



# DBE CONTRACTING UPDATE

News for Disadvantaged Business Enterprise firms and stakeholders  
January 2007

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## Partnering for Employment Workshop offers twice the opportunity in 2007

The new year will provide double the opportunities for Wisconsin highway contractors and workers to make a beneficial connection. The annual 2007 Partnering for Employment in Highway Construction Workshop will now feature two events this year, allowing more participation from around the state.

WisDOT and the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association cooperate to sponsor the Partnering for Employment Workshops that are promoted as “by partners, for partners.” The workshops will examine labor recruitment and retention strategies for contractors, with a focus on equal employment opportunity and civil rights. Each one-day workshop will include presentations from WisDOT, FHWA and private contractors, with opportunity for discussion among all participants.

- The first event will be held on Thursday, February 22 at the College of Menominee Nation in Keshena. This workshop will help facilitate contacts between Native American tribal representatives and contractors in northeast Wisconsin. This event is also strategically located to help bring awareness to the labor needs for the upcoming US 41 expansion projects in Winnebago and Brown counties.
- The second workshop will take place on Thursday, March 8 at the Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. One focus for this event will be the ongoing reconstruction of the southeast Wisconsin freeway system. WisDOT is planning to begin reconstruction of the I-94 North-South Corridor in 2009, and the initial engineering and environmental study of the Zoo Interchange is slated to begin later this year.

Both events will also serve to address workforce issues for the entire statewide highway improvement program in Wisconsin, even beyond the regional projects.

### **Speed networking to link employers with trained job seekers**

This year’s events will also feature “speed networking” sessions to help connect contractors with recent graduates from the Transportation Alliance for New Solutions (TrANS) worker training program. The TrANS program offers a comprehensive, hands-on training program to introduce workers to the highway construction industry and provide essential skills for jobs. WisDOT has worked in partnership with agencies in Milwaukee, Madison, Keshena, Mole Lake and Rock County to offer TrANS programs.

The speed networking session will link contractors and recent TrANS graduates in short, one-on-one meetings at tabletop settings. Both employers and potential employees can use this opportunity to discuss potential openings and lay the groundwork for future in-depth contact.

Any contractors currently registered in the Civil Rights Compliance System should receive information and registration materials for the workshops via e-mail in mid-January. If you have not received materials or need additional information, contact Liz Johnson of WisDOT at (608) 261-0131 or [liz.johnson@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:liz.johnson@dot.state.wi.us).



*A contractor representative talks with a prospective worker at a speed networking event held last year for the Marquette Interchange Project*

## DBE issues on slate for Contractor Engineer Conference

DBE issues are on the agenda at this month's Contractor Engineer Conference co-sponsored by WisDOT and the Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association. The event is just around the corner, set for January 16 & 17 at the Marriott Madison West Hotel in Middleton.

WisDOT staff will present at three sessions focusing on DBE issues:

- Paul Trombino, Statewide Bureaus Operations Manager, will discuss changes to the Additional Special Provision (ASP) 3 requirements at a general session.\* ASP 3 deals specifically with DBE development and participation on projects.
- Michele Carter, Equal Opportunity Program Manager, will review processes and issues regarding good faith waivers for DBE goals on highway projects.
- Kitty Reed, Tess Mulrooney and Vencint Thomas of the Bureau of Equity and Environmental Services will present an update on the activities of the Trucking Task Force and will discuss other topics relevant to the trucking industry during a breakout session on Tuesday. They will also discuss the new ASP 7 requirements stating that all payments to 1st tier subcontractors and DBE firms be entered in WisDOT's Civil Rights Compliance System (CRCS)\*. This presentation will give information on how to navigate CRCS and enter required data.

Contractors, consultants and other non-WisDOT staff may contact WTBA at (608) 256-6891 or by e-mail at [info@wtba.org](mailto:info@wtba.org) to get more information or to register for the conference.

\* For more information on all Additional Special Provisions for WisDOT highway contracts, go on-line at <http://roadwaystandards.dot.wi.gov/standards/fdmlindex.htm>. The site requires free registration.

## Conference to address state government business opportunities

The Business Opportunities in the Government Sector (BOGS) conference will hold its 2007 event on April 19 at the Monona Terrace Convention Center in Madison.

Hundreds of participants have attended past BOGS conferences to learn strategies and processes for obtaining work through Wisconsin state government. The event will highlight state construction opportunities and procedures, methods for doing business with the state, updates on minority business enterprise and DBE initiatives and networking opportunities between prime and sub-contractors.

The BOGS conference is hosted by the Wisconsin Department of Administration (DOA). WisDOT is a partner for the event, along with the Madison Area Technical College, the US Small Business Administration, the UW Extension and the Wisconsin Department of Commerce.

