similar business.

Work Classifications

MDOT will grant certification to firms only for specific types of work that the SEDO controls and will assign the firm NAICS codes accordingly. Businesses can review detailed descriptions of the US Census Bureau's NAICS catalogue at www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cbp.html.

A correct NAICS code is the one that describes, as specifically as possible, the principal goods or services that the firm would provide to MDOT. Multiple NAICS codes may be assigned where appropriate. When assigning NAICS codes, MDOT does not depart from the plain meaning of NAICS code descriptions in determining the scope of a firm's

certification. If there is not an NAICS code that fully, clearly or sufficiently narrowly describes the type(s) of work for which the firm seeks certification, MDOT may supplement or limit the assigned NAICS code(s) with a clear, specific and concise narrative description of the type of work in which the firm is certified.

MDOT and DBE-certified firms must check carefully to make sure that the NAICS codes cited in a certification are kept up to date and accurately reflect work that the MUCP has determined the firm's owners can control. MDOT may change a certification classification or description if there is a factual basis in the record, in which case it must notify the firm 30 days before making the change.

In addition to applying the appropriate NAICS code, MDOT may apply a descriptor from a classification scheme of equivalent detail and specificity. Such a descriptor (e.g., a "work code") does not supersede or limit the types of work for which a DBE is eligible under an appropriate NAICS code.

If a firm is already DBE-certified and wishes to add an additional NAICS code(s) to their DBE profile, firms must submit a completed MDOT Additional Work Classification Request ([MDOT Form 0147](#)) and submit it in addition to any required supporting documentation requested in the form. MDOT does not require firms to recertify or submit a new DBE certification application during an additional work classification request evaluation.

Vendors who wish to work for MDOT in areas that require service or construction prequalification also must become prequalified. Prequalification and DBE certification are not the same. Applications for service or construction prequalification are available online at Michigan.gov/MDOT, under "Business." Click on "Contractor" or "Vendor/Consultant Services," respectively.

Other Rules Affecting Certification

All participants in MDOT's DBE program are required to cooperate fully and promptly with MDOT 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, which may include (but not be limited to) denial of DBE certification, DBE decertification, suspension and/or disbarment from performing work on federal-aid contracts.

If an applicant or certified firm does not meet the eligibility criteria of 49 CFR § 26 Subpart D and attempts to participate in a DOT-assisted program as a DBE on the basis of false, fraudulent or deceitful statements or representations, or under circumstances indicating a serious lack of business integrity or honesty, MDOT may initiate decertification, suspension or debarment.

D. MDOT DBE Certification Procedures

Certification procedures are designed to ensure all businesses participating in the MDOT DBE program meet the eligibility standards defined in USDOT regulations at 49 CFR Part 26. A business certified as a DBE can bid on all projects in the state of Michigan, provided individual agency requirements that apply to all firms, DBE and non-DBE alike, also have been met.

Firms wishing to be considered for DBE certification through MDOT must complete the Uniform Certification Application, a Personal Narrative, and a PNW Statement for DBE Program Eligibility, and submit all information requested on the application form (page 17). The application is designed to solicit information to determine whether an applicant business is eligible for certification as a DBE under 49 CFR Part 26. DBE certification is free to all applicants.

Apply online by registering with MILogin and requesting access to the MDOT MUCP application at <https://MILoginTP.Michigan.gov/> or go to “Download Forms” at <https://mdotjboss.state.mi.us/MUCPWeb/forms.htm> for a DBE Certification Application, PNW Statement, and DBE Certification Additional Information Required.

Processing of Applications

The completed MUCP DBE Certification Application and all other required information should be submitted online or mailed to MDOT using the website or mailing address provided with the application.

The signed certification application and related documents will be reviewed for completeness within 30 days of its receipt at MDOT, at which time MDOT will submit a notice to the firm indicating that it has received a complete DBE certification application and supporting documentation. MDOT does not review certification applications that are incomplete or are missing required additional documentation or sections of required forms. MDOT may, at its discretion, make reasonable efforts to collect some missing documentation; however, if a firm does not submit all required documentation to MDOT by the deadlines provided, or if MDOT determines that an application is missing significant information, MDOT will return partially completed applications back to the applicant marked as Not Viable for Processing.

Applications that have been returned marked Not Viable for Processing are eligible to reapply at any time so long as they submit a completed application package that includes all required documentation and application forms.

Certifying agencies will render certification decisions within 90 calendar days after receipt of all information required by 49 CFR § 26.83 (c). However, DBE regulations outlined in 49 CFR § 26.83 (I) may allow MDOT to occasionally extend this deadline

by an additional 30 days upon a written notice to the firm explaining the reason for the deadline extension.

The completed application packages are processed based on date of MDOT's determination of a completed application package.

Interstate Certification

A DBE whose primary business is not based in Michigan must be DBE-certified in the USDOT DBE certification program in their home state before they are eligible to apply for certification in Michigan. In order for an interstate firm to apply for certification with MDOT, firms must submit the following information:

1. A signed USDOT DOE form, or use MDOT DOE form ([MDOT Form 1039](#)). This form must be signed by each SEDO for which DBE certification is based in their home state (attach additional pages if necessary).
2. A cover letter that lists all of the states in which a firm is certified, the firm's Federal Employee Identification Number (FEIN) and the firm's home state DBE certification date.
3. An electronic image of the home state's DBE UCP directory that displays all of the NAICS codes that a firm is certified in by their home state.

Applicant firms may submit the above-mentioned documentation to MDOT at [Michigan.gov/MUCP](#), by mail at the address listed on the application or by submitting the documentation to MDOT-DBEApplications@Michigan.gov.

Once MDOT has received a completed Interstate DBE Certification, MDOT will render a certification decision within 10 business days. Interstate certified firms, as well as home state certified firms' business profile (including all the NAICS codes the firm is certified in) will be displayed at [Michigan.gov/MUCP](#). MDOT may need to request additional information from the firm after the firm has been certified.

Interstate DBE certified firms seeking additional NAICS codes not on their DBE profile in Michigan must receive those codes from their home state and then submit a written request to have those codes added to their Michigan profile. Interstate certified firms are not required to submit to MDOT an MDOT Form 0147 in order to have additional NAICS codes added; a simple written request will suffice.

Intake of Applications

Applications are received by MDOT, logged and reviewed for completeness. Within 30 days of receiving DBE application materials from a firm, MDOT will (1) review those materials for completeness and (2) notify the applicant firm whether there is additional information needed for processing the application, or notify the firm that the certification

application is complete.

Complete application packages are scheduled for an on-site visit. Incomplete application packages may be returned. MDOT OBD supportive services staff are available to answer questions if the certification application is returned.

Please keep a copy of your certification application and all supporting documentation sent to MDOT.

MDOT will retain indefinitely all application packages for each firm certified or denied certification as a DBE, including annual affidavit changes submitted by the firm; and onsite reports. Other records will be retained for three years or by MDOT's retention schedule, whichever is longer. MDOT stores these documents electronically, encrypting and uploading them to a secure State of Michigan server. Documents are accessible only to users connected to the State of Michigan network who have also been granted access rights by ODB and the Department of Technology, Management and Budget (DTMB).

On-Site Visits and Field Monitoring

On-site visits required by 49 CFR § 26.83(c) (1) are conducted with firms seeking first-time certification at the applicant's principal place of business, as well as one or more active job sites (if there are any at the time of certification review). All SEDOs by which the certification is to be based must be present during the on-site review of a firm's certification eligibility. All on-site reviews are recorded as required by federal DBE regulations, with copies of those recordings securely stored in the MUCP database. **On-site questions are designed to verify whether or not the applicant meets DBE certification standards.**

Accommodations can be made for persons who require mobility, visual, hearing, written or other assistance for participation. Large print materials, auxiliary aids or the services of interpreters, signers or readers are available upon request. Please contact Orlando Curry at 517-241-7462 or complete Form 2658 for American Sign Language (ASL) located on the Title VI webpage: Michigan.gov/Title-VI. Requests should be made at least five days prior to the meeting date. Reasonable efforts will be made to provide the requested accommodation or an effective alternative, but accommodations may not be guaranteed.

During the on-site visit, compliance staff may review a firm's financial, corporate, payroll and other records.

On-site visits will be scheduled at a mutually convenient time for the certifying agency and the firm, and may be held virtually or in person at the discretion of the DBE investigator and/or manager of Compliance Services.

A subsequent on-site visit may be necessary if the basis upon which the certification was granted has changed. In addition, on-site visits are conducted as a result of:

1. USDOT request
2. MUCP-certifying agency requests
3. Other state's DBE certification agency requests
4. Company changes affecting eligibility
5. Third-party written complaint
6. Changes in the firm's principle business activity

If a previously DBE-certified firm has had their eligibility as a DBE removed, and it has been less than five years since the date of the firm's most recent onsite review and is now seeking recertification in the DBE program, MDOT investigators may (at the discretion of MDOT management) choose to conduct a limited review of the firm's eligibility in lieu of a full investigation. A limited review of the DBE applicant's eligibility would be narrowed to include areas in which the firm has changed since the previous DBE certification investigation and may not require an investigator to conduct an on-site review.

Following the on-site visit, a report based on facts contained in the applicant's file will be developed and presented for managerial review and a certification eligibility decision.

If additional information is required, all information requested will be used to determine if the firm meets the eligibility standards listed in 49 CFR Part 26 Subpart D. All findings will be included in the on-site report.

USDOT regulation 49 CFR § 26.109 (c) requires all participants in the DBE program (including but not limited to recipients, DBE firms and applicants for DBE certification, complainants and appellants, and contractors using DBE firms to meet contract goals) to cooperate fully with MDOT compliance, certification reviews and certification investigations. Failure to cooperate fully with MDOT's investigation may be grounds for denial of DBE certification, suspension or revocation of DBE certification, or disbarment from participation on federal-aid contracts.

A reasonable period of time will be allowed to enable the firm to assemble the requested information.

At the end of the on-site visit, the firm's principal officers may request a copy of the audio recording or transcripts (where available) for their records.

Completion of Application Process

The on-site report is completed by compliance staff, and a recommendation is made to

MDOT OBD management.

MDOT OBD management reviews the recommendation in the report and determines if the applicant meets eligibility standards established in federal regulations and state law, then approves or denies the firm.

Annual Declaration of Eligibility (DOE) to Maintain Certification

DBE certification is valid as long as the firm continues to meet all eligibility standards. Certified firms will be required to submit a DOE ([MDOT Form 0167A](#)) stating that there have been no changes that would affect the firm's eligibility to participate as a DBE, due annually on their certification anniversary date.

Complete signed DOEs must be returned annually on the anniversary date of your original certification with the appropriate supporting documentation. Interstate certified DBEs are required to submit their annual DOE on the anniversary of their home-state certification. DBEs are not required to submit PNW statements with their DOE. As part of the annual DOE documentation, firms must also submit documented evidence of their firm's business size as well as the business size of all affiliate firms. Such evidence of a firm's business size include but are not limited to federal business income tax returns, audited financial statements, and a signed and sworn declaration from a certified accountant, etc.

Annual affidavits may be submitted online by registering with MILogin and requesting access to the MDOT MUCP application at <https://milogintp.michigan.gov/> or by emailing the documentation to MDOT-DBEAnnuals@Michigan.gov.

If a firm fails to provide their annual affidavit and tax information in a timely manner, they will be deemed to have failed to cooperate under regulatory requirement 49 CFR §26.109(c).

Accuracy of tax forms and other documentation provided may be confirmed by the Michigan Department of Treasury and/or Internal Revenue Service.

MDOT must be notified, in writing, of any changes that would affect the size, disadvantaged status, ownership or control requirements, or of any material changes in the information provided in the certification application as follows:

1. Written notification must be provided within 30 days of the change.
2. Supporting documentation describing in detail the nature of the changes must be attached.
3. Failure to notify MDOT in a timely manner of changes that affect certification eligibility can result in certification being removed.

Note: It is the responsibility of the DBE to notify their MUCP-certifying agency of any

changes in any current contact information within 30 days of making the changes.

MDOT Denial Process

If grounds for a determination of certification ineligibility are sufficient, the MDOT manager of Compliance Services will mail the firm a Notice of Certification Denial, which will contain reasons for the decision and advises the applicant of its right to appeal to the USDOT. A Notice of Certification Denial will include the respective federal DBE regulations that MDOT has determined the firm has failed to demonstrate that it meets, a description of the evidence that MDOT has collected to support this assertion, and clear and concisely written argumentation for why MDOT has determined that the collected evidence supports its decision to deny the firm on the stated regulatory grounds.

Firms that have been denied certification as a DBE are eligible to reapply after 12 months from the date of the DBE certification denial. Firms that reapply for certification after the 12-month window has expired will be reviewed on the current circumstances of the firm's eligibility at the time of certification review regardless of whether they've been denied certification or decertified in the past; however, MDOT will closely review the circumstances behind the firm's previous denials/decertification's in order to determine whether past grounds for denial have been adequately remedied.

Summary Suspension of Certification

Suspension is a temporary status of ineligibility pending an expedited show cause hearing/proceeding under 49 CFR Part §26.88 to determine whether the DBE is eligible to participate in the program and consequently should be removed. The suspension takes effect when the DBE receives, or is deemed to have received, the Notice of Suspension.

MDOT **shall** suspend the DBE certification of a firm if:

1. MDOT has credible evidence of the DBEs or its SEDOs being involved in fraud, or other serious criminal activities regardless of whether these criminal activities happened in relation to a federal-aid contract.
2. MDOT is directed by the USDOT, FHWA, the FTA or the FAA to suspend a firm.

MDOT may, at its discretion, summarily suspend a firm from participation in the DBE program based on the following:

1. MDOT has collected clear and credible evidence to suggest

that the firm's continued participation in the MDOT DBE program poses a substantial threat to the MDOT DBE program's integrity.

When a firm is suspended pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26.88, MDOT shall immediately notify the DBE of the suspension by email on a business day, during regular business hours.

While suspended, the DBE may not be considered to meet a contract goal on a new contract, and any work it does on a contract received during the suspension shall not be counted toward a recipient's overall goal. The DBE may continue to perform under an existing contract executed before the DBE received a Notice of Suspension and may be counted toward the contract goal during the period of suspension as long as the DBE is performing a commercially useful function under the existing contract.

Following receipt of the Notice of Suspension, if the DBE believes it is no longer eligible, it may voluntarily withdraw from the program, in which case no further action is required. If the DBE believes that its eligibility should be reinstated, it must provide MDOT with information demonstrating that the firm is eligible, notwithstanding its changed circumstances, within 30 days of receiving this information. The decision to immediately suspend a DBE is not appealable to the USDOT.

If MDOT OBD commences a decertification proceeding, the suspension remains in effect during the proceeding. The failure of a recipient to either lift the suspension and reinstate the firm or commence a decertification proceeding, as required, is appealable to the USDOT.

DBE Certification Eligibility Removal and Appeal Process

If grounds for removal of DBE certification eligibility are sufficient, the DBE is emailed a Notice of Intent to Remove (NOITR) eligibility with the reasons for the decision and advised of the opportunity for a hearing before the MUCP Removal of Eligibility Committee. The applicant has 30 calendar days from the date of the notice of intended removal of eligibility to appeal to the committee.

The Removal of Eligibility Committee is made up of representatives from each MUCP DBE-certifying agency. The committee processes DBE removals of eligibility in accordance with 49 CFR §26.87 and meets on an as-needed basis.

Members of the MUCP Removal of Eligibility Committee, other than the agency that performed the initial certification, will have one vote each. The agency requesting removal of eligibility will abstain from voting or, if necessary to break a tie, will be represented by an alternate member.

In accordance with the regulations, each firm will be allowed to present their case in

person or through an administrative review of documents.

Removal of eligibility to participate in the DBE program may occur for any of the following reasons:

- A. Notification by the firm that it no longer meets federal regulations for DBE certification.
- B. If the DBE's business entity has changed to the extent the business is no longer a small business concern.

Small business size is determined in two ways:

A firm and its affiliates cannot exceed the overall size limitation established for the DBE program. The USDOT current statutory size limit for participation in the MDOT DBE program is available at www.transportation.gov/DBEsizestandards. This is adjusted periodically for inflation.

A DBE cannot exceed the size standard assigned to individual NAICS codes in which the firm is certified. A table of size standards is available at www.sba.gov/size.

- C. For federal-aid projects funded by FHWA, FAA and FTA funds, if the socially and economically disadvantaged individual's status has been challenged and MDOT has found the individual does not meet the definition of a "socially and economically disadvantaged individual" used in 49 CFR §§ 26.63, 26.67 and that the firm is no longer owned and controlled at least 51 percent by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s).
- D. If the firm's business entity has changed to the extent the business is no longer owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s) as defined by the federal regulation.
- E. For federal-aid projects, if the MUCP agency receives an order from the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, USDOT, to remove the eligibility of a DBE firm.
- F. If an investigation uncovers evidence of violations of 49 CFR Part 26, with regard to the actual work performed by a DBE, and the findings and conclusions show that the firm's ownership or control has changed to the extent that the firm is no longer eligible.
- G. If the firm fails to comply with the submittal of their annual DOE and supporting documentation as required by 49 CFR 26.83(j) by the firm's certification anniversary, or if the firm fails to cooperate with requests for additional information or documentation that MDOT has determined is necessary to

maintain the firm's DBE certification.

If a firm has been removed for failure to file an annual DOE and supporting documentation in accordance with 49 CFR 26.83(j), MDOT may (at the MDOT manager's discretion) reinstate DBE certification status to previously DBE-certified firms if the circumstances surrounding their certification removal meet the following criteria:

1. The firm was removed for a failure to cooperate with DBE regulations by not submitting an annual DOE and/or required supporting documentation only. Firms whose certifications have been revoked for reasons other than a failure to cooperate with the submittal of annual documentation will not be eligible for reinstatement.
2. The firm has subsequently filed a completed annual DOE that meets all current federal requirements and has submitted all required additional documentation.
3. The firm's removal date has been less than 90 days from the date the firm submits a completed annual DOE and supporting documentation

Intent to Remove Eligibility Hearing

The MUCP-certifying agency will schedule a hearing within 60 days of receipt of a request. At the conference, reasons for the intended removal of eligibility will be discussed either in person by the DBE or through an administrative review of documents, if requested by the firm. The Removal of Eligibility Committee will receive information and evidence intended to show that certification eligibility should not be removed and will ask questions related to the intended removal of eligibility.

The panel will only review the findings of the NOITR, the certification file and the appealing firm's rebuttal of these findings. The committee will not consider any changes in the firm's organization, structure or operations that occurred after the date of the NOITR or that were not documented in the certifying agency's file as of that same date. The committee will provide a written decision based on its findings within 90 calendar days after the conference.

The committee's decision will determine whether the intended removal of eligibility will be sustained or overruled. The committee's determination will have full force and effect.

If no written request for appeal is received as specified above, the intended determination to remove eligibility will become final and have full force and effect. Firms that have their eligibility removed must wait 12 months after the effective date of the final decision before reapplying for DBE certification with any USDOT-certifying agency

in the state of Michigan.

Appeals to the USDOT

If the denied or decertified firm wants to file an appeal with the USDOT, firms must email the USDOT at DBEAppeals@dot.gov within 45 days of the date of the denial or decertification decision, including a narrative that explains fully and specifically why the firm believes the decision is in error, what outcome-determinative facts the certifier did not consider, and/or what part 26 provisions the certifier misapplied. Include that the certification decision was rendered by MDOT, date of the certification decision, and the firm's contact information.

