

Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

POLICY STATEMENT

Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement

The Lake~Sumter Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The MPO has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the MPO has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the MPO to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program.

The Lake~Sumter MPO has designated Michael Woods as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, Michael Woods is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the MPO in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The MPO has disseminated this policy statement to the MPO Governing Board and all of the components of our organization. We have distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts. Printed copies of this policy were distributed at the May 2008 MPO governing Board Public meeting, electronic copies of this document are available on our website www.LakeSumterMPO.com



Welton Cadwell, Chairman

May 28, 2008
Date