

Meeting date: February 26, 2007

ADVISORY INFORMATION	
Date:	February 6, 2007
Subject:	Central Corridor Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Strategic Plan
District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Code of Federal Regulation Chapter 49 part 26
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Brian J. Lamb, General Manager 612-349-7510 Mark Fuhrmann, Deputy General Manager 612-349-7513 Wanda Kirkpatrick, Director Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity 651-602-1085
Division/Department:	Office of Diversity & Equal Opportunity/ Regional Administration

Proposed Action/Motion

That the Metropolitan Council approves the Central Corridor Light Rail Transit (LRT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Strategic Plan.

Issue(s)

The building of the Central Corridor LRT project provides opportunities for woman-owned, minority-owned and other small disadvantaged contractors, consultants and vendors to participate in the largest public works project in Minnesota.

The purpose of the Central Corridor LRT DBE Strategic Plan (attached) is to guide the Metropolitan Council and Central Corridor Project Office staff in making procurement decisions. The Central Corridor LRT DBE Strategic Plan will provide direction to all involved in the Central Corridor LRT Project as the Council makes decisions, sets priorities, commits resources and measures progress.

In 2001, the Metropolitan Council developed its current DBE policy to utilize businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the procurement of goods and services, and the award of contracts, in accordance with 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 26 and as approved by the Federal Transit Administration. The US Department of Transportation (USDOT) requires funding recipients who anticipate awarding \$250,000 or more in prime contracts in a federal fiscal year to publish a proposed overall goal and submit the goal to the appropriate USDOT Operating Administration. For large projects a recipient can submit an individual project DBE goal. The Council will submit project specific DBE goals for the Central Corridor LRT Project to the FTA.

Overview and Funding

The Council recognizes its roles as public policy makers in enacting policies that serves to eliminate the effects of illegal discrimination. The Council's previously approved policies state its commitment to the prohibition of discrimination in employment and the provision of public services, including:

- The Metropolitan Council will utilize business owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the procurement of goods and services, and the award of contracts.

- The Council will, in accordance with authority granted by federal regulations, state statute, and local laws and ordinances, act affirmatively to create a "level playing field" for woman-owned, minority-owned and other small disadvantaged business enterprises to achieve the goal of equal opportunity.
- Whenever subcontracting is possible on a USDOT-assisted procurement over \$50,000, the Council will set numerical goals no less than the Council's approved overall Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program goal of 17%. On USDOT-assisted procurements less than \$50,000, the Council will require good faith efforts in the soliciting of bids or proposals from DBE firms.

This policy conveys the Council's commitment to create and support programs that result in the inclusion of women-owned, minority-owned and other small disadvantaged businesses in all its procurement and contracting activities.

The vision and mission of the Central Corridor LRT DBE goal achievement will be accomplished through aggressive implementation of this DBE Strategic Plan and the commitment of the Metropolitan Council, the Central Corridor Project Office and all employees and contractors. The Central Corridor LRT DBE Strategic Plan identifies the Council's vision and mission to ensure non-discrimination in the award and administration of any and all contracts related to the Central Corridor LRT project. It also describes the organizational structure and assigns responsibilities for maintaining and implementing the DBE Strategic Plan. The DBE Liaison Officer and DBE Liaison Specialists will work with the Central Corridor Project Office, the DBE Advisory Committee, the Central Corridor Business Advisory Council and the DBE Internal Working Group on implementing the four goals of the plan:

- Non-discrimination
- Public participation
- Removal of barriers
- Technical assistance