

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM POLICY STATEMENT

The Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with the regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) 49 CFR Part 26. MARTA has received federal financial assistance from the USDOT and as a condition of receiving this assistance, MARTA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy and commitment of MARTA that disadvantaged businesses, as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, shall have a level playing field to participate in the performance of contracts financed, in whole or in part, with federal funds. It is also the policy of MARTA to:

- Ensure non-discrimination in the award and administration of USDOT assisted contracts;
- Create a level playing field on which DBE firms can compete fairly for USDOT-assisted contracts;
- Ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBE firms;
- Assist in the removal of barriers to the participation of DBE firms in USDOT-assisted contracts; and
- Assist in the development of firms to enhance the ability to compete successfully in the marketplace outside of the DBE Program.

Further, MARTA is committed to providing small, minority, women, and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses with access to training, technical assistance and business development activities to overcome prior discrimination. This is intended to expand the DBE business intelligence, knowledge of prevalent industry practices, as well as its capability to access capital.

In compliance with Title 49 CFR section 26.39, an amendment to 49 CFR Part 26, Subpart B, MARTA amends its current DBE program to create a **Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program** in which:

- MARTA creates a race-neutral SBE Program for MARTA federally-aided projects. Such a program is intended to foster small business participation and competition by small business concerns;
- The SBE Program will not require SBE goal setting on MARTA federally-aided projects, however, a certified SBE will be encouraged to participate and certified SBE participation will be tracked, monitored, and reported; and
- The SBE Certification Application form will be utilized by MARTA to document eligibility of small businesses under the SBE Program.

MARTA will advise each contractor, through contract specifications, that failure to carry out these requirements shall constitute a breach of contract and may result in termination of the contract or any such remedy that MARTA deems appropriate. MARTA will require all employees and agents to adhere to the provisions of 49 CFR Part 26.

As General Manager/CEO of MARTA, I have committed the support and resources needed to make this program a success for small, minority, women, and socio-economically disadvantaged businesses. It has the unwavering support of the Authority's Board of Directors, management staff, and employees in general.



 Keith T. Parker, AICP
 General Manager/CEO

4-21-15

 Date