If a firm does not have access to email, they may send a letter to:

U.S. Department of Transportation
Departmental Office of Civil Rights
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Programs Division
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Note: If an appeal is pending with the USDOT, the firm does not have to wait for a decision but may reapply at the end of the 12-month waiting period.

E. Public Information and Complaints

MDOT recognizes its responsibility to render courteous and timely service to the public. Comments/concerns regarding the DBE program should be forwarded to:

Michigan Department of Transportation
Office of Business Development
Lisa S. Thompson, DBE Program Administrator
P.O. Box 30050
425 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48909
Phone: 517-335-1708
Fax: 517-335-0945
Email: MDOT-DBE@Michigan.gov

1. Complaints must be submitted to MDOT in writing. Complainants must include facts and supporting documentation regarding the complaint.
2. If a response is requested, the complainant must sign the complaint and/or give an address and telephone number. Refer to 49 CFR § 26.109 (b) for details.
3. MDOT will provide a written response to complaints within 15 calendar days of receipt.

As provided by 49 CFR § 26.87, any person may file a written complaint alleging that a currently certified firm is in violation of DBE regulations. Information received about a DBE prior to the initial certification decision being made will be considered in the investigation of the application for certification.

MDOT is not required to accept a general allegation that a firm is ineligible or an anonymous complaint. Confidentiality of complainants' identities is protected to the extent provided in 49 CFR § 26.109(b).

If MDOT determines there is no reason to believe that the DBE against whom the complaint is filed is ineligible, MDOT will inform the DBE and the complainant in writing per 49 CFR Part 26.87.

If MDOT intends to remove the DBE's eligibility to participate in the DBE program, the process for removal of eligibility shall be followed.

MDOT will report any false, fraudulent or dishonest conduct in connection with the DBE program to the USDOT Office of the Inspector General for appropriate action. MDOT will cooperate fully and promptly with USDOT, FHWA, FTA and FAA in a complaint investigation, compliance review or inquiries in the DBE program.

MDOT Fraud and Abuse Hotline

MDOT has established a hotline for employees, contractors, consultants and others to report suspected fraud or abuse, such as:

- Prevailing wage non-compliance.
- Theft.
- Kickbacks.
- Wrongful claims.
- Contract fraud.
- Use of materials that do not comply with specifications.
- Unapproved substitution of materials, commodities or test samples.
- Failure to follow contract procedures.

To reach the hotline, call toll-free at 866-460-6368, or 517-241-2256.

No recipient, contractor or other person shall intimidate, retaliate, threaten, coerce or discriminate against any individual for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this part or because he or she made a complaint, testified, assisted or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding or hearing under this part.

USDOT Directive to Remove a Firm's Eligibility

1. If the USDOT believes the record provides reasonable cause to believe that a DBE certified by MDOT is not eligible, the USDOT may direct MDOT to begin proceedings to remove the DBE's certification.
2. The USDOT will provide MDOT and the DBE firm with a notice setting forth the reasons for the directive, including any relevant documentation or other information.
3. MDOT must immediately take steps to remove the DBE's certification eligibility. MDOT will follow the process for removal of eligibility.

All participants in the DBE program, including contractors using DBEs to meet contract goals, are required to cooperate fully with MDOT in a compliance or certification review, investigation or request for information.

Failure to cooperate may result in a finding that the firm is not in compliance with program procedures and appropriate action against the firm may be taken.

Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Requests

Any DBE file information must be requested through the FOIA process. MDOT's FOIA coordinator maintains all required confidentiality as outlined in 49 CFR Part 26.109.

For a FOIA request, contact:

FOIA Coordinator
Office of Communications
Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa St.
Lansing, MI 48933
Email: MDOT-FOIA@Michigan.gov

All inquiries by the general public, contractors, news reporters and attorneys shall be handled in accordance with the provisions of 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231; MSA 4.1801(1), as amended.

F. Commercially Useful Function (CUF)

DBEs are required to perform a CUF on USDOT-assisted contracts. CUF requirements are included in 49 CFR § 26.55. Additional information regarding DBE CUF compliance can be found in the MDOT Construction Manual, available online at https://MDOTWiki.State.MI.US/Construction/Index.php/Main_Page. The procedures in this construction manual apply to all federally funded MDOT and local agency projects that include participation of a DBE-certified company. It should be noted that this construction manual applies to all projects with work completed by DBE firms, not just projects with a DBE goal.

Failure to perform a CUF can result in removal of eligibility to participate as a DBE if it is determined that the DBE owner(s) no longer meets certification standards for ownership or control. Prime contractors also are subject to sanctions when DBEs do not perform a CUF on their federally funded projects.

In order to perform a CUF on a USDOT-assisted contract:

- DBEs must be responsible for execution of the work of the contract and carry out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing and supervising the work involved.
- 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, and installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself.

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. Such pass-through arrangements are in violation of federal regulation and may result in removal of the firm's eligibility to participate as a DBE.
- A DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 50 percent of the total cost of its subcontract with its own work force, or the DBE subcontracts a greater portion of the work of a contract than would be expected on the basis of normal industry practice for the type of work involved.

The following describes possible CUF concerns which should be investigated:

Management

- Supervision of the DBE's employee(s) is performed by another contractor or personnel associated with another company.

- The DBE hasn't received a subcontract, purchase order, or other contractual document.
- The DBE firm's owner is not aware of the status of the work, the employees and/or the performance of the business.

Equipment

- The equipment is used by the DBE firm, but the equipment usage payments are deducted by the prime contractor from the subcontractor's payment.
- The equipment used by the DBE firm belongs to another contractor with no formal lease agreement (large equipment, such as a crane, is an exception).
- Magnetic equipment signs and markings cover another company logo or other information.

Workforce

- Employee(s) paid by another company on the project and/or prime contractor.
- Employee(s) working for the DBE and another company.
- Employee(s) not familiar with DBE company supervisors/key personnel.

Materials

- Materials for the DBE are ordered and/or paid for by another contractor.
- Joint (two-party) checks are sent directly to DBE suppliers without the knowledge or consent of the DBE.
- Materials or supplies to be obtained by the DBE are delivered to, billed to, or paid for by another contractor.
- The prime contractor puts requirements on the DBE regarding where and/or from whom to purchase the project materials.

Performance

- DBE firm's work is being done jointly by the DBE firm and/or another contractor.
- The work to be performed is outside of the DBE's known experience or capability (DBE certification/prequalification categories).
- The DBE performs work without a subcontract, purchase order or other signed contractual document.

- A DBE subcontracts more of its work than is customary or standard industry practice.
- DBE participation in a project is artificially inflated.
- A large DBE works for only one prime contractor, or a large portion of the firm's contracts are with one contractor.

Note: Not every red flag means there is a CUF violation. However, notice of red flag(s) should be documented and reported to MDOT-OBD.

A DBE listed and approved in the Contractor Good Faith Efforts (MDOT Forms 2653 and 2653D) or an approved substitute DBE (MDOT Form 0196) cannot be terminated without MDOT's prior written consent for good cause (refer to the "Post Award Good Faith Efforts and DBE Substitution Requests" section found in the "Good Faith Effort Processes"). Per 49 CFR Part 26.53 (f), the prime contractor shall utilize the specific DBEs listed to perform the work and supply the materials for which each is listed unless the prime contractor obtains written approval (by MDOT using Form 0196). Unless approval is provided for DBE substitution, the prime contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for work or material unless it is performed or supplied by the listed DBE (approved by MDOT using Forms 2653 and 2653D).

Prime contractors are required to submit MDOT Form 2124A, Prime Contractor Bi-Weekly Statement of Subcontractor/Supplier Payments, as specified on the form and in the project proposal. MDOT uses this information to maintain a running tally of payments made to DBEs, as required by regulation. All forms are available online at Michigan.gov/MDOT, "Business," "MDOT Forms."

CUF Reviews and Outcomes

MDOT field staff, which includes but are not limited to inspectors, engineers and CUF compliance staff, conducts field monitoring of contractors to assure that DBE firms perform a CUF and that work committed to DBE companies is actually performed by said companies. This will be accomplished through the use of Form 4109, Commercially Useful Function (CUF) Review. Completion of this form is required for all DBE companies on all federally funded projects, including projects with no DBE goal. This includes DBE truckers, suppliers and other vendors where a subcontract is not required. In many cases, construction staff will need to reference the DBE commitment information to ensure that all companies are reviewed. Form 4109 is available online at Michigan.gov/MDOT, "Business," "MDOT Forms." Completed 4109 forms are stored at their respective project office and, when applicable, in MDOT's electronic project management database, ProjectWise.

At the completion of the project, the construction/project engineer will certify that all DBE companies provided a CUF. This certification will be noted on Form 1105A, Final

Estimate Package Memo. The certification language options will be as follows:

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the contracting records have been reviewed, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) companies have been monitored on the project site and work committed to DBE companies has been performed by the respective companies.

I certify that to the best of my knowledge the contracting records have been reviewed, the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) companies have been monitored on the project site and work committed to DBE companies has been performed by the respective companies with the exception of the following companies, which have been forwarded to the Office of Business Development (MDOT OBD) for further investigation.

Companies: _____

Investigations are conducted on DBE firms that may not be performing a CUF as a result of field monitoring or based on receipt of a third-party complaint. Investigations showing that a DBE may not have complied with all CUF requirements on a project(s) will result in the firm being called in for a conference with MDOT to discuss the alleged violation(s). The DBE firm will be given an opportunity to present material(s) to rebut the alleged violation(s).

Failure to attend a conference may result in the removal of work classification(s) and/or NAICS codes. Following the CUF conference, the DBE administrator will review information received and make a determination regarding the DBE firm's compliance with federal regulations. Firms are notified in writing of the determination.

Determinations include the following possible outcomes:

1. No violation of federal regulations was found.
2. Minor violation(s) of federal regulations will result in the firm being cited and warned that future violations may result in removal of eligibility to participate as a DBE. The cited firm is subject to increased field monitoring of the firm's projects.
3. MDOT may remove work classifications related to CUF violations. Firms do not have the right to appeal removed work classifications; however, firms may reapply for removed work classification(s) and/or NAICS code(s) on a case-by-case basis once the CUF investigation is resolved.
4. MDOT may remove a firm's DBE certification if it is determined that violations occurred on more than one project and that these violations indicate a lack of independence or control of the DBE firm or disadvantaged owner.
5. One major violation showing willful intent to subvert federal regulations may result in removal of the firm's eligibility to participate as a DBE.

Further information on removal of a DBE's eligibility may be found in 49 CFR § 26.87.

Prime contractors are responsible for their subcontractors. If DBE firms are determined to have violated federal regulations by failing to perform a CUF, prime contractors are notified in writing and given the opportunity to provide explanation. Prime contractors unable to show compliance with federal regulations are subject to a variety of sanctions. Sanctions are based on the severity of the violation and may include:

1. The prime contractor is responsible for notifying the project engineer and MDOT OBD immediately if they have evidence that a DBE may not be performing a CUF. The prime contractor will be determined to have a deficiency in DBE participation corresponding to the dollar value of the DBE's work that did not meet federal regulations.
2. The violation will be reported to the Contract Performance and Compliance Review (CPCR) team will, per its procedures, review the violation to review the next steps.
3. Serious violations or evidence of DBE program fraud may also be referred directly to the MDOT Prequalification Committee for sanction, per the "Administrative Rules Governing the Prequalification of Bidders for Highway and Transportation Construction Work."

Counting DBE Participation Toward Contract Goals

Per 49 CFR Part 26.55, when a DBE participates in a contract, only the value of the work actually performed by the DBE is counted toward DBE goals. The following guidelines detail what can be counted:

1. Count the entire amount of that portion of a construction contract (or other contract not covered in #2 below) that is performed by the DBE's own forces. Include 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).
2. Count the entire amount of fees or commissions charged by a DBE firm for providing a bona fide service, such as professional, technical, consultant or managerial services, or for providing bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of a DOT-assisted contract, toward DBE goals, provided it is determined that the fee is reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar serves.
3. 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 itself a DBE. Work that a DBE subcontracts to a non-DBE firm does not count toward DBE goals. The only exception to this rule is listed under Trucking.

DBE Credit and CUF

Count expenditures to a DBE contractor toward DBE goals only if the DBE is performing a CUF on that contract. If a firm is not currently certified as a DBE (in accordance with the certification standards of 49 CFR Part 26) at the time of execution of the contract, the firm's participation cannot be counted toward any DBE goals.

A DBE contractor's work cannot be counted toward a prime contractor's final compliance with its DBE obligation until the DBE has been paid in full for the work performed.

DBE Truckers

The following factors are used in determining whether a DBE trucking company is performing a CUF, per 49 CFR Part 26.55:

1. The DBE must be responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible during a particular contract. There cannot be a contrived arrangement for the purpose of meeting DBE goals.
2. The DBE must own and operate at least one fully licensed, insured and operational truck used on the contract.
3. The DBE 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.
4. The DBE may lease trucks from another DBE firm, including an owner-operator who is certified as a DBE. The DBE who leases trucks from another DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the lessee DBE provides on the contract.
5. The DBE may also lease trucks from a non-DBE firm, including from an owner-operator. The DBE that leases trucks equipped with drivers from a non-DBE is entitled to credit for the total value of transportation services provided by non-DBE leased trucks equipped with drivers not to exceed the value of transportation services on the contract provided by DBE-owned trucks or leased trucks with DBE employee drivers. 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.

Example: DBE Firm X uses two of its own trucks on a contract. It leases two trucks from DBE Firm Y and six trucks equipped 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.

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

DBE truckers must submit a completed DBE Heavy Construction Trucking Worksheet (MDOT Form 4101) for approval by MDOT prior to working on a project. The trucks listed on Form 4101 must meet the initial requirements listed in this section for approval.

Form 4101 accompanies the signed DBE participation sheets (MDOT Form 2653, Section D) commitment. Both forms are available at Michigan.gov/MDOT, "Business," "MDOT Forms."

Throughout the life of the project and until final payment is received, the DBE trucker must submit a DBE Trucking Compliance Report (MDOT Form 4100) for each DBE participation form approved, as requested by MDOT.

DBE Suppliers

DBE supply credit can be counted toward DBE goals as a manufacturer, regular dealer, distributor or broker on a contract-by-contract basis as follows:

Manufacturer

If the materials or supplies are obtained from a DBE acting as a manufacturer, 100 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies count toward DBE goals.

- A manufacturer is a firm that owns (or leases) and operates 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. Manufacturing includes blending or modifying raw materials or assembling components to create the product to meet contract specifications. When a DBE makes minor modifications to the materials, supplies, articles or equipment, the DBE is not a manufacturer. Minor modifications are additional changes to a manufactured product that

are small in scope and add minimal value to the final product.

Regular Dealer

If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE acting as a regular dealer, 60 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies count toward DBE goals.

- A regular dealer is a firm that owns (or leases) and operates 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 sufficient quantities and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business.
- Items kept and regularly sold by the DBE are of the “general character” when they share the same material characteristics and application as the items specified by the contract.
- To be a regular dealer, the firm must be an established business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question. A DBE supplier performs a CUF as a regular dealer and receives credit for 60 percent of the cost of materials or supplies (including transportation cost) when all, or at least 51 percent of, the items under a purchase order or subcontract are provided from the DBE's inventory and, when necessary, any minor quantities delivered from and by other sources are of the general character as those provided from the DBE's inventory.
- A DBE may be a regular dealer in such bulk items as petroleum products, steel, concrete or concrete products, gravel, stone or asphalt without owning, operating or maintaining a place of business as provided in paragraph (e)(2)(ii) of this section if the firm both owns and operates distribution equipment used to deliver the products. Any supplementing of regular dealers' own distribution equipment must be by a long-term operating lease and not on an ad hoc or contract-by-contract basis.
- A DBE supplier of items that are not typically stocked due to their unique characteristics (e.g., limited shelf life or items ordered to specification). If the DBE supplier of these items does not own or lease distribution equipment, as described above, it is not a regular dealer.
- Packagers, brokers, manufacturers' representatives or other persons who arrange, facilitate or expedite transactions are not regular dealers.

Firms that perform work on DOT-assisted contracts must provide MDOT with a complete list of the inventory they intend to utilize on federal-aid contracts in

accordance with federal regulations outlined in 49 CFR § 26.55(d) by filling out and submitting to MDOT a copy of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Regular Dealer Inventory List ([MDOT Form 1034](#)).

MDOT requests that firms have MDOT Form 1034 submitted to the OBD annually, and will only award supply participation to firms, on a contract-by-contract basis, who's inventory Form 1034 demonstrates that they possessed at least 50 percent materials of similar type and scope to the awarded contract; or in the case of bulk dealers, possess transportation equipment needed to deliver the materials to the project site (i.e., liquid asphalt, aggregate materials, etc.).

Distributor

If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE acting as a distributor, 40 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies count toward DBE goals.

- A DBE distributor is an established business that engages in the regular sale or lease of the items specified by the contract. A DBE distributor assumes responsibility for the items it purchases once they leave the point of origin (e.g., a manufacturer's facility), making it liable for any loss or damage not covered by the carrier's insurance. A DBE distributor performs a CUF when it demonstrates ownership of the items in question and assumes all risk for loss or damage during transportation, evidenced by the terms of the purchase order or a bill of lading (BOL) from a third party, indicating free on board (FOB) at the point of origin or similar terms that transfer responsibility of the items in question to the DBE distributor. Supplier firms performing work for DBE credit on federal-aid contracts may be requested to submit distributor agreements/BOLs to MDOT OBD for review where available as evidence of their ability to perform work on contracts for 40 percent credit as a distributor.

Broker

If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE acting as a broker/trade agent, only the reasonable fees and commissions associated with the purchase of that material are counted toward DBE credit.

- A DBE broker or trade agent is a firm that does not operate as a manufacturer, regular dealer or distributor. A broker is typically a third-party trade agent who arranges for the sale and delivery of supplied goods.

If the firm does not provide any CUF (i.e., it is simply inserted as an extra participant in a transaction), then no DBE credit can be counted.

Guidance for DBE Participation as Suppliers

The successful bidder/prime contractor is responsible for compliance with the governing DBE regulations (49 CFR 26.55) included in each MDOT project proposal. Prime contractors are to make every effort to ensure that arrangements and practices on the project are in line with the DBE regulations.

DBE-certified suppliers must comply with all requirements and specifications outlined in MDOT's Materials Quality Assurance Procedures Manual.

This manual is available at [Michigan.gov/MDOT](https://www.michigan.gov/MDOT). Choose the "Business" dropdown, "Construction," then "MDOT Standard Specifications and Reference Publications."

