



Regional Transit Authority
2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70119-6301

504.827.8300

www.norta.com

Regional Transit Authority DBE Program Policy Statement

April 14, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

The Regional Transit Authority (RTA) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26 (49 CFR Part 26). The RTA receives financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and as a condition of receiving such financial assistance, the RTA is contractually bound to establish and maintain a DBE Program in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26. The RTA prohibits the use of quotas.

Under its DBE Program, the RTA has established goals for DOT-assisted contracts for the inclusion of socially and economically disadvantaged businesses, in accordance with the goal setting methodology set forth in 49 CFR Part 26. The FTA regulations allow race-neutral and race-conscious DBE goals.

By a resolution of the RTA Board of Commissioners, RTA has also voluntarily adopted the State and Local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (SLDBE program), which includes as members, the City of New Orleans, the Sewerage & Water Board, the New Orleans Aviation Board, and Harrah's Casino. The legal authority for the SLDBE program is Chapter 46 of the Code for the City of New Orleans adopted in 1989 (also referred to as the "Interim Ordinance"), endorsed by Policy Memorandum No. 46(R), issued by the New Orleans Chief Administrative Officer in 2004. This SLDBE component is administered simultaneously with the federal component.

The SLDBE program only allows race-neutral DBE goals. The RTA has the discretion to adopt the City's overall DBE goal for RTA projects funded by state and local dollars, but has opted to establish DBE goals for those RTA projects based on the judicially accepted federal goal setting methodology set forth in 49 CFR Part 26. Although the RTA may utilize the certification process under the SLDBE program, the DBE Liaison Officer separately conducts DBE certifications, utilizing the federal FTA standards.

It is the policy of the RTA to achieve the following objectives under its DBE Program:

- a. To ensure compliance with policies for inclusion of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) on all projects, purchases and procurements by the agency;
- b. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of RTA contracts;
- c. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for RTA contracts;
- d. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
- e. To ensure that only firms that fully meet the RTA's eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- f. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in RTA contracts;
- g. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE Program;
- h. To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs; and

- a. To support the growth and development of small and disadvantaged businesses in the New Orleans region.

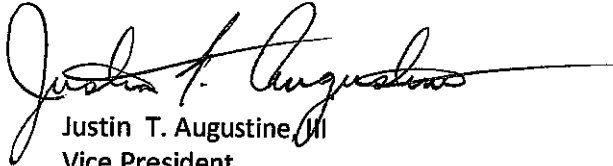
The RTA will disseminate this Policy Statement to the Board of Commissioners, to all departments, as well as to the DBE and non-DBE business communities. The Policy Statement will also be distributed in bid packages and at workshops, trade fairs, and pre-bid conferences.

The manager of the DBE Program for the RTA (also referred to as the DBE Liaison Officer) is as follows:

Janice Abadie
DBE Compliance Manager
Regional Transit Authority
2817 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 79119
504-827-8308
E-mail: jabadie@norta.com

Respectfully submitted,

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY



Justin T. Augustine, III
Vice President

Veolia Transdev

In service to the Regional Transit Authority