

RTA DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE POLICY STATEMENT

The Regional Transit Authority for Southeast Michigan, hereinafter referred to as “RTA” has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the United States Department of Transportation (“USDOT”), 49 CFR Part 26. The RTA has received federal financial assistance from the USDOT, and as a condition for receiving this assistance, the RTA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of the RTA to ensure that DBEs, as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT–assisted contracts. It is also RTA’s policy to:

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

The RTA’s Program Director, Melanie Piana has been delegated as the RTA DBE Liaison Officer (“DBELO”). In that capacity, Ms. Piana is responsible for implementing and overseeing all aspects of the RTA’s DBE Program. In the interim, Ms. Piana will also be supported by consultants who are DBE experts and practitioners to assist in carrying out the DBE duties and responsibilities within RTA. Implementation of the DBE Program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the RTA in its financial assistance agreements with the USDOT.

The RTA has disseminated this Policy Statement to its Board of Directors and all the components of its organization. RTA has also distributed this Policy Statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for the RTA on USDOT-assisted contracts by posting it on the RTA website www.rtamichigan.org and incorporating it into RTA’s procurement processes. Answers to any questions pertaining to the RTA DBE Program and DBE Policy Statement can be obtained by contacting RTA’s DBELO, Ms. Piana at (248) 809 - 0351 and/or dbel@rtamichigan.org. All related correspondence can be sent to RTA’s Office located at:

1001 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1400,
Detroit, MI 48226

