

Small Business Development Program

The Small Business Development Program is a new and innovative program that empowers small, underutilized businesses to compete for ODOT construction contracts and gain valuable experience as prime contractors.

Purpose

The purpose of the Small Business Development Program (SBDP) is to empower small businesses to participate as prime contractors in state transportation construction projects.

Established in 2023 and approved by the Federal Highway Administration in 2024, the SBDP furthers the state's goal of increasing the number of small businesses competing for and being awarded state procurements.

Benefits

The Small Business Development Program:

- Increases race- and gender-neutral small business participation in public improvement contracting.
- Awards up to \$25 million annually in prime construction contracts to qualified small businesses.
- Identifies transportation construction projects suitable for small firms to undertake as prime.
- Provides a repository of resources to assist qualified small businesses in preparing competitive bids that meet specifications.
- Designates staff familiar with the challenges faced by small businesses in competing for public improvement contracting to provide support and assistance.

Background

ODOT spends hundreds of millions of dollars annually on projects and programs to improve the transportation system. These projects benefit the state's construction, engineering, and



supplier industries. However, systemic barriers often make it difficult for small businesses to compete successfully for ODOT contracts or gain experience working as a prime contractor.

We are committed to advancing equity in our contracting practices. The SBDP creates a dedicated pathway for qualified small businesses, including minority-owned businesses, to compete for prime ODOT contracts.

Through this program, we will increase the ability, capacity, experience, and number of construction contractors doing business with ODOT. For more information, please visit our website.



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