In order to count DBE supplier participation toward project goals, the following criteria must be met:

1. The DBE must directly negotiate (make arrangements for, i.e., receiving price quotes, agreeing to pricing and ordering of materials) with their supplier(s) for the materials they are providing for the project. The prime contractor is not to negotiate on behalf of the DBE with the DBE's supplier. DBEs that act as regular dealer-bulk items will need to provide information on their delivery equipment and accounts with their suppliers.
2. The DBE must arrange for the delivery of materials it supplies for the project. Documentation of the DBE's delivery of the materials (such as equipment information, BOLs, delivery tickets, load tickets, invoices, bank statements, etc.) must be maintained by the DBE and submitted if requested by MDOT.
3. The DBE may use leased equipment on the project only if there are long-term lease agreements for the equipment. Any supplementing of the regular dealer's own distribution equipment shall be by a long-term lease agreement and not on an ad hoc or contract-by-contract basis. This equipment may not be leased from the prime contractor (or any affiliate of the prime contractor) for whom the DBE is supplying the project's material. The DBE must be able to supply all lease agreements upon request by MDOT.
4. DBEs must pay their suppliers with their own funds for 60 percent DBE credit on the project. The prime contractor is not to pay the DBE's suppliers directly for the materials the DBE is designated to supply. Payments made by DBEs for material they purchase must come from their own independent bank accounts. A DBE may not acquire material using funds from bank accounts belonging to or shared with the prime contractor.
5. No sales between the prime contractor and any of its affiliates via the DBE are to be counted toward the project DBE goal.

6. Any joint check arrangement must be pre-approved by MDOT before the arrangement or transaction takes place. This is done via submitting MDOT Form 0183. A joint check is a two-party check between a subcontractor, a prime contractor and a materials supplier. Joint checks are used to guarantee payment to the supplier for materials used by the subcontractor. MDOT Form 0183 must be used for all joint check arrangements.
7. Verification of Regular Dealer-Bulk Petroleum Suppliers:

Upon first receipt of a proposed transaction that includes a DBE acting as a regular dealer-bulk item (supplying petroleum products or liquid asphalt), MDOT will obtain from the DBE a completed MDOT Form 0192 (Petroleum Company Account(s) Information and Liquid Asphalt Cement Tractors and Trailers Information) and all supplemental documentation to ensure:

- The DBE owns its own delivery/distribution equipment and has valid lease agreements in place (if supplementing its own delivery/distribution equipment).
- The DBE has accounts and lines of credit with the suppliers from which it purchases the materials it is supplying on the project.

The DBE may provide a completed MDOT Form 0192 at any time and in anticipation of acting as a regular dealer-bulk item; however, MDOT may request an updated Form 0192 and/or supplemental documentation at any time.

8. Pre-Award Approval:

Prime contractors will submit for review the DBE Supplier Participation Affidavit (MDOT Form 0193) for approval along with the Contractor Good Faith Efforts (MDOT Form 2653D). The prime contractor affirms in the affidavit that it has reviewed the DBE requirements under 49 CFR 26.55 found in the project proposal, etc., and believes that its proposed arrangement with the DBE supplier is in compliance with the regulations. MDOT's Contract Services Division will receive and forward the Supplier Participation Affidavit to the designated MDOT staff for approval (similar to what is done for trucking and liquid asphalt). MDOT staff will make every effort to complete the review of the affidavit and make a determination within five working days. This review includes:

- Determining that the prime contractor has selected an eligible DBE. This is done by comparing the MDOT work code(s) and NAICS code(s) listed in the

- proposed arrangement with the MDOT work code(s) and NAICS code(s) assigned to the DBE. (Contract Services and MDOT OBD both perform this.) The DBE must be DBE-certified in the type of work requested for DBE credit.
- MDOT staff will cross-check the DBE's file and participation on other projects to determine that the DBE is not over its distribution capacity or credit limit. Specifically, MDOT staff will review the following:
 - If the firm is acting as a regular dealer, MDOT staff will review the firm's submitted DBE Regular Dealer Inventory List (MDOT Form 1034) to determine if the inventory list evidences that the firm possesses at least 50 percent of the same general character as the materials supplied on the federal-aid project. MDOT staff will also review the documentation detailing the firm's facility(ies) to determine whether they have the capacity to hold an inventory sufficient to supply those materials on the project.
 - If the firm is acting as a regular dealer of bulk items (liquid asphalt, aggregate, etc.) MDOT will review the firm's transportation equipment on file to determine if the firm possesses the capacity to transport the supplied materials to the project site.
 - If the firm is acting as a distributor, MDOT OBD staff will review the firm's distributor agreement on file, and any subsequent BOLs for supplied goods on the project.
 - MDOT staff may request a purchase order to be submitted with each project, post-award and prior to delivery.
 - MDOT staff will ensure that an anticipated date of transaction with the DBE is included in the affidavit the prime contractor submits.
 - The DBE is not allowed to lease equipment from the prime contractor or the prime contractor's subsidiaries/affiliates. MDOT staff will review the DBE's record to ensure that the DBE does not lease equipment from the prime contractor specified on the project under review and has acceptable leases on file with MDOT.
 - If a license or certification is required for the product and/or service to be provided on the project, the DBE must hold that license and/or product certification in order to perform a CUF.

9. Follow-up Review:

MDOT staff may request additional information to verify whether a CUF was performed on a project.

DBE regular dealers-petroleum suppliers will be required to complete an MDOT questionnaire (MDOT Form 0194) regarding DBE supplier activities on the project.

MDOT staff will contact the DBE within 10 days following the date the prime contractor specified on the affidavit to determine if the sale and delivery of material took place. Staff will continue to follow up until the transaction takes place. Once the date of transaction is determined, the questionnaire will be forwarded to the DBE. The questionnaire is to be returned to MDOT within 10 days.

MDOT staff will provide the project engineer/project office/field staff any and all documents on file necessary to complete a CUF review on MDOT Form 4109.

All forms are available online at Michigan.gov/MDOT, "Business," "MDOT Forms."

Use of Joint Checks to Guarantee Payment for Materials and Supplies

With prior approval, a joint or two-party check between a subcontractor, a prime contractor and a materials supplier **who is neither the prime contractor nor an affiliate of the prime contractor** may be used to guarantee payment for materials. The Application to Use Joint Checks form (MDOT Form 0183) is available online at Michigan.gov/MDOT, "Business," "MDOT Forms."

An acceptable joint-check arrangement must include the following:

- The prime contractor/payor cannot require the subcontractor to use a
- specific supplier or the prime contractor's negotiated unit price.
- The subcontractor is more than an extra participant in releasing the check to the material supplier.
- The subcontractor (not the prime contractor/payor) negotiates the quantities, price and delivery of materials.
- The prime contractor/payor issuing the check acts solely as guarantor.
- The subcontractor releases the check to the supplier.
- The arrangement is short-term (no more than two seasons) with the purpose of being the subcontractor's establishment or increase of a credit line with the material supplier.
- The subcontractor is responsible for both furnishing and installing the material/work item.

Copies of cancelled joint checks must be provided to MDOT personnel for review and approval upon request.

G. Good Faith Effort (GFE) Process

Please review the DBE Program Regulations 49CFR part 26.53 located on the [MDOT DBE website](#) under “Most Requested” for more information.

GFE Submissions

All bidders must provide the overall DBE percentage they have attained at the time of bid within the DBE Goal folder of the Project Bids file on all projects with a DBE goal designation.

All bidders, regardless of bid status (including when bid results are To Be Announced (TBA)), must submit the Contractor DBE Good Faith Effort form (MDOT Forms 2653 and 2653D) within five calendar days of the bid letting to MDOT-DBESheets@Michigan.gov. Submissions must also comply with the requirements shown on MDOT Form 2653.

Bidders that were not successful in obtaining enough DBE participation to meet the contract goal must submit additional GFE documentation consistent with the guidelines of Appendix A of the regulations to make it suitable for evaluation by MDOT. Forms 2653 and 2653D are available online at Michigan.gov/MDOTDBE under “Resources and Forms.”

Efforts to Obtain DBE Participation

Efforts to obtain DBE participation shall be intense, aggressive and sincere for the specific project and shall go beyond simple paperwork exercises. Efforts shall include written communication, personal contact, follow-up and, where appropriate, earnest negotiation with DBEs. MDOT expects all prime contractors bidding on a project with a DBE contract goal to be aware of the DBE participation requirement and to make timely and adequate efforts to use DBEs.

The following are types of actions MDOT will consider as part of the contractor’s GFE to meet DBE participation goals (examples are taken from Appendix A of 49 CFR Part 26). Bidders efforts consistent with these guidelines need to be documented and provided to MDOT no later than five days from bid opening.

- A. (1) Conducting market research to identify small business contractors and suppliers and soliciting through all reasonable and available means the interest of all certified DBEs that have the capability to perform the work of the contract. This shall include attendance at pre-bid and business matchmaking meetings and events, advertising and/or written notices, posting notices of sources sought and/or requests for proposals, and written notices or emails to all DBEs listed in the state's directory of transportation firms that specialize in the areas of work

desired (as noted in the DBE directory) and that are located in the area or surrounding areas of the project.

(2) The bidder shall solicit this interest as early in the acquisition process as practicable to allow the DBEs to respond to the solicitation and submit a timely offer for the subcontract. The bidder shall determine with certainty if the DBEs are interested by taking appropriate steps to follow up initial solicitations.

- B. Selecting portions of the work to be performed by DBEs in order to increase the likelihood that the DBE goals will be achieved. This includes, where appropriate, breaking out contract work items into economically feasible units (for example, smaller tasks or quantities) to promote DBE participation, even when the prime contractor might otherwise prefer to perform these work items with its own forces. This must include, where possible, establishing flexible timeframes for performance and delivery schedules in a manner that encourages and promotes DBE participation.
- C. Providing interested DBEs with adequate information about the plans, specifications and requirements of the contract in a timely manner to assist them in responding to a solicitation with their offer for the subcontract.
- D. (1) Negotiating in good faith with interested DBEs. 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. Evidence of such negotiation includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of DBEs that were considered; a description of the information provided regarding the plans and specifications for the work selected for subcontracting; and evidence as to why additional agreements could not be reached for DBEs to perform the work.

(2) A bidder using good business judgment would consider a number of factors in negotiating with subcontractors, including DBE subcontractors, and would take into consideration a firm's price and capabilities as well as contract goals. However, 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. Also, the ability or desire of a prime contractor to perform the work of a contract with its own organization does not relieve the bidder of the responsibility to make GFEs. Prime contractors are not, however, required to accept higher quotes from DBEs if the price difference is excessive or unreasonable.

- E. (1) Not rejecting DBEs as being unqualified without sound reasons based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities.

The contractor's standing within its industry, membership in specific groups, organizations or associations, and political or social affiliations (for example, union versus non-union status) are not legitimate causes for the rejection or non-solicitation of bids in the contractor's efforts to meet the project goal. Another practice considered an insufficient GFE is the rejection of the DBE because its quotation for the work was not the lowest received. However, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require the bidder or prime contractor to accept unreasonable quotes in order to satisfy contract goals.

(2) A prime contractor's inability to find a replacement DBE at the original price is not sufficient to support a finding that GFEs have been made to replace the original DBE. The fact that the contractor has the ability and/or desire to perform the contract work with its own forces does not relieve the contractor of the obligation to make GFEs to find a replacement DBE, and it is not a sound basis for rejecting a prospective replacement DBE's reasonable quote.

- F. Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit or insurance as required by the recipient or contractor.
- G. Making efforts to assist interested DBE's in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials or related assistance or services.
- H. Effectively using the services of available community organizations; contractors' groups; local, state and federal business assistance offices; and other organizations as allowed on a case-by-case basis to provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of DBEs.

This is not intended to be a mandatory checklist nor is it intended to be exclusive or exhaustive. Other factors or types of efforts may be relevant in appropriate cases.

Assistance provided cannot affect the DBE's independent actions on this project or violate CUF rules.

In determining whether a bidder has made GFEs, it is essential to scrutinize its documented efforts consistent with Appendix A. At a minimum, MDOT must review the performance of other bidders in meeting the contract goal. As provided in §26.53(b)(2)(vi), MDOT will closely review all claims of the prime contractor that the DBE costs are excessive when compared to the prime contractor's costs to self-perform the quoted work.

MDOT must also require the contractor to submit 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 to review whether DBE prices were substantially higher; and contact the DBE's listed on a contractor's solicitation to inquire as to whether they were contacted by the prime contractor. Pro forma mailings to DBE's requesting bids are not alone sufficient to satisfy GFEs under the rule.

A promise to use DBEs after contract award is not considered to be responsive to the contract solicitation or to constitute GFEs. Contractors unable to obtain a signed Detail Page (MDOT Form 2653D) from the DBE within five calendar days of the bid letting must submit one of the following with a completed Form 2653.

A. A signed quote from the DBE within five days containing the following:

- Quote contains a statement confirming the [Name of Bidder] accepts the terms of the quote and the [Name of DBE] is committed to performing the work and/or supplying the materials specified herein.
- Expiration date to ensure the quote is valid up to the time work is performed.
- DBE quote and bidders' commitment must match; no variance of quantities or pricing is allowed.
- DBE representative's signature.
- Project number and location.
- Date of quote.

The prime contractor's commitment must be a direct reflection of the quote (with no variation). MDOT must compare the two documents to ensure the prime contractor's commitment is what the DBE agreed to do.

A bidder who fails to meet the submittal requirements for DBE participation will be deemed ineligible for award of the contract.

Prior to award, if the DBE is performing trucking or supply work, all bidders must submit Form(s) 4101 (DBE Heavy Construction Trucking Credit Worksheet) and/or 0193 (DBE Supplier Participation Affidavit), respectively, to Contract Services Division as specified on Form 2653.

Contracts will not be awarded without completed Form(s) 2653 and 2653D with all appropriate signatures and, if necessary, trucking and supplier attachments.

Composition of the GFE Committee

Note: Each committee member will have an alternate:

- DBE administrator, MDOT OBD (chair).
- Two DBE Program Civil Rights staff.
- Contract Services Division administrator or designee.
- Construction Field Services Division administrator or designee.
- Two regional engineers or designees.

The committee will consider the sufficiency of the evidence and documentation supporting the GFE and make a determination.

Termination

The prime contractor must not terminate a DBE subcontractor, or any portion of its work listed on Forms 2653 and 2653D, without providing the DBE with proper notification, including its good cause reasons and five days in which to respond. The prime contractor must concurrently provide a copy of this notification to the MDOT DBE liaison officer at MDOT-DBE@Michigan.gov. This includes but is not limited to any reduction or underrun in work listed for a DBE not caused by a material change to the prime contract, or 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 with another DBE firm.

DBE firms can be terminated or replaced for good cause only with prior approval by MDOT Form 0196. In all cases, DBEs must be given written notice, which includes the contractor's intent to request to terminate and/or substitute and the reason for the request with a copy of the written notice to MDOT and provide five calendar days to respond prior to Form 0196 being sent to the project engineer for approval. The project engineer will then send the form and all supporting documentation to the OBD for review and approval.

Good cause includes:

- DBE fails or refuses to execute a written contract;
- DBE 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 firm to perform its work of the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor;

- DBE fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, non-discriminatory bond requirements;
- DBE becomes bankrupt, insolvent or exhibits credit unworthiness;
- DBE is ineligible to work on federally assisted contracts because of suspension and debarment proceedings;
- DBE is determined by MDOT to not be a responsible vendor;
- DBE voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides written notice to MDOT of its withdrawal;
- DBE is ineligible to receive DBE credit for the type of work required;
- DBE owner dies or becomes disabled and is unable to complete the work; or
- Other documented good cause that MDOT determines to require the termination of the DBE firm.

The prime contractor must give five days written notice to a DBE if it intends to reduce or eliminate the DBE's work for any reason. This notice must be copied to the project engineer. The DBE must respond in writing to the contractor within the five days. If required in a particular case as a matter of public necessity (e.g., safety), MDOT shall require a response period shorter than five days. Form 0196 can be submitted to the MDOT project engineer for approval after the five days have elapsed.

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 (consultant contracts, design-build, etc.).

If quantities for items subcontracted to DBE firms are decreased or completely deleted by MDOT, the prime contractor shall consider subcontracting other work to DBE firms to meet the DBE goal. All efforts to meet the DBE participation goal shall be documented. On the date the prime contractor becomes aware that the DBE goal will not be met, the amount of contract work left at that point must be carefully reviewed to determine available work that must be subcontracted to DBE firms.

Post-Award GFE and DBE Substitution

Post-award GFEs can be defined as efforts taken by the prime contractor to meet the DBE goal after the contract has been awarded. Once the prime contractor is aware of not meeting the awarded DBE goal, they must follow the procedure previously listed for termination and then the procedure for substitution under the post-award GFE requirement.

Prime contractors are required to make a GFE to substitute a DBE that is unable to

perform with 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. If the substitute subcontractor is a DBE, they must be included on the Contractor Good Faith Efforts form (MDOT Form 2653) and submitted to the project engineer and Contract Services Division for approval prior to starting work. Include any trucking or supply forms (MDOT Forms 4101 and 0193) as necessary.

If the DBE goal will not be met, a Post-Award Contractor Good Faith Efforts form (MDOT Form 2653) and all supporting documents must be sent to the OBD. This post-award GFE must be submitted within seven calendar days of the prime vendor being made aware of their inability to meet the DBE participation goal.

Pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26.53 (f), unless consent to replace a DBE is granted by MDOT, the prime contractor shall not be entitled to any payment for work performed or materials supplied.

Before the identified substitute DBE(s) can begin work:

1. The DBE Removal/Substitution Request (MDOT Form 0196) must be approved by the project engineer and MDOT OBD, and
2. The Contractor Good Faith Effort (MDOT Forms 2653 and 2653D) for the substitute DBE firm(s) must be submitted and approved by Contract Services Division.
 - a. If a substitute DBE is performing trucking or supply work, Forms 4101 and/or 0193, respectively, must be included with Forms 2653 and 2653D.

Per 49 CFR Part 26.53, if written approval by MDOT, using Forms 0196 and 2653 (as applicable), is not granted, the prime contractor shall not be entitled to any payment or credit toward a contract goal for work or material committed or originally contracted to the DBE firm.

GFE Reconsideration

Vendors whose GFEs are found insufficient may have their GFE reconsidered. The GFE Reconsideration Committee will not consider information or documentation that was not included in the original GFE submittal.

Written reconsideration requests must be submitted within three calendar days of being notified of the GFE Committee's decision via email to MDOT-GFE@Michigan.gov.

The composition of the GFE Reconsideration Committee (each member will have an alternate) is as follows:

- MDOT chief strategic impact officer (chair).

- MDOT chief operations officer.
- MDOT chief administrative officer.
- Bureau of Finance and Administration director.

The GFE Reconsideration Committee meets monthly. The requestor will be notified of the date and time of the meeting at which the reconsideration will be held. The requester is required to be present at the meeting in person, virtually or via phone.

The GFE Reconsideration Committee's decision will be provided by the chair of the Reconsideration Committee to the prime contractor in writing. Decisions of the GFE Reconsideration Committee are administratively final.

Federally Required Potential Sanctions

Per 49 CFR Part 26.53, MDOT must include in each prime contract the clause required by §26.13(b) stating that failure by the contractor to carry out the requirements of this part is a material breach of the contract and may result in the termination of the contract or such other remedies set forth if the prime contractor fails to comply with the requirements of this section.

MDOT must apply the requirements of this section to DBE bidders/offerors for prime contracts. In determining whether a DBE bidder/offeror for a prime contract has met a contract goal, MDOT counts the work the DBE has committed to performing with its own forces, as well as the work that it has committed to be performed by DBE subcontractors and DBE suppliers.

MDOT must require the contractor awarded the contract to make available, upon request, a copy of all DBE subcontracts.