Conference information is on-line at <http://matcmadison.edu/bpac/bogsl/>, or call Godwin Amegashie of DOA at (608) 267-7806.

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

*Newsletter content & issues:*  
Daniel Yeh  
WisDOT Office of Policy, Budget & Finance  
PO Box 7910  
Madison, WI 53707-7910  
(608) 266-2753  
[daniel.yeh@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:daniel.yeh@dot.state.wi.us)

*WisDOT DBE Support Services:*  
Michele Carter-Rutledge  
WisDOT DBE Support Services Office  
6150 W Fond du Lac Avenue  
Milwaukee, WI 53218  
(414) 438-4583  
[michele.carter@dot.state.wi.us](mailto:michele.carter@dot.state.wi.us)

*On the Web:*  
[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/newsletters.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/news/newsletters.htm)

## North Leg progress reviewed as contract nears completion

In late December, Marquette Interchange work crews opened the new ramp from Highland Avenue to northbound I-43, marking the completion of major construction activity for the North Leg. Work on the \$103 million contract is more than 95% complete, and WisDOT expects to close the books on the contract in 2007.

Walsh Construction Company was the prime contractor on what for a few months was the largest highway contract ever let in Wisconsin (only to be replaced by the Marquette Core). The North Leg work focused on I-43 from Wells Street to North Avenue. The work included rebuilding five bridges over I-43 (Wells Street, State Street, Highland Avenue, Winnebago/Vliet Streets, and Walnut Street), the new Fond du Lac Avenue under I-43 and sections of 11th and 12th Streets adjacent to the freeway.

The North Leg contract originally estimated a 24% share for DBE subcontractors. Through November 30 (at 95% completion), the actual DBE payment share was around 25.8%. In all, 31 DBE firms were involved on the North Leg construction, including several businesses that were brought on board after the initial bid letting. Two more DBE consultants were part of the construction administration team for the North Leg.

### **No new closures or openings set for 2007**

Work continues on the Marquette Interchange Core and South Leg, as well as on other smaller components of the project. However, no new long-term closures are scheduled for the remainder of the Marquette Interchange Project. Overnight and short-term closures will continue to be scheduled as needed.

The Highland Avenue ramp opening was also the final opening on the project until the scheduled return of the James Lovell/St. Paul Avenue exit from eastbound I-794 in the spring of 2008. All other ramps and lanes are currently scheduled to reopen in November 2008.

For up-to-date information on all Marquette Interchange closures and traffic data, go on-line at [www.mchange.org](http://www.mchange.org).

### MARQUETTE INTERCHANGE PROJECT Stats at a glance

Contracted dollars  
Total - \$609.0 million  
DBE - \$115.1 million  
DBE share - 18.9%

Dollars expended  
Total - \$422.1 million  
DBE - \$78.4 million  
DBE share - 18.6%

Labor hours worked  
Total - 1,509,086 hours  
Minority - 339,329 hours  
Minority share - 22.5%  
Women - 48,974  
Women share - 3.3%

#### Notes:

- All data current through November 30, 2006
- Data for contracted and expended dollars includes design consultant, construction and construction administration activities.
- Labor hours worked is for construction only.



Work on the North Leg portion of the Marquette Interchange Project is virtually complete. The North Leg achieved a 25.8% DBE share through November 30, 2006.

## DBE CONTRACTING UPDATE

### Upcoming events

#### February 22, 2007

Partnering for Employment Workshop  
College of Menominee Nation, Keshena  
Contact WisDOT at (608) 261-0131

#### March 8, 2007

Partnering for Employment Workshop  
Country Springs Hotel, Waukesha  
Contact WisDOT at (608) 261-0131

#### April 19, 2007

Business Opportunities in Government  
Monona Terrace Convention Center, Madison  
<http://matcmadison.edu/bpac/bogs/>

### Useful WisDOT Web links

Highway Construction Contract Information  
[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/bid-letting-information.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/bid-letting-information.htm).

I-94 NS Corridor and Zoo Interchange studies  
[www.seffreeways.org](http://www.seffreeways.org)

Marquette Interchange Project  
[www.mchange.org](http://www.mchange.org)



US 41, Winnebago County  
[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/us41expansion/index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/us41expansion/index.htm)

US 41, Brown County  
[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/us41expansion/brown-index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/us41expansion/brown-index.htm)

WisDOT DBE program  
[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/dbe-main.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/dbe-main.htm)

WisDOT MBE program  
[www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/mbel/index.htm](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/mbel/index.htm)

DBE Contracting Update newsletter  
WisDOT Office of Policy, Budget & Finance  
PO Box 7910  
Madison, WI 53707-7910