

MPO-05-10

PUBLIC NOTICE

**DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) GOAL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005/2006**

It is the policy of the Hernando County Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) to provide Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) the opportunity to participate in contracts for The Hernando Express Bus (THE Bus) that are financed in whole or part with funds from the Federal Transit Administration. For this reason the MPO has established a Fiscal Year 2005/2006 Goal of 4% for the DBE Program. A description of the goal and the process for establishing the goal are available for review during regular business hours by contacting Steve Diez, Transportation Planner, in the Hernando County Metropolitan Planning Organization, 20 North Main Street, Brooksville, Florida 34601, or by calling (352) 754-4057. The DBE goal and rationale are also posted on THE Bus website at: www.hernandobus.com. The address for the Federal Transit Administration, Office of Civil Rights is: 100 Alabama Street SW, Suite 17150, Atlanta, Georgia 30303. The DBE goal and the rationale for its adoption will be available for inspection for 45 days following the date of this notice.

Signed

Steve Diez
Transportation Planner

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2005/2006 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Goal

DETERMINING, MEETING AND COUNTING OVERALL ANNUAL DBE GOAL FOR FEDERALLY ASSISTED CONTRACTS

METHODOLOGY

The DBE annual overall goal is determined through the two-step system as follows:

Step One, Base Figure

As a recipient of federal funding from FTA, the MPO is required to establish annual and project-specific goals for public transportation-related contracting with DBEs. In effect, the annual goal becomes a performance standard of measuring progress toward achieving the anticipated level of DBE participation, and a partial means of assessing compliance with FTA's DBE regulations.

The Hernando County MPO declares its Fiscal Year 2005/06 goal of four (4 %) percent for the DBE program. To determine the base figure, a bidders list was used. From the bidders list the MPO determined there were 13 ready, willing and able DBEs available from 281 businesses offering the same type of service/product available for the market. Therefore, the MPO has determined the base figure to be 4 % percent.

Step Two, Adjustments

The Hernando County MPO has lowered its DBE program goal from the previous year for the following reasons:

- 1) Based on past history, a lowering of the program goal is a more accurate assessment of DBE activity for Hernando County;
- 2) We have recently discovered that the DBE list we had used in the past was not a valid list (companies were not fully certified).
- 3) The long-awaited Unified Certification Program (UCP) has not yet been implemented, and smaller agencies such as Trans-Hernando do not have the ability to conduct DBE certifications.
- 4) In the interim, we are using the DBE list from the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority, and there are a limited number of companies that supply services that we would use.

The following methodology will be used by the MPO to adjust the base figure. The adjustment will be based upon projected contracting and leasing opportunities, availability of eligible DBEs, and past contracting and leasing results. The process will, at a minimum, include an assessment of the following:

- a) The number, type and dollar value of contracting opportunities expected to be financed or made available with FTA assistance and identified by line item from the MPO's, BCC's and

Trans-Hernando's annual budget, which is approved by the Hernando County Board of County Commissioner's for the fiscal year beginning October 1;

- b) The number of DBEs available, based on the type or opportunity, to compete for such contracts and leases (known and projected);
- c) Past results in efforts to contract and/or lease with DBEs during the previous year in the specified contract/lease area, and the reasons for the high or low level of those results;
- d) Outreach activities to increase DBE participation;
- e) A review of other local government DBE listings or directories;
- f) A review of the percentage of minority and female population in the public transportation service area;
- g) Input from the local community, business associations, and other appropriate organizations or individuals.

Due to the limited market for minorities in the Hernando County area, it is anticipated that race-neutral efforts will be more consistent than race-conscious efforts. The MPO and Trans-Hernando estimate that in meeting the overall goal of percent, they will obtain percent from race-neutral participation and percent through race-conscious measures. The following is a summary of the basis of our estimated breakout of race-neutral and race-conscious DBE participation:

While Hernando County has not identified any specific future contracts, the probability of race-neutral efforts are increased due to the strict scrutiny and efforts used to establish a level playing field for the facilitation of DBEs. The MPO, BCC and Trans-Hernando will provide assistance in overcoming limitations to DBEs whenever possible. They will provide necessary technical assistance to make bidding information accessible; and although cost remains a primary factor in making purchase decisions, the Hernando County Planning Department will work together with Trans-Hernando to ensure that a DBE is provided weight in consideration for selection when there is relatively close competition in a product/service bid.

The MPO holds the position of attempting to support local business owners whenever it is practical and economical. With this philosophy in mind, the percentage breakdown supports a more accurate reflection of the disadvantaged business community in the local area. This factor lends itself to a higher race-neutral participation. While Hernando County supports the local business community, which tends to be smaller, private businesses, the wider availability of DBEs in the metropolitan areas of Pinellas and Hillsborough Counties provides additional regional suppliers of products and services and increases the DBE purchasing opportunities.

The Hernando MPO shall place public notices in the Hernando Today edition of the Tampa Tribune, the Hernando Times Section of the St. Petersburg Times, and the APTA Passenger Transport outlining Hernando County's proposed DBE goal for the fiscal year. In addition, the

notice will contain the addresses of FTA and Trans-Hernando. These addresses currently are as follows:

Federal Transit Administration
Office of Civil Rights
100 Alabama Street, SW 34601
Suite 17150
Atlanta, GA 30303

Trans-Hernando
1122 Ponce de Leon Blvd.
Brooksville, FL 34601

The MPO will publish its goals for Fiscal Year 2005/06 on June 10, 2005. Public comment will be accepted up to forty-five (45) days following the date of this publication. Comments are for informational purposes only.

The annual DBE goal shall be submitted to FTA for approval prior to the beginning of the fiscal year on October 1, or as soon as possible following October 1. The submission of a project-specific goal is required at the time the grant application is submitted to FTA. All submissions will be sent along with supporting documentation on the methodology and analysis employed.