The prime contractor, all subcontractors, suppliers, and service providers shall ensure that all contracted work be performed in accordance with this part's provisions.

H. Construction Contractor Resources

MDOT's public website has the most up-to-date information about the department, at Michigan.gov/MDOT. Individuals interested in doing business with MDOT should click on "Business Links, Contractor Services." General information regarding external civil rights processes for federal-aid construction projects can be found in the [MDOT Construction Manual](#).

Construction Prequalification

Prequalification and DBE certification are not the same. While prequalification is not required to become DBE certified, it is a required part of the MDOT contracting process for specific work classifications. A complete list of prequalification work classifications can be found in the construction prequalification application at Michigan.gov/MDOT under "Business," "Contractors," "Prequal for Construction Contractors."

If pre-qualification is required to perform work on a particular project, it will be specified in the contract documents, and both the prime contractor and subcontractors must be prequalified in the type(s) of work desired.

DBEs may contact the DBE program toll-free at 866-323-1264 for assistance, or call or write to the MDOT Contracts Services Division at:

Michigan Department of Transportation
Contracts Services Division
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909
Telephone: 517-243-8267

Vendor Availability Questionnaire

Firms bidding on prime contracts and bidding or quoting on subcontracts (including truckers, material suppliers and service providers/consultants) should complete and submit MDOT's Vendor Availability Questionnaire (MDOT Form 0168A). Cooperation in providing vendor availability information helps MDOT comply with federal regulations at 49 CFR 26.11(c), which require MDOT to maintain a list of firms bidding on prime contracts and bidding or quoting subcontracts on DOT-assisted projects. This information should be submitted annually.

In the goal-setting process, vendor availability data is used to verify MDOT's ready, willing and able vendor population. Information provided by vendors is confidential.

Bid Lettings and Bidding Process

Construction bid lettings are held monthly. MDOT provides contract proposals and plans for each contract electronically at no cost. Proposals and plans are available on the bid letting website: Michigan.gov/MDOT, “Business,” “Contractors,” “Bid Letting.”

MDOT construction requirements are often stricter than those found in private work.

Before bidding on any MDOT contract as a prime contractor, or submitting a subcontract quote to a prime contractor, be sure you know what each project requires. Visit the proposed job site to check for any unusual site conditions. Study the contract proposal and relevant standard plans, special plan details and traffic control requirements, as well as the [Standard Specifications for Construction](#). To obtain copies of construction-related publications or to view specifications online, go to Michigan.gov/MDOT, “Maps and Publications.”

For questions about the bid process, call 313-304-0223 or email MDOT-BidLetting@Michigan.gov.

Construction Subcontracting Process

MDOT has updated the construction project subcontracting process for current specifications and references. The subcontracting process is effective on all state and federally funded construction projects. Contractor requirements for subcontracting are described in subsection 108.01 of the 2020 Standard Specifications for Construction.

This information is available in the [MDOT Construction Manual](#).

Prevailing Wage

All contractors are required to pay the correct prevailing wage rates to employees functioning as laborers and mechanics as defined by the Davis-Bacon Act. This includes workers whose duties are manual or physical in nature and anyone working with tools or performing the work of a trade. The Davis-Bacon Act requires the payment of applicable prevailing wage rates to all laborers and mechanics regardless of any contractual relationship that may be alleged to exist. Labor rates can be located in the back of each project proposal unless superseded by addendum posted on the bid letting website. The labor compliance special provision and applicable wage rate schedules are required attachments of a subcontract (MDOT Form 1302).

This information is available in the [MDOT Construction Manual](#).

Need wage rate help? Contact Chris Roe at RoeC@Michigan.gov or call 517-202-3716.

Prompt Payment Requirements

49 CFR 26.29 requires DBE and non-DBE subcontractors to be paid promptly. MDOT interprets prompt payment to mean the prime contractor will pay each subcontractor for satisfactory performance of its contract no later than 10 calendar days from receipt of each payment the prime contractor received from MDOT. Satisfactory completion means work is completed in accordance with the contract, required paperwork is in and MDOT has inspected and approved the work and determined the final quantities. Per 49 CFR Part 26.29(b), MDOT does not hold retainage from prime contractors and prohibits prime contractors from holding retainage from subcontractors.

The prime contractor is required to provide payment information for payments made to subcontractors and suppliers through submittal of the information via the 2124A reporting system (MERS) on a bi-weekly basis during the course of the project. Upon project completion, a hard copy of the Prime Contractor Bi-Weekly Statement of Subcontractor/Supplier Payments (MDOT Form 2124A) must be submitted within 30 days after project completion with actual DBE signatures (not using MERS).

Claims of failure to meet prompt payment provisions requires that the prime contractor, subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor or supplier must notify the alleged offending party in writing of any prompt payment violations within 30 calendar days of the date the payment was to be received. Copies of the notifications must be provided to the engineer and the prime contractor (only if the prime contractor is not the offending party). The alleged offending party must respond in writing to the claimant within 10 calendar days of receipt of the notification of failure to meet prompt payment provisions. The engineer will review the written notice and response and will verify in writing if there is a valid prompt pay violation.

Failure to comply with any of the prompt payment requirements by the prime contractor, subcontractor, lower-tier subcontractor or supplier may result in sanctions against the offending party. These sanctions may include but are not limited to withholding of estimates on projects where prompt payment violations are confirmed, reduction or removal of prequalification and/or suspension of bidding privileges.

The [Prompt Payment Flow Chart](#) is available online.

Complete details regarding prompt payment can be found at Michigan.gov/MDOT, "Reports, Publications and Specs," "Supplemental Specs/Special Provisions," "Special Provisions – Frequently Used (2012)." Click View/Print Documents, "12SP109A Prompt Payment" (revised July 29, 2013).

Need prompt pay violation assistance? Contact Chris Roe at RoeC@Michigan.gov or call 517-202-3716.

Forms for Construction Contractors

All forms are available online by going to [Michigan.gov/MDOT](https://www.michigan.gov/MDOT), “Business,” “MDOT Forms.” Additional forms can be found by clicking on “search the repository of MDOT online forms.”

Counting and CUF of DBE Firms on Construction Projects

Detailed information regarding counting and CUF of DBE firms on construction projects can be found in the section title “Commercially Useful Function (CUF)”. Additional information regarding DBE CUF compliance can be found in the [MDOT Construction Manual](#). The procedures in this construction manual apply to all federally funded MDOT and local agency projects that include participation of a DBE-certified company. It should be noted that this construction manual applies to all projects with work completed by DBE firms, not just projects with a DBE goal.

Counting DBE Construction Contractor Joint Ventures

Construction contractor joint ventures are only allowed when the joint venture is previously approved by MDOT OBD and individually prequalified and approved to bid by the Contract Services Division. When a DBE performs as a participant in a joint venture, MDOT counts a portion of the total dollar value of the contract equal to the distinct, clearly defined portion of the work that the DBE performs with its own forces toward DBE goals.

Joint ventures must follow all requirements for performing construction on MDOT contracts, including compliance with 49 CFR Part 26.53 and 49 CFR Part 26.55J.

I. Consultant Resources

DBE Participation in Projects with DBE Goals

The DBE participation level goal for a service contract will be specified in the Request for Proposal (RFP) used during the selection process. The prime consultant shall select DBEs to perform, at minimum, work that corresponds in dollar value to the DBE participation goal. DBEs must perform a CUF as required by 49 CFR §26.55 of the Federal Register and by contractual requirements. CUF guidelines apply to any work performed by a DBE to meet a contract goal and are clearly defined in the section titled “Commercially Useful Function (CUF).”

Only DBEs that are currently certified and listed on the web-based MUCP database and on the Contract Services Division prequalification database are eligible for DBE participation credit. Additionally, if prequalification is required, a DBE firm must be both prequalified and DBE-certified in the respective work classification. An MUCP DBE directory is linked to the MDOT website at [Michigan.gov/MUCP](https://www.michigan.gov/MUCP).

Proposals will be scored in accordance with the vendor guidelines. Any potential DBE GFE action will not be taken into consideration during the scoring process. After a consultant has been selected and has negotiated the cost of the contract with MDOT, it must complete the DBE participation (service) form (MDOT Form 0182) and submit it to the contact person identified in the RFP. After scoring, selection approval and final negotiations, if the most qualified vendor/consultant does not meet the DBE participation goal, the firm must apply for a GFE. A map for consideration of a GFE must be submitted using the Contractor Good Faith Efforts (MDOT Form 2653), available online at [Michigan.gov/MDOT](https://www.michigan.gov/MDOT), “Business,” “MDOT Forms.” The firm will be deemed ineligible for award of the contract unless the firm either meets the goal or receives an approved GFE letter from MDOT.

Prequalified DBE Consultant

MDOT’s RFPs will identify both primary and secondary prequalification classification requirements, as determined for each project. In order to be eligible to submit a proposal on a project, a company must have obtained an approved prequalification status in the applicable prequalification classification(s) listed in the RFP on or prior to the proposal due date. DBEs may provide prequalified or non-prequalified services. The prime contractor must ensure each DBE is DBE-certified regardless of whether prequalification is required or not. The requirements to perform the specific work classifications are as follows:

1. Primary Prequalification Classification:

The prime consultant/vendor must be prequalified in all primary prequalification classifications identified on the RFP. They may, however, subcontract out work identified under the primary prequalification classification(s) to another prequalified consultant/vendor.

2. Secondary Prequalification Classification:

The prime consultant is not required to be prequalified in the secondary prequalification classification(s) identified on the RFP. The work, however, must be performed by a pre-qualified consultant/vendor, which may be either the prime consultant/vendor or a subconsultant/vendor.

In all cases, the prime consultant must perform at least 40 percent of the services, by dollar value, unless otherwise specified in the RFP. In all cases, tier one subconsultant(s) must perform at least 50 percent of the services, by dollar value of their subcontract, unless otherwise specified in the RFP.

Consultants are not permitted to joint-venture for the purpose of prequalification or for the purpose of submitting project proposals. As stated above, sub-consulting is permitted as long as the sub-consultant is prequalified to perform the intended services, and the sub-consultant work does not exceed the previously specified percentage of the total dollar amount of the contract.

Consultants may not share key staff employees with other companies for the purposes of obtaining prequalification. The key staff included in submitted applications must be employees of your firm and cannot be used by another firm for pre-qualification purposes.

Software/equipment must be owned/leased by the company applying for prequalification and key staff must be trained in its use. Shared resources/equipment will not be considered for prequalification purposes.

Goal-Setting Procedure for Consultant Contracts

Step 1: The Contract Services Division's scoping engineer (or designee) will review scope and contact the project manager to ensure the scope, including the prequalification categories, accurately depict the work that is required for the project.

Step 2: Coupled with input from the project manager and the scope of work, the scoping engineer will place a preliminary DBE percentage on the scope.

Step 3: Once the preliminary percentage has been determined, the scoping engineer (or designee) will forward the scope to an MDOT OBD representative to

solicit approval from the CST. During the course of CST's review, if any questions and/or comments require a response, it will be brought forth by the MDOT OBD representative and shared with the scoping engineer to respond.

Step 4: Once concurrence has been achieved, the MDOT OBD representative will notify the scoping engineer (or designee) of the approval and CSD will post the scope for advertisement on its regular posting day. Given the program delivery demands, the DBE contract goal-setting process will be completed within one to three days.

Consultant DBE goals will be maintained in the consultant database. CST has the authority (with the advisement of the affected region engineer/bureau director, the chief operations officer, the Bureau of Finance and Administration director, and the DBE liaison officer) to remove a project from advertising if valid reasons exist regarding the DBE goal.

Note: Some service contracts may not have a DBE goal set due to several factors, including but not limited to:

- Contract type (i.e., as-needed contracts, rail projects)
- No DBEs available in the work classifications
- Limited subcontracting opportunity

GFE applications information and timelines are outlined in the GFE section of this document.

J. DBE Contracting Opportunities

Outside of MDOT, there are additional agencies and departments that offer contracting opportunities that, based on the types of federal funding received, are subject to DBE program requirements.

These different areas offer comprehensive, equitable and accessible transportation services to meet the personal, industrial and economic needs of Michigan citizens. The bulk of funding for these non-traditional areas is passed onto local agency grantees and transportation providers throughout the state. This means that most opportunities for DBEs are in direct contracts with these individual providers and grantees, including more than 100 local bus transit agencies and airports. Local transportation providers purchase a variety of goods and services, which may include fuels and lubricants, insurance coverage, fringe benefit coverage, professional and technical services, data processing services, tires and vehicle parts, custodial services, trash removal, security services, office supplies, and miscellaneous materials.

Visit [Michigan.gov/MUCP](https://www.michigan.gov/MUCP), "News and Events" to access the following resources. Additional opportunities will be added as they are available.

(MITN) The Michigan bid system

The Michigan bid system provides a way for local government agencies in Michigan to more effectively notify vendors of RFP and bid opportunities, while using shared resources to increase efficiency and reduce costs. The procurement solution delivers suppliers centralized online location to view and receive Michigan RFPs and bid opportunities from more than 100 Michigan local government agencies. Refer to www.mitn.info for more information.

Department of Technology, Management and Budget

State of Michigan procurement contracts can be found at [Michigan.gov/DTMB/Procurement](https://www.michigan.gov/DTMB/Procurement). This site also offers additional information and resources for contractors.

MDOT's Pure Michigan Byways Program

From shore to shore, from border to border, across Michigan, communities large and small are joining together to drive home their heritage. They're preserving Michigan's unique recreational, scenic and historic cultural treasures, knitted together through a common thread: roads. They're encouraging travelers to slow down, take the roads less traveled and discover the true beauty, wonder and traditions that are uniquely Michigan.

Department of Natural Resources (DNR) nonmotorized trails

The purpose of the Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC) is to advise the director of the DNR and the governor on the creation, development, operation and maintenance of motorized and nonmotorized trails in the state, including but not limited to snowmobile, biking, equestrian, hiking, off-road vehicle and skiing trails. For more information, go to Michigan.gov/DNR/About/Boards/MTAC.

MDOT Aeronautics advertisements for projects

Federal civil rights regulations require air carrier airport sponsors to develop a DBE program. Airports that have established programs can be found at Michigan.gov/MUCP.

FTA transit opportunities

FTA opportunities are provided at Michigan.gov/MUCP.

Note about transit vehicle manufacturers: Each transit vehicle manufacturer that is bidding on transit vehicle procurements funded by FTA must certify with MDOT its compliance with the requirements of 49 CFR § 26.49 (b) special provision for transit vehicle manufacturers.

K. DBE Supportive Services

MDOT offers a number of business development and assistance services for MDOT-certified DBEs in accordance with the Supportive Services provisions of 49 CFR Part 26. These services include but are not limited to:

- Workshops and conferences
- MDOT and industry-sponsored seminars and training sessions
- Networking and technical assistance sessions
- Educational/training reimbursements
- Consultant services
- Professional association membership assistance
- Subscription services assistance

MDOT is committed to the success of DBEs. In an effort to further the federal regulatory goal of “leveling the playing field” between large construction companies and their smaller counterparts, MDOT OBD has developed a training curriculum. Courses are designed to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of MDOT’s contracting processes and requirements. Participants in training courses will be provided with detailed information, including but not limited to:

- Ensuring payrolls are completed correctly and in a timely manner,
- Adhering to federally mandated CUF guidelines,
- Tracking work quantities completed on construction contracts using FieldManager software to review inspector’s daily reports,
- Identifying contract-specific requirements in proposals and on MDOT’s website, and
- Understanding supportive services provided.

Please contact the MDOT DBE program toll-free at 866-DBE-1264 for a current list of available services.

DBE Training

To help as many DBEs as possible in successfully navigating MDOT projects, MDOT OBD’s Supportive Services team develops and facilitates several types of training throughout the year. The following sessions are designed to provide participants with an

in-depth understanding of MDOT's contracting processes and requirements.

DBE Orientation

This session is designed to provide DBEs with an overview of the DBE program and a general understanding of MDOT's requirements and processes. Information covered includes:

- An overview of MDOT's contracting process
- Benefits of certification
- Requirements for maintaining certification
- Understanding GFEs
- Understanding CUF requirements
- Title VI
- DBE Supportive Services assistance
- Partnerships and memberships

Wage and Labor Compliance/Payroll Preparation

This session is designed to promote understanding of state and federal payroll requirements. Knowledge of proper wage and fringe benefits standards are critical to accurate bid submissions, receiving payments for completed work and overall job performance. Objectives for this session include an understanding of the following:

- Prevailing wage components
- Overtime
- Contract documents
- Certified payrolls
- Wage decisions
- Trucking wage requirements
- Wage rate interviews

Construction Bid Preparation

MDOT projects have a number of requirements that differ from those associated with commercial construction. This session provides hands-on training to assist contractors

in identifying information crucial to successful bid preparation. Session content includes:

- Reading plans and proposals
- Standard Specification Book overview
- Researching items of work
- Finding contracts
- Material source guide
- Eligible bid listings
- Contract inquiries
- Searching MDOT forms

Business Development Program (BDP)

The purpose of a BDP is to evaluate and provide a structured process for DBEs to receive firm-specific training and guidance to be competitive within the heavy highway or other construction marketplace. DBE program regulations found in 49 CFR §26.35 give FHWA the authority to direct state DOTs to establish a DBE BDP to assist firms in gaining the ability to compete successfully in the marketplace. The parameters of a BDP are set out in detail in 49 CFR Part 26, Appendix C. Highlights of the information in this appendix include:

- Each DBE participating in the program is subject to a program term that should consist of a developmental stage and a transitional stage. The developmental stage is designed to provide assistance for the DBE to access relevant markets and strengthen its financial and managerial skills. The transitional stage is designed to assist participants to prepare for leaving the program.
- Each DBE participating in the program will be assigned to a contracted consultant to identify and assist with areas for process improvement such as estimating, proposal submissions, project management, cash flow management and other areas as needed.

Bonding Education Program (BEP)

The purpose and intent of the USDOT BEP is to assist small business firms prepare and obtain access to capital and bonding. Becoming a bondable firm is a challenge for many disadvantaged businesses. The BEP strives to assist businesses grow by obtaining or building bonding capacity.

This program is very hands-on with several components designed to tackle what businesses are required to do to become bond ready. In addition, one-on-one sessions with local surety bonding professionals are added to help in assembling the materials necessary for a complete bond application. This overall goal is met by training small business owners to identify barriers, develop business tools and strengthen skillsets in an effort to reduce or eliminate those barriers.

MDOT's partnership with the USDOT BEP has a specific focus on DBE and small business firms in the city of Detroit and surrounding metropolitan areas. This program is tailored to businesses competing for transportation-related contracts.

The program has benefited companies in the categories of civil engineering; landscaping and road design; construction (horizontal and vertical); heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC); plumbing; snow removal; traffic and signs; asphalt and concrete paving and repair; surveying; pavement marking; and janitorial. The BEP consists of a six-week training curriculum between October and December, with a new cohort selected annually.

