



# Greater Bridgeport Transit

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE)  
Triennial Goal Development

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*Encouraging DBE Contractor Participation in GBT Projects*  
2019-2021

# The Purpose of the GBT DBE Program and Goal

- The proposed Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal detailed in this presentation has been prepared to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) assisted contracts. More specifically, in the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) transit programs. It is prepared to create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for U.S. DOT-assisted contracts. *(Code of Federal Regulations, Section 49, Part 26)*
- GBT is the recipient of funding from the FTA and, as part of its ongoing Civil Rights efforts, has prepared this goal which is a reflection of the potential DBE participation in a variety upcoming federally funding projects.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) are for-profit small businesses where socially and economically disadvantaged individuals own at least a 51% interest and also control management and daily business operations — owners can be minorities, women, or people with disabilities. GBT sets triennial goals to procure services and goods through partnerships with DBEs.

# Objectives of the GBT DBE Program and Goal

GBT's DBE program aims to:

1. Prevent discrimination in U.S. DOT- assisted (funded) contracts;
2. Create a level playing field for DBEs;
3. Remove barriers to DBE participation;
4. Promote the use of DBEs; and
5. Develop firms to successfully compete for GBT contracts.

FTA provides flexibility to recipients in developing their DBE program.

# About Greater Bridgeport Transit

- GBT provides city bus service throughout the Greater Bridgeport, Connecticut Region;
- GBT maintains three properties/facilities and operates eighty-three buses in regular service; and
- GBT receives operating investment from the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) and capital funding from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), a part of the U.S. Department of Transportation.



# About the Goal Setting Process

The development of a DBE goal is a two step process:

- **Step 1** – The development of a base figure for the relative availability of DBE firms to perform the projects anticipated at GBT.
- **Step 2** – Consider adjustment to the base figure based on past experience and public consultation on the development of the goal.

The goal in this presentation was prepared for the three-year period of 2019-2021.

# GBT Projects 2019-2021

As a recipient of federal funding with the responsibility of maintaining the region's bus operation in a state of good repair, GBT has planned the following projects:

- The design of improvements to all GBT facilities;
- The construction of transit amenities (public stations, bus stop amenities);
- Improvements to GBT's Water Street Station;
- Improvements to GBT's Administration and Maintenance Facilities located at Cross Street in Bridgeport;
- The procurement of equipment in support of GBT operations; and
- Planning and studies related to improving bus service in the region.



# Past Goal, Attainment and the 2019-2021 Goal

- GBT prepares a DBE goal every three years.
- During the most recent period, the goal and attainment were:

Period	DBE Goal	DBE Participation
2016-2018	3.02	6.46
2019-2021 (Proposed)	5.86	TBD

- *It is important to remember that past attainment is not necessarily an indicator of future DBE participation. The goal is established based on the projects that are before GBT and the relative availability of DBEs to perform the work.*

# Local Area Market

- As part of the goal calculation, GBT needed to select a “Local Area Market”.
- While GBT does not use geographic preferences, most contractors and many suppliers working with GBT are from the region and throughout Connecticut.
- For our most recent projects, the majority of work was completed by Connecticut firms.
- For this goal calculation, GBT decided to use all of Connecticut as its local area market.



# Step 1 – Base Figure – Relative Availability of DBEs

Ready Willing and Able DBEs

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All Ready Willing and Able Firms

(DBE and Non DBE)

- GBT used a series of spreadsheets to “break-down” its current projects into their respective components (Electrical, plumbing, HVAC, etc.) and the values for each.
- Once the component work was known, GBT reviewed all firms Ready, Willing and Able (RWA) to perform the work. Information regarding the “universe” of CT companies RWA to compete for GBT contracts was derived from the U.S. Census:

<https://www.census.gov/cgi-bin/sssd/naics/naicsrch>

- Once the overall number of RWA firms was known, GBT looked to the CTDOT DBE Program Directory for certified DBEs with the relevant experience:  
[https://biznet.ct.gov/DOT\\_DBE/dbesearch.aspx](https://biznet.ct.gov/DOT_DBE/dbesearch.aspx)
- The common link in comparing all RWA and DBE certified RWA firms (to ensure an “apples to apples” comparison) was their *North American Industry Classification System (NAICS)* code.
- The base figure was then calculated by dividing the number of RWA DBEs by the number of all RWA firms.

GBT  
Base Figure DBE  
Goal 2019-2021  
5.86

## Step 2 – Adjusting the Base Figure

An adjustment of the base figure may not be necessary. However, GBT considered several areas to determine if an adjustment to the base figure was appropriate:

- **Disparity Studies** – While disparity studies can be considered, GBT has found no recent DBE utilization disparity studies.
- **Past Participation** – GBT projects considered in the development of this goal are similar to those completed during the period of the previous goal. These generally include construction for facility improvements, architectural and engineering and planning services.

