



Opportunities...

for DBE certified firms to obtain work with ODOT's, Office of Real Estate.

The Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) is responsible for maintaining and improving the state's transportation system and spends more than two billion dollars each year in goods, services and capital improvements. The department strives for inclusion in its procurement and contracting processes by opening the doors of opportunity for more Ohioans to reflect the great diversity of our state.

ODOT's Office of Real Estate

ODOT's Office of Real Estate acquires property necessary for the construction, improvement, service, and maintenance of both new and existing highways. This process is accomplished by ODOT employees and is supplemented by private sector Right of Way (RW) acquisition professionals serving on an as needed basis.

Occasionally, to meet workload demands, work is outsourced to firms or individuals prequalified to perform any or all of the following RW disciplines: Project Management, Titles, Value Analysis, Appraisals, Appraisal Reviews, Relocation, Relocation Reviews, Negotiations, and Closings.

ODOT's Office of Real Estate desires to ensure that firms owned and controlled by minorities, women, and other socially and economically disadvantaged persons have the opportunity to grow and become self-sufficient in order to create a level playing field on which they can compete fairly for contracts and subcontracts in the transportation industry. Toward this initiative, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program goals will be contained in upcoming postings for RW work at ODOT.

Office of Real Estate contact: (614) 466-7490.

PreQualification:

Consultant Prequalification Requirements and Procedures for RW disciplines can be found starting on page 56 of the site shown below. Questions on this process should be referred to the individual identified on page 6.

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/ProdMgt/Consultant/Consultant/Prequal.doc>

Who can be a DBE?

A Disadvantaged Business Enterprise is defined by the Small Business Administration as:

- A firm that is at least 51 percent owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals.
- The participating firm's gross receipts may not exceed \$20.4 million a year, averaged over three years, for heavy highway construction companies and 4.5 million a year, averaged over three years, for consulting engineering firms.
- An economically disadvantaged person is someone whose personal net worth is no more than \$750,000, not including the person's ownership in the company or the value of the primary personal residence.
- The DBE Program is federally governed and administered by ODOT, the recipient of federal highway funds. DBE goals are set on federally funded construction projects.

- Bond readiness preparation
- Web site development
- Marketing and business plan assistance
- Project estimating
- Accounting
- Tuition Reimbursement

Who at ODOT can help? DBE certification specialists can be contacted at:

ODOT

Office of Contracts, DBE Section
1980 W. Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43223

They may also be reached Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at: (614) 466-3778, or call 1-800-459-3778, or log onto ODOT's DBE website: www.OhioUCP.org

How to Find Business Opportunities:

Office of Real Estate's requests for consultant services are shown at the below link. Anticipate postings in April, August and December of 2008.

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/ProdMgt/Consultant/>

Projects may include a DBE goal and prime contractors will subcontract to certified DBE firms to meet contract goals.

Information on opportunities can be seen on ODOT's website: <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/Divisions/ContractAdmin/Contracts/Pages/DBE.aspx>

How Do I keep my DBE Certification?

Your DBE certification is valid for three years. Each year, you must file an affidavit providing updated information on ownership, management, equipment, staffing, company size and personal net worth to remain certified.



Benefits of Being a DBE: As a certified DBE, your firm may be eligible for the following free services:

- Special mailings and notices on contracting possibilities
- Training reimbursement



Ohio Department of Transportation
An Equal Opportunity Employer