To be considered for the program, applicants must be the primary owner(s), key manager(s) or administrator(s) of a business that meets the following criteria:

- Existing in business for at least two consecutive years
- Revenue of at least \$250,000 annually
- Have a minimum of two full-time employees (including owner)
- Past performance in construction industry
- Pursuing transportation-related contracts
- Have an interest in satisfying credit, capacity, and character evaluations in consultation with a surety representative
- Have one of the following certifications/designations:
 - Michigan Minority Supplier Development Council
 - Service-disabled veteran-owned business
 - Veteran-owned small business
 - Women-owned small business
 - Small businesses
 - HubZone
 - DBE

- SDB
- 8(a)

DBE-owned and controlled financial institutions are not relevant to MDOT's DBE Program at this time.

For additional information, contact MDOT OBD's BEP coordinator at 313-965-2350.

DBE Construction Engineers and Technicians

MDOT has assigned construction engineers and technicians by region to assist DBE companies bidding or working on construction contracts. Technical assistance is provided to DBEs in several different areas, including:

1. Interpretation of plans, proposals, special provisions and specifications.
2. Networking and technical assistance sessions.
3. Workshops on plan reading, concrete pavement, bituminous pavement, bridge construction, project documentation, claim procedures, force accounts, payroll requirements, drainage and water main, maintaining traffic, mock letting and other construction-related areas.
4. Project site investigation prior to bidding on the project.
5. Preconstruction meetings.
6. Payment issues.
7. Information source of materials and equipment.
8. Sub-letting, bid documents, bonds, affidavits and insurance requirements.
9. Solving construction-related problems from start to the completion of the project.
10. Disputed claims.
11. Liaison between DBEs, local agencies and the department.

A current list of DBE technicians is available at [Michigan.gov/MDOTDBE](https://www.michigan.gov/MDOTDBE) under "Construction Tech Contacts."

L. MDOT's Small Business Program (SBP)

MDOT's Small Business Program (SBP) is designed to provide contracting opportunities for SBE firms on federal and state-funded transportation projects. The SBP program is designed to facilitate greater participation of small businesses in transportation-related work by helping to overcome barriers in state contracting.

The expansion of the current SBP would establish a construction and consultant/engineering SBP goal-setting process. This element would apply to both federally assisted and state-funded transportation projects (highway, transit and aviation).

This program will be implemented by the MDOT OBD upon receipt of approval from the Director's Executive Team and fully operational within three months after that.

Firms performing work under this program must meet the same conditions and standards required of all contractors, consultants, suppliers and subcontractors performing work for the department and sub-recipient grantees who report to their respective USDOT operating authority through MDOT, unless they are working as a part of the Mentor/Protégé Program.

Certification Criteria

In order to participate in MDOT contracts as a certified SBE, vendors must:

- A. Fill out the SBE Certification Application form in its entirety, including all applicable sections, and any needed additional documentation. MDOT does not process partial or incomplete certification applications. Partially complete applications, or applications that are missing significant documentation, will be deemed not viable for processing and will be returned to the applicant.
- B. Once MDOT has determined that an application is complete, a certification analyst will be assigned to the application for a certification review. MDOT certification analysts will review all the applicable documentation, including documentation submitted to MDOT through executed contracts, prequalification applications and all other available materials. MDOT certification analysts may reach out to the applicant for additional documentation.
- C. Once the MDOT certification analyst has finished a review of the documentation, they will reach out to the firm to schedule an in-person interview at a time of convenience for both parties.
- D. MDOT certification analysts will conduct a compliance inspection and visit the firm's business locations and worksites, and interview all owners of the firm and

key personnel. MDOT will inspect the facilities, inventory, equipment, payroll and any other factors necessary to render a certification decision.

- E. MDOT will make reasonable efforts to process SBE applications within 45 days of the receipt of a completed application.
- F. Applicant firms will cooperate with MDOT's investigation of the firm's certification application review, including but not limited to:
 - i. Firms must agree to cooperate fully with MDOT's investigation of their eligibility for certification as an MDOT SBE. MDOT will work with firms to establish reasonable expectations and deadlines for the submittal of required documentation; however, failure to adequately respond to requests for documentation or additional information may result in an application being deemed not viable for processing or a certification denial.
 - ii. If MDOT investigators obtain reasonable evidence that a firm is attempting to commit fraud, provide false or deliberately misleading information, or obstruct the certification investigation, the firm will be immediately deemed ineligible to participate in the MDOT SBP.
- G. SBE applicants carry the burden of demonstrating, by submitting documented evidence, that they meet all certification criteria for participation in the program, which includes the following:
 - i. Applicants must be a for-profit business principally located within the United States or territories.
 - ii. The applicant firm must be 51 percent or more owned and principally controlled by US citizens or legal permanent US residents.
 - iii. The applicant firm's five-year average gross receipts, including affiliates, cannot exceed the current size standards for participation in the Small Business Administration (SBA) SBP outlined in 13 CFR Part 121 in any of the NAICS codes awarded.
 - iv. MDOT will only certify firms that have demonstrated experience performing work within NAICS codes that are directly related to the kinds of work MDOT regularly utilizes on contracts.

MDOT will not issue SBE certifications to aspirational businesses, business plans or startup firms that have not performed any work at the time of application.
 - v. Applicants must establish that they are fully independently owned and

operated. MDOT will closely review a firm's personnel, management, financials, business relationships and agreements (whether written or otherwise) to determine whether there is good cause to believe the firm may not be independent of other firms that have a vested interest in MDOT contracts. MDOT will consider firms owned by trusts or other entities (e.g., subsidiaries) or other non-traditional ownership so long as the 51 percent owners can demonstrate, by documented evidence, that they ultimately own and control the firm.

- vi. Applicants must be 51 percent or more owned by individuals who can demonstrate that the sum total of each owner's personal assets minus the sum total of their overall liabilities (an individual's personal total equity) does not exceed \$3.41 million. The calculation will not include the value of the assets that are owned by the applicant firm or the equity in the owner's primary residence.

H. Certified SBE firms must perform the following actions in order to maintain their certification as an MDOT SBE:

- i. Applicant firms must notify MDOT in writing within 30 days of the material change of any circumstances that may affect a firm's certification eligibility. Failure to provide MDOT with written notice of a relevant material change may result in the denial or decertification/revocation of a firm's eligibility in the MDOT SBP.
- ii. If a firm participates in an MDOT contract as an SBE, the firm must strictly adhere to all requirements by the SBP special provision.
- iii. In order to remain eligible for continued participation in the MDOT SBE once certified, firms must submit to MDOT a Statement of Eligibility and Qualifications with the firm's most recent business income tax returns every year on the anniversary of their certification.

SBP Methodology

MDOT uses a two-step process to determine its overall SBP participation goal:

Step 1: Determine the base figure for the overall goal.

- Calculate the actual relative availability of SBEs to perform the types of federally assisted prime contract and subcontracts MDOT intends to let: heavy construction, materials supply, engineering and other professional services, and transit services.
- Weigh availability figures by the respective contract dollars to be expended

in each type of federally assisted prime contract and subcontract.

- Disaggregate the resulting weighted availability figures.

Step 2: Adjust the base figure using factors relevant to MDOT's marketplace. If the evidence does not suggest any adjustment is necessary, then no adjustment shall be made.

SBP Bid Letting Information

Please refer to the Special Provision for Subletting Contract Work to SBEs.

Project Selection for Projects Let by MDOT

MDOT's Contract Selection Team (CST) will review projects for SBP participation potential by designated individuals from areas of the department responsible for the execution and administration of contracts covered under this program. CST meets at least monthly to review project details and will assign an SBP participation goal to suitable projects, using the following criteria:

1. Projects will be run through a small business goal-setting algorithm.
2. If appropriate, the projects may be designated as set-aside projects where only SBP firms may submit quotes or bids.

A notice detailing SBP participation goal requirements and expectations will be provided to potential bidders as part of the project advertisement and incorporated in contract documents.

SBP Goal-Setting Procedures

MDOT's CST reviews all MDOT-let projects for SBE participation potential. CST members include individuals from MDOT's OBD, Finance and Administration, Highways, Transportation Planning and Aeronautics. The CST meets at least monthly.

1. Prior to project advertisement, which occurs approximately six weeks before each letting, the CST reviews the quarterly running tally. Then, AASHTOWare Project Preconstruction is used to generate a "Cost Summary" for each project. The Cost Summary includes project identification numbers, location and general type of work (preventive maintenance, roadside construction, etc.), project description, engineer's estimated value, project work classifications, a list of SBE firms certified and/or prequalified to perform each work classification, and the primary business address of each SBE firm. Using a standard algorithm to calculate SBE availability and other relevant information, the committee sets the final goal.

- a. A version of the Cost Summary specifically created for vendor use is available on the Letting link at: Michigan.gov/MUCP.
- b. SBE participation recommendations are tracked using MDOT's JobNet/SMART system.

Following each CST meeting, OBD program staff prepares meeting minutes that are electronically distributed to MDOT region representatives for review and comment. Regional comments are provided to the CST. Once the CST and region representatives agree with the SBE participation goals set on each project, the list is forwarded to the Contracts Services Division for project advertisement.

MDOT will not set DBE and SBP goals on the same project. In addition, the SBP is not a replacement to the DBE Program, it is in addition to the DBE program.

Composition of the CST

The CST brings a wealth of expertise in areas such as project work to be performed, firsthand location knowledge, financial factors (such as performance incentive/disincentive), effects of night work, airport considerations, local agency considerations (for example county-wide performance), project materials needed, proportion of trucking needed, etc. This information is vital in determining appropriate goals and is not available through the algorithm.

Note: All CST members will have alternate representatives:

- OBD: Three representatives (including the team chair, Lansing Business and Workforce Engagement manager).
- Regions: Three representatives.
- Finance and Administration: One representative.
- Construction Field Services Division: One representative.
- Transportation Planning: One representative.
- Executive Office: One representative
- Aeronautics: One representative
- Highway Development: One representative

When the CST reviews service consulting contracts, representatives from the respective contracting area will participate. Service consulting includes Construction Services, Design Services, Real Estate, Passenger Transportation, Planning, Traffic and Safety, etc.

The chair of the CST has the authority, with the advisement of the OBD

administrator, to make final decisions on individual project goals.

Setting Goals on Individual Projects

The following is the algorithm used for computing project-specific SBE participation goals:

Step 1: Run “Cost Summary by Proposal” statements for each project to generate the engineer’s estimate, required work classifications and the percentage of total project for each work classification.

Step 2: Calculate the SBE multiplier using the following formula for all work classifications:

Number of prequalified and certified SBE contractors, SBE truckers, and SBE suppliers per work classification

Number of prequalified contractors, truckers, and approved suppliers per work classification (including SBEs)

MDOT will use suppliers and truckers per the MDOT Material Source Guide and census data. MDOT will update the sources indicated in Step 2 on a bi-annual basis.

Step 3: For each work classification compute:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Dollar value of work classification} \times \text{SBE multiplier (refer to Step 2)} \\ & \qquad \qquad \qquad = \text{SBE dollar value of work classification} \end{aligned}$$

Step 4: Compute the total project SBE participation goal for contractors:

$$\frac{\text{Sum of all SBE dollar values of work classifications}}{\text{Engineer's estimate of the project}}$$

The CST will determine non-mathematical considerations related to SBE participation goal designations (including comments regarding service firms, truckers, brokers and newly certified SBE firms), the political environment, relevant current SBE issues, relevant historical issues, relevant project location issues, relevant project scope issues, any additional considerations, comments regarding the algorithm, and others.

SBE Participation Designations on Design-Build Projects

Design-build (DB) is a construction project contract that combines engineering design services, construction services and sometimes maintenance services into a single contract. The design-builder is usually the general construction contractor but, in some

cases, it also is the engineering design firm. The CST reviews a DB project summary to establish an SBE participation goal in advance of advertisement.

SBP Set-Asides

MDOT-let projects will be designated as SBP prime set-aside projects when they meet selection criteria specified below. The MDOT CST with input from the responsible MDOT region office, using the following criteria, shall select SBP projects:

- A. Projects considered for the SBP must be funded in whole or in part by the FAA, FHWA or FTA.
- B. Projects must have at least three small businesses qualifying to bid as a prime contractor on each respective project.
- C. Projects must have small business contracting opportunities.
- D. Projects must have an estimated construction cost of \$1,000,000 or less; consulting contracts must have an estimated consultant cost of \$250,000 or less.

Efforts to Obtain SBP Participation

Efforts to obtain SBP participation shall be intense, aggressive and sincere for the specific project and shall go beyond simple paperwork exercises. Efforts shall include written communication, personal contact, follow-up and, where appropriate, earnest negotiation with SBEs. MDOT expects all prime contractors bidding on a project with an SBP contract goal to be aware of the SBP participation requirement and to make timely and adequate efforts to use SBEs.

Types of actions MDOT will consider as part of the contractor's GFE to meet SBP participation goals will include:

- A. (1) Conducting market research to identify small business contractors and suppliers and soliciting through all reasonable and available means the interest of all certified SBEs that have the capability to perform the work of the contract. This shall include attendance at pre-bid and business matchmaking meetings and events, advertising and/or written notices, posting of notices of sources sought and/or requests for proposals, and written notices or emails to all SBEs listed in the state's directory of transportation firms that specialize in the areas of work desired (as noted in the SBP directory) and that are located in the area or surrounding areas of the project.

(2) The bidder shall solicit this interest as early in the acquisition process as practicable to allow the SBEs to respond to the solicitation and submit a timely

offer for the subcontract. The bidder shall determine with certainty if the SBEs are interested by taking appropriate steps to follow up initial solicitations.

- B. Selecting portions of the work to be performed by SBEs in order to increase the likelihood that the SBP goals will be achieved. This includes, where appropriate, breaking out contract work items into economically feasible units (for example, smaller tasks or quantities) to promote SBP participation, even when the prime contractor might otherwise prefer to perform these work items with its own forces. This must include, where possible, establishing flexible timeframes for performance and delivery schedules in a manner that encourages and promotes SBP participation.
- C. Providing interested SBEs with adequate information about the plans, specifications and requirements of the contract in a timely manner to assist them in responding to a solicitation with their offer for the subcontract.
- D. (1) Negotiating in good faith with interested SBEs. It is the bidder's responsibility to make a portion of the work available to SBE subcontractors and suppliers and to select those portions of the work or material needs consistent with the available SBE subcontractors and suppliers so as to facilitate SBE participation. Evidence of such negotiation includes the names, addresses and telephone numbers of SBEs that were considered, a description of the information provided regarding the plans and specifications for the work selected for subcontracting, and evidence as to why additional agreements could not be reached for SBEs to perform the work.

(2) A bidder using good business judgment would consider a number of factors in negotiating with subcontractors, including SBE subcontractors, and would take a firm's price and capabilities as well as contract goals into consideration.

However, the fact that there may be some additional costs involved in finding and using SBEs is not in itself sufficient reason for a bidder's failure to meet the contract SBE goal as long as such costs are reasonable. Also, the ability or desire of a prime contractor to perform the work of a contract with its own organization does not relieve the bidder of the responsibility to make GFEs. Prime contractors are not, however, required to accept higher quotes from SBEs if the price difference is excessive or unreasonable.

- E. (1) Not rejecting SBEs as being unqualified without sound reasons based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities.

The contractor's standing within its industry, membership in specific groups,

organizations or associations, and political or social affiliations (for example, union versus non-union status) are not legitimate causes for the rejection or non-solicitation of bids in the contractor's efforts to meet the project goal. Another practice considered an insufficient GFE is the rejection of the SBE because its quotation for the work was not the lowest received. However, nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to require the bidder or prime contractor to accept unreasonable quotes in order to satisfy contract goals.

(2) A prime contractor's inability to find a replacement SBE at the original price is not alone sufficient to support a finding that GFEs have been made to replace the original SBE. The fact that the contractor has the ability and/or desire to perform the contract work with its own forces does not relieve the contractor of the obligation to make GFEs to find a replacement SBE, and it is not a sound basis for rejecting a prospective replacement SBE's reasonable quote.

- F. Making efforts to assist interested SBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit or insurance as required by the recipient or contractor.
- G. Making efforts to assist interested SBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials or related assistance or services.
- H. Effectively using the services of available community organizations; contractors' groups; local, state and federal business assistance offices; and other organizations as allowed on a case-by-case basis to provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of SBEs.

Bidder's efforts consistent with these guidelines need to be documented and provided to MDOT no later than five days from bid opening.

This is not intended to be a mandatory checklist nor is it intended to be exclusive or exhaustive. Other factors or types of efforts may be relevant in appropriate cases.

Assistance provided cannot affect the SBE's independent actions on this project or violate Contract Compliance Monitoring (CCM) rules.

Contractors Good Faith Effort

Pre-Award Good Faith Efforts

If an apparent low bidder or quoter is unable to fulfill the SBP participation goal and submits a pre-award request to modify the goal, the contract will not be awarded until a determination is made by the department. The low bidder or quoter must submit the Contractor's Good Faith Efforts Form (MDOT Form 2668) and supporting documentation.

Efforts should be intense, aggressive and sincere for the specific project and should go beyond simple paperwork exercises. Efforts should include written communication, personal contact, follow-up and, where appropriate, earnest negotiation with an SBE. MDOT expects all prime contractors who are bidding on a project with an SBP contract goal to be aware of the SBP participation requirement and to make timely and adequate efforts to solicit SBEs.

Requests shall be reviewed by the GFE Committee within 20 business days of receipt of a complete GFE application package. The apparent low bidder or quoter will be notified of the committee's determination by email. Incomplete requests will be returned.

A pre-award GFE request may be withdrawn prior to a determination without penalty if the apparent low bidder or quoter obtains sufficient participation to meet the SBP participation goal.

Composition of the Good Faith Effort Committee:

- Section Manager, OBD (chair).
- Engineer of Highway Development or designee.
- Engineer of Highway Delivery or designee.
- Contract Services Division administrator or designee.
- Construction Field Services administrator or designee.
- One Region Engineer or designee.
- Goals Specialist, OBD.

Two-thirds of the members/representatives must vote in order to have a quorum and conduct business. Committee members may submit their decision and any additional questions or comments electronically. Final GFE decisions require consenting votes from at least four committee members.

The GFE applicant will be notified of the investigator assigned to the review to address any questions or concerns prior to receiving a determination. When required, the committee may meet with the bidder/quoter to ask additional questions.

The committee will consider the merit of the request, the sufficiency of the evidence and the documentation supporting the request prior to making a decision.

Good Faith Effort Reconsideration Request

Contractors or consultants whose request for waiver or modification of the SBP participation goal has been determined insufficient may appeal the decision or be deemed ineligible for the award of the contract.

Written requests for reconsideration must be submitted to the OBD administrator within three business days of the contractor's receipt of the GFE Committee's decision.

The reconsideration decision will be provided by the OBD. Decisions are administratively final.

Post-Award Good Faith Efforts

If during the course of completing an awarded MDOT project a contractor finds themselves unable to fulfill their SBP participation requirements, they may submit a GFE request. To request a post-award modification request, the contractor must submit a completed Contractor Good-Faith Efforts (SBE) form (MDOT Form 2668) and supporting documentation. The contractor must submit evidence of GFEs to meet the SBP participation goal and include proof that on the date the contractor became aware that the SBP goal would not be met, the amount of contract work remaining was carefully reviewed to identify other work that could be subcontracted to SBE firms. Post-award requests must be submitted within 14 days of the contractor being made aware of their inability to meet the SBP participation, per the instructions on the MDOT form.

Only GFE investigators may request additional documentation to clarify or supplement information provided by the prime contractor or consultant.

