



Southwest LRT DBE and Workforce Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 21, 2021

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

[\[Handouts\]](#) [\[Presentation\]](#)

1. **ATTENDEES** – Ronald Brandenburg, Jon Tao, Mahad Omar, Ashanti Payne, Greg Ricci, Chris Gannon, Sam O’Connell, Julie Brekke, Barry Davies, Brian Leitch, Christa Seaberg, Dale Evan, Elaine Valadez, Emma Corrie, Gilbert Odonkor, Katy Maus, Aaron Koski, Leslie Woyee, Sheila Olsen, Tony O’Bren, Alex Merritt, Barb Lau, Brian Runzel, Salima Khakoo, Mel Reeves
2. **BUILDING STRONG COMMUNITIES UPDATE By Aaron Koski (slides 3-4)**
 - a. Barry shares the October update for BSC apprenticeship placements to date. They currently have: 2 carpenters, 1 cement Mason, 1 Iron Worker, 1 I.U.P.A.T., 6 Laborers, 3 Operating Engineers, 1 Plumber, and 1 Sheet Metal Worker. 44% of participants are women, 56% of total participants are POCI.
 - b. Aaron mentions that the BSC Model and program is now going statewide.
 - c. Barry mentions the success of cohorts in Rochester and Duluth and their excitement to get the 2022 cohort going.
3. **SWLRT PROJECT UPDATE By Sam O’Connell (Slides 5-8)**
 - a. Sam shares feedback from the Community Outreach Fall tour.
 - b. Sam also provides some information regarding statewide impacts with 65 of the 87 counties bringing in \$53,170,758 from workers’ paychecks. Sam shares the top ten zip codes which are bringing in the most money.
 - c. Sam shares that 81% of the workforce resides in Minnesota.
4. **DBE ACHEIVEMNT REPORTING**
 - a. **DBE Progress Reports by Jon Tao (Slides 10-12)**
 - i. Jon shares the DBE achievement as of August 31, 2021. Total DBE% to date across all contracts are at 19.6% out of the 15% goal. Progress is good according to Jon regarding DBE achievement progress.
 - ii. Jon shares information on Hydro-Vac and that their billed amounts have not been included in this month’s progress report.
 - iii. Jon shares information on the Cost and Schedule Impacts to DBEs.
 - iv. Question: Gilbert asks if Jon shared the results of the surveys regarding what areas the DBE were being impacted?
 1. Jon replies that it was not shared. Some firms did reach out and shared their concern over steel price escalation.
 2. Ashanti adds that all situations are not the same, and in general, some of the DBEs were concerned about getting into long, drawn-out fights with contractors/Council. Other concerns were about the process and what the correct process is so that their concerns may be addressed.

- v. Question: Gilbert asks if they have reported to the DBEs to follow up on this issue?
 - 1. Ashanti responds that they will make sure to keep in contact with DBEs to ensure successful participation.

b. Civil: LMJV DBE Activities by Christa Seaberg (Slides 13-16)

- i. Christa shares LMJV's list of DBE participation for the month of November.
- ii. Christa shares that the list has gotten a bit smaller because certain areas are finishing up their part of the project
- iii. Christa shares their DBE Highlight of the Month, which was Stonebrook Fence, Inc. They are providing temporary and permanent fence.
- iv. Christa shares LMJV's update on change orders, which was approved at \$158,558,454 and DBE job-to-date participation is at 21.80%.

c. Systems: APJV DBE Activities by Chris Gannon (Slides 17-20)

- i. Chris shares they have added a new DBE to the project, Air Fresh, which will provide temporary sanitary services.
- ii. Chris shares APJV's one month look ahead, which includes Southwest Station using Gunnar Communication Work, and TPSS Foundations using other DBE firms.
- iii. Chris shares APJV's update on change orders, which are approved thru 8/1 at \$10,752,786 and DBE job-to-date participation is at 15.6%.

d. Franklin O&M: LS Black DBE Activities by Brian Leitch (Slides 21-23)

- i. Brian Leitch shares that LS Blacks update on change orders, which are approved thru 9/30 at \$39,738,744 and DBE job-to-date participation is at 19%
- ii. Brian Leitch shares update on DBE activity. This includes firms such as GoFetsch mechanical, Nakasone Painting, Always Stone & Tile, Am-Tec Designs, Wissota Supply Co, and Dzeidzic Caulking

5. WORKFORCE PARTICIPATION REPORTING

e. Workforce Participation Reports by Elaine Valadez and Brianne Lucio (Slides 24-30)

- i. Elaine shares the Civil workforce participation percentages. They are sitting at 101,616 hours for the month of August, with 1,550,946 total hours. To date, women are at 8.33% and POCI are at 22.7%.
- ii. Elaine shares the breakdown of workforce participation hours by ethnicity for Civil.
- iii. Elaine shares the Civil Workforce Participation Cumulative for women, which is 9,143 hours and a cumulative percentage of 9%.
- iv. Elaine shares the cumulative participation of POCI, which is 27,002 hours, and a cumulative percentage of 26%.
- v. Elaine shares the Civil workforce trucking participation hours. MBE is at 24,942 hours, ZTS is at 4,164 hours, and Rock-On Trucks is at 733 hours.

