



May 18, 2017

TO: WSDOT CONSULTANTS

This is an update on the Washington State Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program waiver request, approved by the United States Department of Transportation.

As we shared with you previously, in order to maintain a legally defensible DBE program, WSDOT conducts disparity studies and uses the results to narrowly tailor its program. The request to remove non-minority white women-owned businesses from the race-conscious portion of the DBE Program was based on the results of a 2012 disparity study.

The 2012 disparity study analyzed contracting data from federal fiscal years 2009 through 2011. Based on the 2012 study results, we made waiver requests to USDOT in March 2014, November 2015 and March 2016. WSDOT received USDOT's waiver approval on Dec. 19, 2016.

In April 2016, WSDOT began a new disparity study in order to continue our DBE Program. The new study reviews contract information from FFY 2012 through 2015. We expect preliminary numbers in early June and a final report later that month.

WSDOT is preparing to implement the waiver, in early June 2017, contingent upon receiving the updated Disparity Study results and implementing a new diversity tracking software system, B2GNow. This will enable us to operate the most legally defensible program possible, with the best tools.

To ensure we are able to properly implement the waiver, WSDOT will be performing outreach and sharing the following information with stakeholders later today.

I will keep you apprised as we have more information.

Roger Millar, PE, AICP
Secretary of Transportation
Washington State Department of Transportation
310 Maple Park Ave SE
PO Box 47316
Olympia, WA 98504-7316

Learn about WSDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program Waiver

Series of information meetings to be held May 22 – 26

The Washington State Department of Transportation is preparing to implement a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise ([DBE](#)) Program waiver in early June 2017. This will be contingent upon receiving the updated Disparity Study results and implementing a new diversity tracking software system, B2GNow. This waiver requires the removal of non-minority women-owned DBEs from race-conscious credit toward meeting DBE condition of award or contract goals.

This waiver, submitted March 28, 2014, was requested by WSDOT based on a Disparity Study conducted by BBC Research & Consulting. This study demonstrated no disparity for non-minority women owned DBEs on Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) funded projects during federal fiscal year 2009 through 2011.

To learn more about the DBE Program waiver and how it may affect contracts let in June 2017, training has been scheduled as follows:

Seattle – Monday, May 22, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

South Seattle Community College Georgetown Campus, C110-C111
6737 Corson Ave S, Seattle

Vancouver – Tuesday, May 23, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

WSDOT Vancouver Headquarters – CR124
11018 NE 51st Circle, Vancouver

Spokane – Wednesday, May 24, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

WSDOT Eastern Region Headquarters
2714 North Mayfair Street, Spokane

Yakima – Thursday, May 25, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

WSDOT Maintenance Facility
2809 Rudkin Rd, Union Gap

Webinar – Friday, May 26, 2:30 to 4 p.m.

To register for one of these events, please contact Julius Brooks, WSDOT Office of Equal Opportunity, Outreach and Event Coordinator, at Brooksj@wsdot.wa.gov or 360.522.0847.

For more information, please contact Jackie Bayne, WSDOT OEO Policy & Reporting Manager BayneJ@wsdot.wa.gov or 360.705.7084.