If the GFE Committee determines the contractor demonstrated sufficient GFE to achieve the goal, the department will modify the goal as requested. If the department denies the request or modifies the goal in a manner other than what was requested, the department will notify the contractor by email within five business days of receipt of the request.

Termination

The prime contractor must not terminate an SBE subcontractor, or any portion of its work listed on Form 2668, without providing the SBE with proper notification, including its good cause reasons and five days in which to respond.

The prime contractor must concurrently provide a copy of this notification to the project engineer and the OBD at MDOT-SBP@Michigan.gov per the instructions listed on MDOT Form 2672. This includes but is not limited to any reduction or underrun in work listed for an SBE, or instances in which a prime contractor seeks to perform work originally designated for an SBE subcontractor with its own forces or those of an affiliate, a non-SBE firm or with another SBE firm.

SBE firms can be terminated or replaced for good cause only with prior approval by MDOT Form 2672. In all cases, SBEs must be given written notice, which includes the contractor's intent to request to terminate and/or substitute and the reason for the request with a copy of the written notice to MDOT, and provide five business days to respond prior to Form 2672 being sent to the project engineer for approval. The project

engineer will then send the form and all supporting documentation to the OBD at MDOT-SBP@Michigan.gov for review and approval.

Good cause includes:

- SBE fails or refuses to execute a written contract;
- SBE 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 SBE firm to perform its work of the subcontract results from the bad faith or discriminatory action of the prime contractor;
- SBE fails or refuses to meet the prime contractor's reasonable, non-discriminatory bond requirements;
- SBE becomes bankrupt, insolvent or exhibits credit unworthiness;
- SBE is ineligible to work on federally assisted contracts because of suspension and debarment proceedings;
- SBE is determined by MDOT to not be a responsible vendor;
- SBE voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides written notice to MDOT of its withdrawal;
- SBE is ineligible to receive SBP credit for the type of work required;
- SBE owner dies or becomes disabled and is unable to complete the work; or
- Other documented good cause that MDOT determines to require the termination of the SBE firm.

SBE Substitution

Primes are required to make a GFE to substitute an SBE that is unable to perform with another SBE to perform at least the same amount of work under the contract as the SBE that was terminated to the extent needed to meet the contract goal. If the substitute subcontractor is an SBE, they must be included on an updated SBE Participation form (MDOT Form 2668) and submitted to the project engineer and Contract Services Division for approval prior to starting work. Include any supply forms (Form 2670) as necessary.

Before the identified substitute SBE(s) can begin work:

1. The SBE Removal/Substitution Request (MDOT Form 2672) must be approved by the project engineer and OBD, and
2. The Contractor GFE (MDOT Forms 2668 and 2668D) for the substitute SBE

firm(s) must be submitted and approved by Contract Services Division.

- a. If a substitute SBE is performing supply work, Form 2670 must be included with Forms 2668 and 2668D.

If written approval by MDOT, using Forms 2672 and 2668 (as applicable), is not granted, the prime contractor shall not be entitled to any payment or credit toward a contract goal for work or material committed or originally contracted to the SBE firm.

Compliance and Performance for the MDOT SBP

It is proposed that the SBP be implemented on projects in accordance with all existing MDOT performance provisions and criteria in place.

Contract Compliance Monitoring (CCM)

MDOT and recipient agencies are required to perform CCM for SBEs on all projects, contracts, subcontracts, purchase orders or other transactions with MDOT. Additional information regarding CCM can be found in the [MDOT Construction Manual](#). The procedures in this construction manual apply to all MDOT and local agency projects that include participation of a certified SBE.

An SBE may be removed from a project or lose some or all of its eligibility to participate as an SBE if it fails to perform its contract/subcontract/project work independently and in a commercially useful or viable manner.

Prime contractors are also subject to sanctions if they are responsible for an SBE's failure to perform in a commercially useful or viable manner.

In order to perform in a commercially useful and viable manner, an SBE must:

- A. Be responsible for execution of the work of the contract and carry out its responsibilities by performing, managing and supervising the work involved.
- B. Not be limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract or project through which funds are passed to obtain the appearance of SBE participation.
- C. Perform at least 50 percent of the total cost of its subcontract with its own workforce.

The following describe possible SBE CCM violations:

Management

- Supervision of the SBE's employee(s) is performed by another contractor or personnel associated with another company.
- The SBE's superintendent is not a regular full-time, exclusive employee of the

SBE.

- The SBE doesn't have a subcontract, purchase order or other contractual document.

Workforce

- Movement of SBE employees to/from other contractors.
- Employee(s) paid by another contractor.
- Employee(s) working for the SBE and another company.

Materials

- Materials for the SBE are ordered and/or paid for by another contractor.
- Joint (two-party) checks are sent directly to SBE suppliers without the knowledge or consent of the SBE.
- Materials or supplies to be obtained by the SBE are delivered to, billed to or paid for by another contractor.

Performance

- SBE firm work is being done jointly by the SBE and another contractor without an MDOT-approved mentor/protégé agreement in place.
- The work to be performed is outside of the SBE's known experience or capability (SBE certification/prequalification categories).
- The SBE only performs work without a subcontract, purchase order or other signed contractual document.

Note: Not every red flag means there is a CCM violation. However, notice of red flag(s) should be documented and reported to OBD at MDOT-CCM@Michigan.gov.

CCM Reviews and Outcomes

MDOT field staff (which includes but are not limited to inspectors, technicians, engineers and CCM compliance staff) conduct field monitoring of contractors to assure that SBE firms perform CCM and that work committed to SBE companies is performed by said companies. This is accomplished using [Form 2671 \(Contract Compliance Monitoring \(CCM\) Reviews\)](#) on all projects.

In many cases, construction staff will need to reference the SBE commitment information to ensure that all companies are reviewed. Completed 2671 forms are stored at their respective project office and, when applicable, in MDOTs electronic project

management database, ProjectWise.

At the completion of the project, the construction/project engineer will certify that all SBE firms were monitored for contract compliance. This certification will be noted on Form 1105 (Final Estimate Package Memo).

Investigations of SBE firms that may not be performing independently in a viable, compliant manner are conducted based on field monitoring or receipt of a third-party complaint.

Failure to attend a conference may result in further action as indicated in the SBP Special Provision and SBP Procedures.

- A. The prime contractor is responsible for notifying the project engineer and OBD immediately if they have evidence that an SBE may not be performing independently in a viable, compliant manner. The prime contractor will be determined to have a deficiency in SBE participation corresponding to the dollar value of the SBE's work that did not meet CCM requirements.
- B. The violation will be reported to the Contract Performance and Compliance Review Team, and according to its procedures they will review the violation and decide the next steps.
- C. Serious violations or evidence of SBE program fraud may also be referred directly to the MDOT Prequalification Committee for sanction, per the Administrative Rules Governing the Prequalification of Bidders for Highway and Transportation Construction Work.

Counting SBE Participation Toward Contract Goals

When an SBE participates in a contract, only the value of the work actually performed by the SBE is counted toward SBE goals. The following guidelines detail what can be counted:

- A. Count the entire amount of that portion of a construction contract (or other contract not covered in B) that is performed by the SBE's own forces. Include the cost of supplies and materials obtained by the SBE for the work of the contract, including supplies purchased or equipment leased by the SBE (except supplies and equipment the SBE subcontractor purchases or leases from the prime contractor or its affiliate).
- B. When an SBE subcontracts part of the work of its contract to another SBE, the value of the subcontracted work may be counted toward SBE goals.
- C. Deduct for material and work subcontracted to non-SBEs.

SBE Credit and CCM

Count expenditures to an SBE contractor toward SBP goals only if the SBE is performing independently in a viable, compliant manner on that contract. If a firm is not currently certified as an SBE with MDOT at the time of execution of the subcontract, the firm's participation cannot be counted toward any SBP goals.

If the SBE firm is decertified during the life of the contract, the recipient may continue to count the portion of the decertified firm's performance on the contract remaining after the certifier decertified it toward the contract goal if a prime contractor has executed a subcontract with the firm or the recipient has executed a prime contract with the DBE that was later decertified.

An SBE contractor's work cannot be counted toward a prime contractor's final compliance with its SBP obligation until the SBE has been paid in full for the work performed.

SBE Payment

Reporting is required when the prime contractor makes payments to any SBE (sub-subcontractors, suppliers, truckers, etc.) at any tier. The contractor is required to submit payments to subcontractors and all SBEs on the project in the MDOT-approved electronic reporting system in accordance with the contract.

SBE Suppliers

Count expenditures with SBEs for materials or supplies toward SBP goals as provided in the following:

Manufacturer: A manufacturer is a firm that owns (or leases) and operates 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. Manufacturing includes blending or modifying raw materials or assembling components to create the product to meet contract specifications. When an SBE makes minor modifications to the materials, supplies, articles or equipment, the SBE is not a manufacturer. Minor modifications are additional changes to a manufactured product that are small in scope and add minimal value to the final product.

Regular Dealer: A regular dealer is a firm that owns (or leases) and operates 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 sufficient quantities and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business.

Items kept and regularly sold by the SBE are of the "general character" when they

share the same material characteristics and application as the items specified by the contract.

To be a regular dealer, the firm must be an established business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question.

An SBE may be a regular dealer in bulk items (gravel, for example) without owning and operating a place of business if the firm both owns and operates the distribution equipment used to deliver the products.

An SBE supplier of items that are not typically stocked due to their unique characteristics (e.g., limited shelf life or items ordered to specification) should be considered in the same manner as a regular dealer of bulk items.

Broker: Packagers, brokers, manufacturers' representatives or other entities that arrange, facilitate or expedite transactions are not regular dealers.

Count expenditures with SBEs for materials or supplies toward SBP goals as provided in the following:

- A. If the materials or supplies are obtained from an SBE **manufacturer**, count 100 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies.
- B. If the materials or supplies are purchased from an SBE **regular dealer**, count 60 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies (including transportation costs).
- C. With respect to materials or supplies purchased from an SBE that is neither a manufacturer nor a regular dealer (broker), count the entire amount of fees or commission charged that you deem to be reasonable, including transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies. Do not count any portion of the cost of the materials and supplies themselves.
- D. MDOT 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, distributor or a transaction facilitator) on a contract-by-contract basis.

Guidance for SBE Participation as Suppliers

The successful bidder/prime contractor is responsible for compliance with the governing SBE Special Provision included in each MDOT project proposal. Prime contractors are to make every effort to ensure that arrangements and practices on the project are in line with the SBP regulations.

SBE-certified suppliers must comply with all requirements and specifications outlined in MDOT's Materials Source Guide. This manual is available on [MDOT's website](#).

To count SBE supplier participation toward project goals, the following criteria must be met:

- A. The SBE must directly negotiate (i.e., receiving price quotes, agreeing to pricing and ordering of materials) with their supplier(s) for the materials they are providing for the project. The prime contractor is not to negotiate on behalf of the SBE with the SBE's supplier. SBEs that act as regular dealer-bulk items will need to provide information on their delivery equipment and accounts with their suppliers.
- B. The SBE must arrange for the delivery of materials it supplies for the project. Documentation of the SBE's delivery of materials (such as equipment information, BOLs, delivery tickets, load tickets, invoices, bank statements, etc.) must be maintained by the SBE and submitted if requested by MDOT.
- C. The SBE may use leased equipment on the project only if there are long-term lease agreements for the equipment. Any supplementing of the regular dealer's own distribution equipment shall be by a long-term lease agreement and not on an ad hoc or contract-by-contract basis. This equipment may not be leased from the prime contractor (or any affiliate of the prime contractor) for whom the SBE is supplying the project's material. The SBE must be able to supply all lease agreements upon request by MDOT.
- D. SBEs must pay their suppliers with their own funds. The prime contractor is not to pay the SBE's suppliers directly for the materials the SBE is designated to supply. Payments made by SBEs for material they purchase must come from their own independent bank accounts. An SBE may not acquire material using funds from bank accounts belonging to or shared with the prime contractor.
- E. No sales between the prime contractor and any of its affiliates via the SBE are to be counted toward the project SBP goal.
- F. Any joint check arrangement must be pre-approved by MDOT before the arrangement or transaction takes place. Requests must be made via the Application to Use Joint Checks (MDOT Form 0183). A joint check is a two-party check between a subcontractor, a prime contractor and a materials supplier. Joint checks are used to guarantee payment to the supplier for materials used by the subcontractor.
- G. Verification of Regular Dealer-Bulk Petroleum Suppliers: Upon first receipt of a proposed transaction that includes an SBE acting as a regular dealer-bulk item (supplying petroleum products or liquid asphalt), MDOT will obtain from the SBE a completed MDOT Form 0192 (Petroleum Company Account(s) Information and Liquid Asphalt Cement Tractors and Trailers Information) and all supplemental

documentation to ensure:

- i. The SBE owns its own delivery/distribution equipment and has valid lease agreements in place (if supplementing its own delivery/distribution equipment).
- ii. The SBE has accounts and lines of credit with the suppliers from which it purchases the materials it is supplying on the project.

The SBE may provide a completed MDOT Form 0192 at any time and in anticipation of acting as a regular dealer-bulk item; however, MDOT may request an updated Form 0192 and/or supplemental documentation at any time.

A. Pre-Award Approval: Prime contractors will submit for review the SBE Supplier Participation Affidavit (MDOT Form 2670) for approval along with the SBE Participation Form (MDOT Form 2668). OBD staff will make every effort to complete the review of the affidavit and make a determination within five working days. This review includes:

- i. Determining that the prime contractor has selected an eligible SBE. This is done by comparing the MDOT work code(s) and NAICS code(s) listed in the proposed arrangement with the MDOT work code(s) and NAICS code(s) assigned to the SBE. (Contract Services and OBD both perform this.) The SBE must be SBE-certified in the type of work requested for SBP credit.
- ii. OBD staff will cross-check the SBE's file and participation in other projects to determine that the SBE is not over its distribution capacity or credit limit.
- iii. OBD staff may request a purchase order to be submitted with each project, post-award and prior to delivery.
- iv. OBD staff will ensure that an anticipated date of transaction with the SBE is included in the affidavit the prime contractor submits.
- v. If a license or certification is required for the product and/or service to be provided on the project, the SBE must hold that license and/or product certification to perform a CCM.

B. Follow-up Review: OBD staff may request additional information to verify whether a CCM was performed on a project. SBE regular dealers-petroleum suppliers will be required to complete an MDOT questionnaire (MDOT Form 0194) regarding SBE supplier activities on the project. OBD staff will contact the SBE within 10 days following the date the prime contractor specified on the affidavit to determine if the sale and delivery of material took place. Staff will

continue to follow up until the transaction takes place. Once the date of transaction is determined, the questionnaire will be forwarded to the SBE. The questionnaire is to be returned to OBD within 10 days. OBD staff will provide the project engineer/project office/field staff with all documents on file necessary to complete a CCM review on MDOT Form 2671.

All forms are available online at <https://mdotcf intra.state.mi.us/interchange/forms>.

Use of Joint Checks to Guarantee Payment for Materials and Supplies

With prior approval, a joint or two-party check between contractors and a materials supplier that is neither the prime contractor nor an affiliate of the prime contractor may be used to guarantee payment for materials. The Application to Use Joint Checks form (MDOT Form 0183) is available online at <https://mdotcf intra.state.mi.us/interchange/forms/>.

An acceptable joint-check arrangement must include the following:

- A. The prime contractor/payor cannot require the subcontractor to use a specific supplier
- B. The subcontractor is more than an extra participant in releasing the check to the Supplier.

Copies of cancelled joint checks must be provided to MDOT personnel for review and approval upon request.

M. Definitions and Acronyms

For the purpose of MDOT's DBE program, the following definitions and acronyms will apply.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO)

A nonprofit, nonpartisan association representing highway and transportation departments in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. It represents all five transportation modes: air, highways, public transportation, rail and water. Its primary goal is to foster the development, operation and maintenance of an integrated national transportation system.

Affiliation

MDOT uses the same definition as is included in the Small Business Administration (SBA) regulations, 13 CFR part 121.

- 1) Except as otherwise provided in 13 CFR Part 121, concerns are affiliates of each other when, either directly or indirectly:
 - i. One concern controls or has the power to control the other;
 - ii. A third party or parties controls or has the power to control both; or
 - iii. An identity of interest between or among parties exists such that affiliation may be found.
- 2) In determining whether affiliation exists, it is necessary to consider all appropriate factors, including common ownership, common management and contractual relationships. Affiliates must be considered together in determining whether a concern meets small business size criteria and the statutory cap on the participation of firms in the DBE program.

Alaska Native

A citizen of the United States who is a person of one-fourth degree or more Alaskan Indian (including Tsimshian Indians not enrolled in the Metlaktla Indian Community), Eskimo or Aleut blood, or a combination of those bloodlines. The term includes, in the absence of proof of a minimum blood quantum, any citizen whom a native village or native group regards as an Alaska Native if their father or mother is regarded as an Alaska Native.

Alaska Native Corporation (ANC)

Any regional corporation, village corporation, urban corporation or group corporation

organized under the laws of the State of Alaska in accordance with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1601, *et seq.*).

Appeals

A request by a corporation, partnership or joint venture denied DBE certification by MDOT, for future review, by a certification assistance representative (CAR) team member(s), or a request for a review by the USDOT pursuant to the provisions of 49 CFR

§ 26.89.

Applicant

Any corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship or joint venture applying for certification.

Assets

All the property of a person available for paying debts or for distribution, including one's respective share of jointly held assets. This includes but is not limited to cash on hand and in banks, savings accounts, IRA or other retirement accounts, accounts receivable, life insurance, stocks and bonds, real estate and personal property.

Business, business concern or business enterprise

An entity organized for profit with a place of business located in the United States and operates primarily within the United States or makes a significant contribution to the United States economy through payment of taxes or use of American products, materials or labor.

Bid Letting

MDOT advertises and accepts bids to perform as a prime contractor on individual construction projects on a monthly basis. The date bids must be submitted is the bid letting, or simply the "letting" date. After each letting, MDOT uses several terms to describe bids submitted by each vendor:

- "As Submitted" - the dollar value of each bid as submitted by each vendor, before the bid is checked for errors.
- "As Checked" - the dollar value of each bid submitted after the bid has been checked for errors.
- "Bid Tabulations" - disclose what each bidder bid on each line item.

Broker

Refer to definition of Supplier DBE Credit Types.

CFR

Code of Federal Regulations.

Contingent Liability

A liability that depends on the occurrence of a future and uncertain event. This includes but is not limited to guaranty for debts owed by the applicant concern, legal claims and judgments, and provisions for federal income tax.

Contract Selection Team (CST)

The MDOT team that recommends DBE and SBE participation goals assigned to individual projects.

Contract

A legally binding relationship obligating a seller to furnish supplies or services (including but not limited to construction and professional services) and the buyer to pay for them. For purposes of 49 CFR Part 26, a lease is considered to be a contract.

Contractor

One who participates through a contract or subcontract (at any tier) in a DOT-assisted highway, transit or airport program.

Contract Services Division (CSD)

The CSD administers MDOT's contracting processes, including bid lettings, contract awards, contractor payments, prequalification of contractors to bid on MDOT projects, contract monitoring and purchasing.

