

Information Item

Transportation Committee



Meeting Date: September 11, 2023

Topic

Proposed Metropolitan Council Triennial FTA DBE goal for FFYs 2024-2026

District(s), Member(s):	All
Policy/Legal Reference:	Unites States Department of Transportation Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (49 CFR 26; 26.45)
Staff Prepared/Presented:	Ashanti Payne, Assistant Director, 612-349-7660
Division/Department:	RA / Office of Equity and Equal Opportunity

Background

Triennial FTA DBE Program goal: The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) requires that agencies like the Council administer a DBE program on projects receiving federal funding. The DBE regulations describe many requirements the Council must satisfy to remain eligible for future USDOT funding. One requirement is that the Council engage in an analysis of future transportation spending to set a DBE inclusion goal that will remain in effect for three years. This program goal helps the Council set subcontracting inclusion goals on specific transportation projects that receive USDOT funding.

The Council is proposing a **13.4%** FTA DBE program goal for FFYs 2024-2026. Council approval of the goal is required by the FTA.

In establishing an FTA Triennial DBE program goal, the Council must inform, consult, and engage with the public and provide an opportunity for comment. The Council's 30-day public comment period is from August 28th to September 28th. A virtual public comment meeting will be held via TEAMS on September 14th from 2-4pm. In addition, the proposed goal will be an agenda item on the Equity Advisory Committee agenda for September 19th. OEEO staff along with Dr. Samuel Myers and his consultant team from the U of M will be presenting at both meetings.

Goal Setting Methodology

As a recipient of federal transportation dollars awarded through the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Transit Administration (FTA), the Metropolitan Council is required to establish and submit a three-year goal for contracting with Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs). For our FFYs 2024- 2026 triennial DBE goal, Metropolitan Council will establish the availability rates of DBEs in the relevant geographic market area. From the availability analysis, we will first derive and then adjust a base goal, using evidence on disparities in contract award amounts that cannot be explained by economically relevant factors. Finally, we will estimate the maximum share of the DBE goal that should be attained through race neutral means.