- vi. Elaine shares the systems workforce participation percentage. They are sitting at 242 hours for the month of August, with a total of 877 hours. To date, they are at 14.60% for women, and 31.93% for POCl.
 - vii. Elaine shares the Franklin &M Workforce participation percentage. They are sitting at 6,820 hours for the month of August, with 93,579 total hours. To date, women are at 8.70%. and POCl are at 23.41%
 - viii. Elaine shares the breakdown of workforce participation by ethnicity for Franklin O&M
 - ix. Elaine shares the cumulative participation for Franklin O&M
- f. Civil: LMJV Workforce Activities by Christa Seaberg (Slides 31-34)**
- i. Christa shares LMJV's workforce activities for the month of September. This includes monthly SWLRT meetings, continual update meetings with LMJV representatives & Lunda field operations on upcoming hiring needs, and much more.
 - ii. LMJV has upcoming stand out workforce activities for the month of October and November. This includes outreach planning meeting with Civil, Systems and Facilities, monthly LMJV Workforce/ Hiring review, continuation of workforce education meetings with SWLRT and Dunwoody, and a monthly review meeting with representatives of BSC.
 - iii. Christa shares LMJV's new hires/transfers for the month of September. They have 0 new hires, and 27 new transfers (18 white males, 1 white female, and 8 POCl males). 6 are apprentices, 14 are journeymen, and 7 are foremen.
 - iv. Question: Jon asks if there are any plans for outreach for the next construction season.
 - 1. Christa says that is part of the workforce plan that they are putting together now and there will be outreach events coming up.
- g. Systems: APJV Workforce Activities by Mike Toney (Slides 35-38)**
- i. Mike shares System's contract workforce activities. This includes the following to meet their workforce goal: APJV limited scopes available for craft labor through the remainder of 2021, conducted outreach and training event at Summit Academy on October 16th, and also conducted two condensed 2.5 hour field training courses that all AE employees go through.
 - ii. Mike shares APJV hopes to conduct same training in upcoming cohorts and expand to various pre-apprenticeship programs.
 - iii. Mike shows some pictures from the Summit Academy training.
- h. Franklin O&M: LS Black Workforce Activities by Brian Leitch (Slides 39-40)**
- i. Brian Lietch shares Franklin's contract workforce activities. This includes monthly GFE meetings with MDHR, reminder emails to trade partner teams about participation and plans to increase workforce as necessary, attending outreach opportunities with CBOs with subcontractor team participation, and

communication with key trade partners about involving as much workforce as possible as they near the completion of the project.

- ii. Brian Leitch shares information on a corporate social-responsibility program that just started, as well as a linked-in learning platform.

6. Advisory Committee Survey Results by Jon Tao (Slides 41-46)

- a. Jon shares the results of the Advisory Committee Survey. Jon shares that the survey received 9 responses of the 15 member committee.
- b. Jon shares some feedback regarding what workforce changes were needed from some of the survey respondents.
- c. Jon shares feedback to the question: What discussions/ topics should the committee focus on?
- d. Question: Alex asks if they can have monthly meetings for just one hour?
 - i. Salima says they can consider that and decide on it if that is what the committee wants.

7. Proposal/ Motion: Proposed action by Salima Khakoo that the Workforce and DBE Advisory Committee attend meetings every 2 months starting in November and sending out reports monthly on the meeting day.

- a. Roll Call Votes:
 - i. Barb Lau, Barry Davies, Emma Corrie, Alex Merritt, Leslie Woyee, Tony O'Brien, Gilbert Odonkor for bimonthly meeting, monthly reporting
 - ii. Sheila Olsen, Julie Brekke, Mel Reeves for monthly shorter meetings and monthly reporting
- b. Motion passes with the majority in favor of meeting every 2 months and receiving reports monthly on regular meeting day.

8. MN DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY APPRENTICESHIP DATA by Jessica Grosz (Slides 49-62)

- a. Jessica walks through the slides and shares the apprenticeship data.
- b. Question: Is there a lower graduation rate for people of color because they are not given enough hours to complete it and it takes longer?
 - i. Jessica says that she pulls anecdotal evidence, but she will go back to the department to see if they can pull that date.
- c. Comment: Barb says that a lot of women have left all jobs during the pandemic due to day care and that it has pulled woman back 10 years on their entry into the workforce.

9. PUBLIC INVITATION (Slides 63-64)

- a. Invitation to interested people to address the advisory committee – please pre-register for virtual meetings. Each speaker is limited to a three-minute presentation. To pre-register, email public.info@metc.state.mn.us in advance of the meeting.
- b. No one requested to make public comments for this meeting.

10. ADJOURN

- a. Ashanti adjourns the meeting at 4:03 PM



Next Scheduled Meeting: November 18, 2021 from 2:00 - 4:00 pm