Days

"Days" refers to calendar days. In computing any period of time described in this part, the day from which the period begins to run is not counted. When the last day of the period is a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday, the period extends to the next day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or federal holiday. Similarly, in circumstances where the recipient's offices are closed for all or part of the last day, the period extends to the next day on which the agency is open.

Design-Build Project (DB)

A delivery method where both the final design and construction of a project are contracted with a single entity under one contract.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)

A for-profit small business concern:

1. 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; and
2. Whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more of the socially and economically disadvantaged individuals who own it.

DBE Administrator

The designated person responsible for administering MDOT's DBE program. MDOT has designated Lisa S. Thompson as the DBE administrator:

Lisa S. Thompson, Administrator
Office of Business Development (MDOT OBD)
425 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909
E-mail: ThompsonL@Michigan.gov or MDOT-DBE@Michigan.gov
Toll-free: 866-323-1264
Fax: 517-335-6859

DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO)

The person responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program and ensuring that MDOT complies with all provisions of 49 CFR Part 26. MDOT's designated DBELO is Chief Strategic Impact Officer Terri D. Slaughter. MDOT's organizational chart showing direct and independent access of the DBELO to the director of MDOT can be found in Attachment D.

Terri D. Slaughter, Chief Strategic Impact Officer
Michigan Department of Transportation
425 W. Ottawa St.
P.O. Box 30050
Lansing, MI 48909
Email address: SlaughterT2@Michigan.gov
Phone: 517-335-1038
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Distributor

An established business that engages in the regular sale or lease of the items specified by the contract. A distributor assumes responsibility for the items it purchases once they leave the point of origin (e.g., a manufacturer's facility), making it liable for any loss or damage not covered by the carrier's insurance.

DOT

The U.S. Department of Transportation, including the Office of the Secretary, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). DOT-assisted Contract

Any contract between a recipient and a contractor (at any tier) funded in whole or in part with DOT financial assistance, including letters of credit or loan guarantees, except a contract solely for the purchase of land.

FAA

The Federal Aviation Administration.

FHWA

The Federal Highway Administration.

Field Monitoring

A job site review of DBE firms under contract to participate in a project funded in some measure by federal funds.

FOIA

Freedom of Information Act.

FTA

The Federal Transit Administration.

Good Faith Efforts (GFE)

Documented efforts to achieve a DBE goal or other contractual requirement related to the DBE program.

Home State

The state in which a DBE firm or applicant for DBE certification maintains its principal place of business.

Immediate Family Member

The father, mother, husband, wife, son, daughter, brother, sister, grandfather, grandmother, grandson, granddaughter, father-in-law, mother-in-law, sister-in-law, brother-in-law and domestic partner and civil unions recognized under state law.

Indian Tribe

Any Native American tribe, band, nation or other organized group or community, including any Alaska Native Corporation (ANC), which is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Native Americans

because of their status as Indians, or is recognized as such by the state in which the tribe, band, nation, group or community resides. Refer to definition of “tribally owned concern” in this section.

Joint Venture

An association of a DBE firm and one or more other firms to carry out a single, for-profit business enterprise for which the parties combine their property, capital, efforts, skills and knowledge, and in which the DBE is responsible for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract and whose share in the capital contribution, control, management, risks and profits of the joint venture are commensurate with its ownership interest.

Jurisdiction of Certification (JOC)

The state in which a firm maintains their principal place of business and DBE certification.

Liabilities

Financial or pecuniary obligations. This includes but is not limited to accounts payable, notes payable to bank or others, installment accounts, mortgages on real estate and unpaid taxes.

Manufacturer

Refer to definition of Supplier DBE Credit Types.

MAP-21

Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century Act.

Mentor/Protégé

An arrangement established between two or more businesses where specified training is provided to the less experienced business owner(s)/protégé by another, more experienced business owner(s)/mentor.

MDOT

The Michigan Department of Transportation.

MUCP

Michigan Unified Certification Program.

MUCP’s Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

The MUCP’s MOU between MUCP partners streamlining certification procedures for participation in the SBA and DBE programs for small and disadvantaged businesses.

NAICS

North American Industry Classification System. Refer to Primary Industry Classification definition.

Native Hawaiian

Any individual whose ancestors were natives, prior to 1778, of the area that now comprises the state of Hawaii.

Native Hawaiian Organization

Any community service organization serving Native Hawaiians in the state of Hawaii that is a not-for-profit organization chartered by the State of Hawaii, is controlled by Native Hawaiians, and whose business activities will principally benefit such Native Hawaiians.

OBD

The MDOT Office of Business Development.

OJT

The On-the-Job Training Program.

Operating Administration (OA)

Any of the following parts of the USDOT: the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA). The administrator of an operating administration includes his or her designees.

On-site Review

An investigation conducted at the applicant's principal place of business to determine the eligibility of a corporation, sole partnership or joint venture that has applied for DBE status.

Orientation

A session sponsored by MDOT designed to familiarize newly certified DBE firms with DBE program objectives, procedures, regulations and supportive services.

Personal Net Worth (PNW)

The net value of the assets of an individual remaining after total liabilities are deducted. An individual's PNW does not include the individual's ownership interest in an applicant or participating DBE firm or the individual's equity in his or her primary place of residence. An individual's PNW includes only his or her own share of assets held jointly or as community property with the individual's spouse.

Prequalification

An application process used to determine work classifications a vendor may perform in prequalification-required construction or consulting work and the maximum contract amount a vendor may perform for MDOT. Prequalification and DBE certification are not the same. Construction and service prequalification applications and related information are linked to the MDOT "Doing Business" website at Michigan.gov/MDOT, under the "How To" section.

Primary Industry Classification

MDOT uses the most current North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) designation that best describes the primary business of a firm. The NAICS is described in the North American Industry Classification Manual - United States, available online at the [U.S. Census Bureau website](https://www.census.gov/naics/).

Primary Recipient

A recipient who receives DOT financial assistance and passes some or all of it on to another recipient.

Principal Place of Business

The business location where the individuals who manage the firm's day-to-day operations spend most working hours. If the offices from which management is directed and where the business records are kept are in different locations, the recipient will determine the principal place of business. The term does not include construction trailers or other temporary construction sites.

DBE-Conscious (DC) Measure/Program

One that is focused specifically on assisting only DBEs.

DBE-Neutral (DN) Measure/Program

One that is, or can be, used to assist all small businesses.

Recipient

Any entity (public or private) to which USDOT financial assistance is extended, whether directly or through another recipient, through the programs of the FAA, FHWA or FTA, or who has applied for such assistance.

Regular Dealer

Refer to definition of Supplier DBE Credit Types.

Request for Proposal (RFP)

A solicitation, often made through a bidding process, by an agency or company

interested in procurement of a commodity, service or valuable asset to potential suppliers to submit business proposals.

SAFETEA-LU

Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient, Transportation Act: A Legacy for Users. SAFETEA-LU authorizes implementation of the DBE program.

Small Business Administration (SBA)

The United States Small Business Administration.

SBA-Certified Firm

A firm that has a current, valid certification from or recognized by the SBA under the 8(a) BD or SDB programs.

Small Business Concern

Pursuant to Section 3 of the Small Business Act and Small Business Administration regulations (13 CFR part 121): A firm that does not exceed the cap on average annual gross receipts specified in § 26.65(b) of 13 CFR part 121.

Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Individual

Any individual who is a citizen (or lawfully admitted permanent resident) of the United States and who a certifier finds to be socially and economically disadvantaged on a case-by-case basis.

A determination that an individual is socially and economically disadvantaged must not be based in whole or in part on race or sex. For that reason, all applicants shall qualify as socially and economically disadvantaged if they can meet the relevant criteria described in § 26.67. Being born in a particular country does not, standing alone, mean that a person is necessarily socially and economically disadvantaged

Spouse

A married person, including a person in a domestic partnership or a civil union recognized under state law.

STC

Michigan State Transportation Commission.

Supplier DBE Credit Types

DBE supply credit can be counted toward DBE goals as a manufacturer, regular dealer or broker on a contract-by-contract basis, as provided in the following:

A manufacturer operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles or equipment required as specified under the

contract and of the general character described by the specifications.

- If the materials or supplies are obtained from a DBE acting as a manufacturer, 100 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies count toward DBE goals.

A regular dealer owns, operates or maintains a store, warehouse or other establishment where 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.

- To be a regular dealer, the firm must be an established, regular business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question.
- A person may be a regular dealer in such bulk items as petroleum products, steel, cement, gravel, stone or asphalt without owning, operating or maintaining a place of business as previously described if the person both owns and operates distribution equipment for the products. Any supplementing of regular dealers' own distribution equipment shall be by a long-term lease agreement and not on an ad hoc or contract-by-contract basis.
- Packagers, brokers, manufacturers' representatives or other persons who arrange or expedite transactions are not regular dealers.
- If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE acting as a regular dealer, 60 percent of the cost of the materials or supplies count toward DBE goals.

A broker, with respect to materials or supplies purchased from a DBE that is neither a manufacturer nor a regular dealer can count toward DBE goals 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, provided MDOT determines the fees to be reasonable and not excessive as compared to fees customarily allowed for similar services. However, any portion of the cost of the materials and supplies themselves do not count toward DBE goals.

Transit vehicle manufacturer

Any manufacturer whose primary business purpose is to manufacture vehicles specifically built for public mass transportation. Such vehicles include but are not limited to buses, rail cars, trolleys, ferries and vehicles manufactured specifically for paratransit purposes. Producers of vehicles that receive post-production alterations or retrofitting to be used for public transportation purposes (e.g., so-called cutaway vehicles, vans customized for service for people with disabilities) are also considered transit vehicle

manufacturers. Businesses that manufacture, mass-produce or distribute vehicles solely for personal use and for sale “off the lot” are not considered transit vehicle manufacturers.

Tribally owned concern

Any concern that is at least 51 percent owned by a Native American tribe.

Trns●port™

MDOT’s construction management software, licensed through AASHTO. MDOT uses the following Trns●port modules:

CAS: Construction Administration System

LAS: Letting and Award System

Web Trns●port Preconstruction

U.S.C.

United States Code.

USDOT

The United States Department of Transportation.

Vendor

A business that works under contract or through the use of a purchase order as a prime contractor or consultant, subcontractor or subconsultant; supplier, trucker or other service supplier; or a dealer, distributor, merchant or other seller who promotes or exchanges goods or services for money.

Attachment A - Assurances That Recipients and Contractors Must Make

(Excerpts from USDOT Regulation 49 CFR § 26.13)

Each financial assistance agreement you sign with a DOT operating administration (or a primary recipient) must include the following assurance: The recipient 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 [49 CFR part 26](#). The recipient 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 recipient's DBE program, 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 recipient 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.).

Each contract you sign with a contractor (and each subcontract the prime contractor signs with a subcontractor) must include the following assurance: 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 recipient 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

Attachment B - Michigan USDOT Recipients Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Agreement

Mission Statement

The Michigan Unified Certification Program (MUCP) exists to provide an effective means of communication, cooperation and collaboration among the MUCP agencies, and to enhance our ability to provide quality service to our customers through the implementation and administration of this program.

Organization

All MDOT recipient Disadvantaged Business Enterprise and Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise-certifying agencies and non-certifying agencies, listed below, agree to participate in this MUCP Certification Agreement in accordance with 49 C.F.R. Parts 23 and 26, which state in part:

“You and all other DOT recipients in your state must participate in a Unified Certification Program (UCP)...”

The MUCP will follow all certification procedures and standards of 49 CFR Parts 23 and 26 on the same basis as recipients; the MUCP shall cooperate fully with oversight, review and monitoring activities of DOT and its operating administrations; and the MUCP shall implement DOT directives and guidance concerning certification matters. The MUCP agencies shall ensure sufficient resources, funding and expertise to carry out the requirements of 49 CFR Parts 23 and 26. The MUCP committee of certifying agencies will make all overall policy decisions for the MUCP.

To that end, this MOU is based on the following principles:

1. Each certifying agency retains the right to **certify or deny** an applicant based upon that agency’s policies and procedures within the guidelines, interpretation of the regulations and forms agreed upon by the certifying members of the MUCP in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.83. These determinations are binding upon all MUCP agencies.
2. MUCP certifying agencies have agreed to purchase a database to manage certifications from each agency. The database will provide an online DBE certification database and current directory. It is the mechanism by which MUCP agencies will be notified of certification decisions. It will also give notice of meetings, trainings, contacts, and other information relevant to the MUCP’s implementation. The database has been purchased by MDOT and is housed on an MDOT server. Each MUCP certifying agency will have 24-hour access to all

information.

3. The MUCP will maintain a unified DBE directory containing all firms certified by the MUCP (including those from other states certified under the provisions of this 49 CFR Part 26), the information required by 26.31. The MUCP will make the directory available to the public electronically on the Internet as well as in print. The MUCP will update the electronic version of the directory by including additions, deletions, and other changes as soon as they are made. The MUCP webpage which includes the directory and forms will be maintained by MDOT. Information concerning the status of firms requesting certification shall be entered by the appropriate certifying agency.
4. The certifying agency will notify all MUCP agencies and certification applicants in writing, within a reasonable period of time, of their certification decision for each new applicant. Certifying agencies must keep complete files on applicants and provide information as required. Certifications that do not follow MUCP guidelines will not be valid. The MUCP will, with cause, review any agencies certification file to determine if guidelines have been followed.
5. Each certifying agency agrees to provide information and documentation, upon request, to any out-of-state certifying agency where a DBE firm is seeking certification. All MUCP agencies agree to refer any UCP inquiries from out-of-state UCP's to the appropriate certifying agency.
6. Each certifying agency agrees to require home state certification as a prerequisite to certifying an out-of-state firm. The certifying agency where an out-of-state DBE firm is seeking certification may contact the applicant or the home state in order to address questions and concerns.
7. Each certifying agency will annually require its DBE firms to file an annual DOE to continue certification eligibility. In accordance with 49 CFR Part 26, an applicant's documentation will be kept confidential unless the certifying agency receives written approval to forward applicant information with exceptions provided within 49 CFR.
8. MUCP agencies have autonomy in making decisions regarding any certified DBE's participation on agency projects and contracts. Each MUCP agency has the authority to initiate action(s) that may affect a DBE firm's eligibility to participate on its contracts or projects without the prior approval of the initial certifying agency.

The MUCP agency, where action is taken, has the responsibility of informing the other MUCP agencies within 30 days of the outcome of those actions. Any actions taken which affect a firm's eligibility for certification will be in accordance

with 49 CFR Part 26.87 and the MUCP removal of eligibility procedures. Any actions taken to remove eligibility based on the above will require full cooperation by the initial certifying agency in corresponding with the firm, scheduling hearings and providing documents to USDOT and other interested parties as required. Copies of investigation results will be kept on file at the initial certifying agency.

9. This agreement should not be construed to contravene the sovereignty of each MUCP agency in making any decision concerning the DBE programs that do not affect the certification process governed by the MUCP.
10. Certification decisions by the MUCP certifying agencies shall be binding on all MUCP agencies within the state of Michigan. All certifications will be pre-certifications; i.e., certifications that have been made final before the due date for bids or offers on a contract on which a firm seeks to participate as a DBE as required by 49 CFR Part 26.81(c). Certification decisions are final as of the date of the notice of approval/denial sent by the certifying agency.
11. All obligations of MUCP agencies with respect to certification and nondiscrimination must be carried out by the MUCP and all MUCP agencies may accept certifications only from UCPs that comply with the certification and nondiscrimination requirements of 49 CFR Part 26.81(b)(3).
12. To be effective, any amendments to this MOU Agreement must be approved by the MUCP certifying agencies. The approval of those agencies designated as “certifying agencies,” with the exception of the Wayne County Airport Authority, shall be sufficient for ratification of the amendment(s) to the MOU. Non-certifying agencies will be notified of proposed changes and provided sufficient time in which to present objections to all proposed amendments. All objections shall be addressed by the certifying agencies prior to amendment approval. Amendments shall contain the signature, written or electronic of the approving agencies. These amendments must also be approved by USDOT.

Implementation Procedures

The certifying agencies and any interested non-certifying agencies will quarterly meet to address implementation processes and issues required to assure appropriate procedures are in effect pertaining to this Michigan USDOT Recipients Memorandum of Understanding for a Unified Certification Program.

The implementation procedures may be revised, as needed, with the consent of all certifying agencies without invalidating this MOU.

1. The MUCP will establish a unified directory with web accessibility to the general public. The active date is 2004.
2. The certifying agencies have formed a committee, with representation from each certifying agency to process DBE removals of eligibility in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.87 for the removal of eligibility. The MUCP certifying agencies shall meet on a quarterly basis with the exceptions of information hearings or administrative reviews.
3. The certifying agencies agree on the eligibility status of firms currently certified by the MUCP agencies.
4. The MUCP certifying agencies will establish uniform formats for the following: USDOT Uniform Certification Application, Personal Net Worth form, Certificate of Eligibility, standard appeal time frames for recipients' initial Denials of Initial Requests for Certification, standard language for removals of eligibility, on-site review format, and any additional forms deemed necessary for a fully functioning MUCP. Workshops have been held and are ongoing; they are used to compare processes and reach agreement on standard letters and forms. MUCP agencies agree to enter basic information into the MUCP database as soon as possible upon receiving an application. This will allow the MUCP to avoid duplicate or conflicting certification activities.
5. Each certifying agency has appropriate agency channels for appeals of Denial of Initial Requests for Certification in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.85. Appeals will be completed by the agency that processed the application. Once a denial is made, the applicant may appeal to USDOT in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.89. Each certifying agency's denial and appeal process is accepted as binding on the MUCP. USDOT will request file information from and reply directly to the certifying agency. The certifying agency will then have the responsibility of notifying the MUCP.
6. On-site reviews on all firms, including SBA certified firms, will be conducted by the certifying agencies as required by 49 CFR Parts 26.81(b)(3) and 26.83(c)(1).
7. Requirements for agencies wishing to become new certifying agencies are as follows:
 - a. An agency desiring to become a certifying agency in the MUCP completes a written commitment to abide by the terms of the MOU. They specifically accept the certifying agency's responsibilities and submit it to the existing

MUCP committee of certifying agencies. This written commitment also designates and identifies the individual(s) the applicant agency proposes to use to perform certification reviews and determinations and is signed by an individual within the organization with authority to bind the organization and commit adequate resources to the successful execution of this agreement.

- b. All MUCP certifying agencies must agree to maintain trained and knowledgeable staff for certification processing in accordance with the requirements under 49 CFR and the MUCP MOU. The MUCP reserves the right to revoke the certifying privileges of any certifying agency that does not maintain trained and knowledgeable staff in accordance with 49 CFR 26 and all MUCP requirements.
 - c. The majority vote of current certifying agencies is required for an agency to become a certifying agency. The MUCP committee of certifying agencies will send a written acknowledgement to the applying agency that includes guidelines for certification and a proposed training schedule for their designated certifying staff.
 - d. The duration of training will be one year unless otherwise specified by the MUCP committee of certifying agencies. Training will consist of learning to analyze the regulations, the content of applications, company documentation, standard on-site questions, correspondence, forms, etc. Training also includes attending and assisting with at least five supervised on-site reviews with recognized and experienced MUCP certification staff and then conducting and completing at least five certification reviews that are deemed by the MUCP committee of certifying agencies to meet the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 and all other MUCP requirements. Any variations to this requirement will be by consent of the MUCP committee of certifying agencies.
 - e. The applying agency receives written approval from the MUCP committee of certifying agencies when their designated staff has satisfactorily completed the training specified above. Approval and continued participation as a certifying agency are contingent upon having trained and knowledgeable certifying staff.
 - f. The MUCP reserves the right to revoke the certifying privileges of any certifying agency that does not comply with the certification requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 and the MUCP requirements.
8. The Removal of Eligibility Committee will consist of one representative from the

following agencies:

- MDOT Office of Business Development
- Detroit Department of Transportation, Office of Compliance
- Wayne County Human Relations Division

Representatives from the following agencies will serve as alternatives when necessary:

- Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Contract Compliance and Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (SMART).

Each agency will have one vote except the agency that performed the initial certification. That agency will abstain from voting or, if necessary to break a tie, will be represented by an alternate member. In accordance with the regulations, each firm will be allowed to present their case in person or through an administrative review of documents.

Removal of eligibility to participate in the MUCP DBE program may occur for any of the following reasons:

- Notification by the firm that it no longer meets federal regulations for DBE certification.
- If the DBE's business entity has changed to the extent the business is no longer a small business concern.
- For federal-aid projects funded by FHWA, FAA and FTA funds: if the socially and economically disadvantaged individual's status has been challenged and the department has found the individual does not meet the definition of a "socially and economically disadvantaged individual" used in 49 CFR Part 26.63, 26.67, and Appendix E, "Individual Determinations of Social and Economic Disadvantage," and that the firm is no longer owned and controlled at least 51 percent by a socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s).
- If the firm's business entity has changed to the extent the business is no longer owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individual(s) as defined by the federal regulations.
- For federal-aid projects: if the MUCP agency received an order from the office of the USDOT Secretary of Transportation to remove the eligibility of a DBE firm.

- If an investigation uncovers evidence of violations of 49 CFR Part 26, with regard to the actual work performed by a DBE, and the findings and conclusions show that the firm's ownership or control has changed to the extent that the firm is no longer eligible.
- All other reasons as provided in 49 CFR Part 26.

If grounds for removal of eligibility are sufficient, the firm is mailed a **Notice of Intent to Remove Eligibility** with the reasons for the decision and advised of the opportunity for a hearing before the Removal of Eligibility Committee. The applicant has 30 calendar days from the date of the notice of intended removal of eligibility to appeal. The firm may be given any opportunity to rebut findings of the investigation at a conference with the certifying MUCP agency. Firms failing to attend the scheduled conference may be removed from the program for failure to cooperate.

The certifying agency will schedule a conference within 30 days of receipt of a request. At the conference, reasons for the intended removal of eligibility will be discussed either in person by the DBE or through an administrative review of documents, if requested by the firm. The Committee will receive information and evidence intended to show that certification eligibility should not be removed and will ask questions related to the intended removal of eligibility.

All information will be reviewed, and a vote taken. The Removal of Eligibility Committee will make a written decision based on its findings during the conference or after its administrative review on documents within 60 calendar days after the conference or its receipt of written arguments and supporting documents. If the DBE has successfully rebutted the findings detailed in the **Notice of Intent to Remove Eligibility**, the firm will remain certified. If the intended removal of eligibility has not been rebutted, the firm is notified and DBE certification is removed.

Firms may appeal to the USDOT within 90 calendar days of the date of the final decision. The appeal letter must contain information and arguments on why the removal of eligibility should be reversed. Pending the USDOT's decision in the matter, the department's decision remains in effect. 49 CFR Part 26.89 describes the process for appeals to the USDOT. Firms that have had DBE certification removed must wait 12 months after the effective date of the final decision before reapplying for DBE certification.

This MOU is modified to incorporate by reference all provisions and requirements of 49 CFR Part 23, the Airport Concession Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

All provisions of this MOU shall be fully operation upon acceptance by the Secretary of the USDOT.

The agencies listed on the pages below agree to the MUCP and the terms of this MOU

and agree to abide by its contents.

Certifying Agencies

Detroit Department of Transportation, Alicia Miller, Manager, Contract Compliance

Michigan Department of Transportation, Lisa Thompson, Administrator, Office of Business Development

Wayne County, Victoria Inniss-Edwards, Director of Human Relations

Non-Certifying Agencies

Ann Arbor Transportation Authority, Gwen Newsome,

Human Resources Battle Creek Transit, Donna Hutchinson, Grants Program Administrator

Bay Metro Transportation Authority, Tom Dominowski, Purchasing Agent

Bishop International Airport, Flint, Nino Sapone, Deputy Director

Blue Water Area Transit, Dave McElroy, Manager

Capital Area Transportation Authority, Nicole Wilson, Purchasing Manager

Capital Region International Airport, Wayne Sieloff, CEO

Cherry Capital Airport, Traverse City, Kevin Klein, Director

Chippewa County International Airport, Tami Beseau, Manager

City of Saginaw, Saginaw Transit Authority, Joshua Pavlowski, Inventory Technician

Coleman A. Young Municipal Airport, Denise Vaughn, Office Manager

Delta County Airport, TJ Reid, Manager

Detroit Transportation Corporation, Barbara Hansen, General Manager

Dickinson County Ford Airport, Tim Howen, Manager

Flint Mass Transportation Authority, Corwin Matthews, Director

Gerald R. Ford International Airport, Brian Picardat, Vice President and CEO

Grand Rapids, The Interurban Transit Partnership, Judy Devries, Procurement Services Coordinator

Houghton County Memorial Airport, Dennis Hext, Manager

Jackson Transportation Authority, Jeffrey Wickman, Government/Community Manager

Kalamazoo Metro Transit, Sean McBride, Executive Director

Kalamazoo/Battle Creek International Airport, Georgia Bryant, Purchasing Manager

Macatawa Area Express, Elisa Hoekwater, Purchasing Manager

MBS International Airport, Nicole Moses, Human Resources

Muskegon Area Transit System, James Koens, Manager

Muskegon County Airport, Jeffrey Tripp, Manager

Pellston Regional Airport, Kelly Atkins, Manager

Sawyer International Airport, Duane Duray, Manager

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Jody Egelton, Director

Suburban Mobility Authority for Regional Transportation (Smart), Austin Colson,
Manager, DBE/EEO Programs

Twin Cities Area Transportation Authority, Alex Little, Executive Director

Wayne County Airport Authority, Detroit Metropolitan Wayne County Airport, Audrey
Jones, Procurement Director, DBE LO

SIGNATURE PAGE

Lisa S. Thompson 5-1-26

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DATE
LISA THOMPSON, ADMINISTRATOR

Alicia Miller 4/29/2026

DETROIT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DATE
ALICIA MILLER, MANAGER

Victoria Annis Edwards 04/28/2026

WAYNE COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY DATE
VICTORIA EDWARDS, VICE PRESIDENT, PROCUREMENT

NON-CERTIFYING AGENCY COMMITTEE MEMBER

Kesha McKinney 4/29/2026

SUBURBAN MOBILITY AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION DATE
KESHA MCKINNEY, VICE PRESIDENT, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

Attachment C - Exhibit 1-D: Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Special Provisions for Design-Build Projects

In addition to the requirements of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program, the Design-Builder (DB) shall comply with the requirements of this Exhibit 1-D.

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Good Faith Effort Plan	4
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Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Special Provisions for Design-Build Projects

A. DBE Goal and General Information

The DBE goal established for this contract is [Insert %] of the contract price.

The DB must understand and follow the requirements in this contract and applicable regulations including, but not limited to, 49 CFR Part 26.

The DB may establish individual contract goals for each contract, subcontract, and each consultant, subconsultant and supply and service provider agreement in amounts to ensure the overall contract goal is met.

The DBE goal may be attained by means of an approved Contractor Good Faith Efforts form 2653 & 2653D or 0182 with a Michigan Unified Certification Program (MUCP) certified DBE. The amount of goal attainment is dependent on the amount actually paid to DBEs for work performed, per the agreement.

The proposer shall make good faith efforts to include DBE contractors, subcontractors, consultants, subconsultants, suppliers and service providers in the DB team. Furthermore, the proposer shall also make every reasonable effort to subcontract work to DBEs through good faith negotiations and/or solicitations in advance of the date specified for the opening of bids.

In order to fulfill a DBE goal, the firms utilized as DBE subcontractors, consultants, sub-consultants, suppliers, or service providers must be certified as DBEs by the MUCP prior to the award of the contract, or the selection of any new subcontractors, consultants, subconsultants, suppliers or service providers during the project. Requests for approval by the MDOT Office of Business Development (OBD) are required before contracts with DBEs are finalized. The MUCP DBE Directory contains the names and addresses of all firms that are certified to perform the type of work the proposer is intending to subcontract. The MUCP DBE Directory can be accessed at Michigan.gov/MUCP.

Firms certified by other local jurisdictions do not count toward the DBE goal. If there are questions concerning the MUCP certification status of a firm, the MUCP certification process or to obtain a copy of the MUCP DBE Directory, please call the MUCP MDOT OBD at 517-335-1708 or visit the office online at Michigan.gov/MDOTDBE.

To meet federal requirements, all contractors/vendors/quoters should submit MDOT Form 0168A annually to MDOT.

The DB, sub recipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The DB shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the DB 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 MDOT deems appropriate, which may include, but is not limited to:

- a) Withholding monthly progress payments;
- b) Assessing sanctions;
- c) Liquidated damages; and/or
- d) Disqualifying the contractor from future bidding as non-responsible.

B. Submittal of Documentation

All Proposers must provide the overall DBE percentage they have attained at the time of bid within the DBE Goal folder of the Expedite bid file on all projects with a DBE goal designation.

All bidders, regardless of bid status (as checked if available, or as submitted if TBA), must provide DBE Participation Sheets within five calendar days of the bid letting. This information must be submitted using Form 2653 & 2653D and/or Form 0182 via e-mail to MDOT-DBESheets@Michigan.gov.

Submission of the DBE Participation Sheets constitute the proposer's written commitment to use the firms listed therein if they are awarded the contract.

A Good Faith Effort (GFE) Plan must be provided by the proposer that is the determined low bidder if they indicate a DBE commitment below the DBE goal. The GFE Plan must be provided to the MDOT project manager and the MDOT OBD (MDOT-GFE@Michigan.gov) within five calendar days of the determined low bidder being published by MDOT.

A proposer who fails to meet the DBE participation goal or fails to provide a GFE Plan that is acceptable and approved by MDOT will be deemed ineligible for award of the contract.

The determined low bidder's failure to submit the overall DBE percentage with the bid or the determined low bidder's failure to submit the DBE Participation Sheets or a GFE Plan (if required) within five business days may result in the payment of the bid guaranty to the awarding authority if the Bid Appeal Committee denies the appeal as outlined in subsections 102.11 and 102.12 of the Standard Specifications.

The department will consider a bid irregular and may reject it if the determined low bidder does not submit the overall DBE percentage with the bid as specified above, or if the determined low bidder does not submit the DBE Participation Sheets or a GFE Plan within five calendar days of the bid letting.

C. Continuing Good Faith Efforts

The proposer must continue to make good faith efforts to meet the goal throughout the life of the project.

During the term of the contract, the DB shall continue to make good faith efforts to ensure that DBEs have maximum opportunity to successfully perform on the contract, and that the DB meets its DBE goal. These efforts shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a) Negotiating in good faith to obtain DBE participation both prior to and during the life of the project;
- b) Continuing to provide assistance to DBE subcontractors, consultant, subconsultant, suppliers, and service providers in obtaining bonding, insurance, etc., if required by the contract;
- c) Notifying MDOT and a DBE in writing of any potential problem and attempting to resolve the problem prior to formally requesting approval from the MDOT OBD to obtain a substitute DBE or a DBE participation GFE; Ensuring all vendors, including DBEs, are paid promptly for the satisfactory completion of items or

partial items of work associated with the subcontract on a monthly basis, for work satisfactorily completed within the previous 30 calendar days.

- d) Timely quarterly submission of either the Prime Contractor Statement of DBE Subcontractor Payments (MDOT Form 0164) or the Prime Consultant Statement of DBE Subconsultant Payments (MDOT Form 0165), as applicable. Credit shall not be counted toward the DBE goal until each DBE is paid for their work.
- e) Submission by the prime contractor of a GFE Plan to show ongoing efforts made to achieve the DBE participation goal. Updates to the GFE Plan shall be submitted on a quarterly basis to the MDOT project manager and MDOT OBD (MDOT-GFE@Michigan.gov) for review and approval. Additionally, the MDOT OBD shall be notified in a timely manner of any problems which may adversely impact DBE goal attainment.
- f) If the DB or a subcontractor responsible for obtaining DBE participation requests a substitution of a DBE firm, the DB or subcontractor must exert good faith efforts to replace the DBE firm with another DBE.
- g) If the DB seeks to terminate a DBE or substitute the work from a DBE firm to a different DBE or non-DBE firm, the DB must provide written notice (by using MDOT Form 0196) to the DBE firm, the MDOT project manager, and the MDOT OBD of the DB's intent and include the reason for the request. The DBE firm shall be provided with five calendar days to respond to the DB and MDOT and indicate if they object to their termination/substitution. MDOT will either approve or reject the termination and/or substitution of the DBE firm within five days after receiving the DBE firm's response.

D. Good Faith Effort Plan

At a minimum, the GFE Plan must include the following information:

- a) A cover letter describing the efforts to date to identify DBE firms. Include any steps taken by the proposer to engage firms, identify work areas for DBE firms, the reason why the DBE goal has yet to be obtained, and the anticipated level of DBE participation that is anticipated to be obtained through continuous good faith efforts.
- b) DBE Plan: The DBE Plan must include the proposer's plan to obtain DBE participation after the project is awarded. The plan must include the areas of work expected to utilize DBE firms and the anticipated time frames for engaging the DBE firms.
- c) MDOT Form 2653: Provide a completed Form 2653 & 2653D. If areas of the form are not able to be completed, provide a detailed description of why it cannot be

completed.

- d) Provide justification if a DBE subcontractor, consultant, subconsultant, supplier, and service provider's quote is not used.

When reviewing an initial GFE Plan, MDOT may, at its sole discretion, take any of the following actions:

- a) Approve the plan as originally submitted.
- b) Require additional information to be provided prior to approving or rejecting the plan.
- c) Require additional commitments or activities to be made by the DB prior to approving or rejecting the plan.
- d) Approve a GFE to the DBE Goal prior to award of the contract.
- e) Make no changes to the original DBE Goal until after all good faith efforts have been made by the DB.
- f) Reject the plan as originally submitted or as submitted with GFE's.

The GFE Plan must be updated and submitted to the MDOT project manager and the MDOT OBD (MDOT-GFE@Michigan.gov) every three months after contract award. At a minimum, updated plans must:

- a) document the efforts taken during the previous three months to obtain DBE participation;
- b) document the DBE firms brought under contract during the period and the dollar value of their work;
- c) document the total amount of DBE firms under contract to date;
- d) describe future good faith efforts that will be used to meet the DBE goals of the project;
- e) document and any item that should be considered by MDOT regarding the efforts to meet the DBE goals of the project.

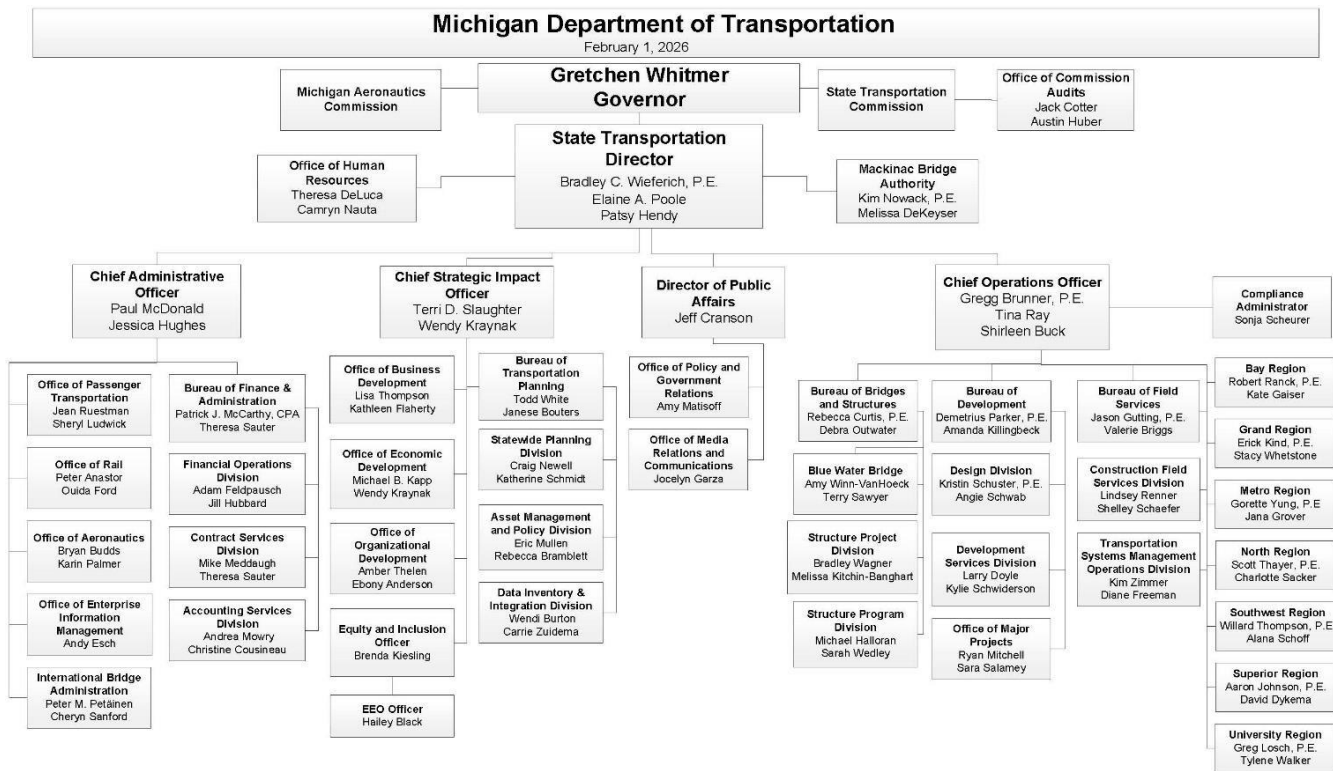
If a determined low bidder is unable to meet the DBE participation goal, additional information will be required relating to their initial GFE Request submittal as specified in subsection 102.18 in accordance with current department DBE Program Procedures.

The contract will not be awarded until a GFE Plan is approved by the department.

E. DBE Contracts

Whenever a DBE is selected as a subcontractor, consultant, subconsultant, supplier, or service provider and the DBE participation has not been previously approved, the DB or his/her designated DBE liaison officer shall provide the MDOT OBD with executed Contractor Good Faith Efforts Forms 2653 & 2653D (construction version) or 0182 (consultant version) and all related forms for approval before the DBE begins work. Failure to ensure that a DBE commitment has been approved by MDOT before the DBE begins work on the project may result in the work being deemed ineligible for credit toward the DBE participation goal.

Attachment D – MDOT Organization chart



If you require assistance accessing this information or require it in an alternative format, contact the Michigan Department of Transportation’s (MDOT) Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinator at [Michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA](https://www.michigan.gov/MDOT-ADA).