# Past Participation Review – Similar Projects

2016-2018	2019-2021
<p>Maintenance Facility Improvements – Fuel Tank replacement, pavement repair, bus wash replacement. (continued facility rehabilitation pavement, foundations, general construction, electrical, HVAC, plumbing).</p>	<p>Maintenance Facility Improvements – Bus lift replacement, perimeter fencing replacement. (continued facility rehabilitation pavement, foundations, general construction, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, landscaping).</p>
<p>Architectural/Engineering – Design of Facility Improvements (Once Cross Street – Ongoing Effort).</p>	<p>Architectural/Engineering – Design of Facility Improvements (Once Cross Street – Ongoing Effort).</p>
<p>Shelters and Amenities – Rehabilitation of Water Street Station, installation of bus shelters, construction of mini bus hub. (Painting, pavement, electrical, HVAC, shelter construction).</p>	<p>Shelters and Amenities – Rehabilitation of Water Street Station (continued), installation of bus shelters (continued), construction of mini bus hub (GBT’s 2<sup>nd</sup> mini-hub). (Painting, pavement, electrical, HVAC, shelter construction).</p>
<p>Planning – GBT’s Long Range Transportation Plan.</p>	<p>Planning – Preparation of transit design guidelines, preparation of regional bike share RFP.</p>

# Past Participation – Median Past Participation

- GBT Arranged the past values (previous five years) in order from low to high.
- Then identified the median past participation - 4.80%
- Then averaged the step 1 base figure with the median past participation:  $5.86 + 4.80 / 2 = 5.33$
- GBT determined that there is no need to adjust the goal based on past participation.

Period	Percent DBE Participation
April 2015 - September 2015	0.00%
October 2015 - March 2016	0.00%
April 2017 - September 2017	0.00%
October 2013-March2014	0.10%
April 2016- September 2016	4.80%
October 2016 - March 2017	4.80%
October 2012 -March 2013	6.80%
April 2013-September 2013	20.20%
October 2014 -March 2015	22.10%
October 2017 - March 2018	35.00%
April 2014 -September 2014	42.90%

← Median

# Race Neutral and Race Conscious Means of Reaching the DBE Goal

- The Race Neutral Method of attaining the DBE goal would be competitively awarded contracts.
- The Race Conscious Method of attaining the DBE goal would be the inclusion of DBE contract goals.
- FTA requires that GBT meet the maximum feasible portion of its overall goal with race neutral means.
- GBT's previously attained goal (6.46) was attained through 99% race conscious means – the inclusion of DBE goals in contracts.

A clarification: While the formal regulatory names of these two methods include the term “race”, the methods do not consider race. The fundamental distinction between these two methods is that one includes a published DBE (Race Conscious) goal in the solicitation documents and the other (Race Neutral) does not.

# Moving to More Race Neutral Means

During this goal period, GBT will be increasing efforts to use to reach its DBE Goal through Race Neutral means. These will include:

1. Sharing CTDOT's DBE Directory Information in Upcoming Solicitations; and
2. Increased Outreach to DBEs and Small Businesses:

- GBT recently became a member of the Minority Construction Council (MCC), a Connecticut organization leading advocacy, training, educational and networking for DBEs.
- Through its partnership with the MCC, GBT is hosting a reception for DBEs on July 19, 2018 to share information about contracting opportunities.
- In September 2018, and again in partnership with MCC, GBT will be hosting a DBE "Bootcamp" to clarify opportunities for DBE contracting.
- MCC will be assisting GBT is helping business navigate the process for becoming certified DBE's through the CTDOT.
- *Shift over Time:* GBT does not plan to move immediately to Race Neutral means but will continue with Race Conscious means as the race neutral means progress and will increase or decrease race conscious contracts based on actual current achievement.



**gbt**  
GREATER  
BRIDGEPORT  
TRANSIT

**CONTRACTING OPPORTUNITIES  
w/ Greater Bridgeport Transit**

Thursday, July 19, 2018  
2:00 PM – 4:00 PM  
1 Cross Street, Bridgeport, CT 06610

Open to MBEs & DBEs\*

These opportunities will cover the following trades:

- Cleaning
- Sealing Joints & Cracks
- Curbing
- Drainage
- Hardscape
- Illumination
- Landscape
- Electrical
- Markings (Street)
- Masonry
- Paving
- Sidewalks and Ramps
- Steel Erection
- Traffic Signs and Pavement
- Painting

RSVP required. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information, contact the Minority Construction Council at 860.882.0675 or via email [little.greer@mccofcst.org](mailto:little.greer@mccofcst.org).

MINORITY CONSTRUCTION COUNCIL | 141 NEW PARK AVENUE, SUITE 122, HARTFORD, CT 06106 | 860.882.0675 | WWW.MCCOFCT.ORG

# GBT's Proposed 2019-2021 DBE Goal

- 5.86 Percent of GBT Contracting Opportunities;
- Worth a total of \$849,982.28;
- Achieved through declining Race Conscious means beginning at 90% and monitored/adjusted during the goal period.



# Consultation and Publication of GBT's DBE Goal

GBT welcomes comments on the process/methodology used to establish its DBE goal and the elements of its program. This year GBT will:

- Present its goal and methodology to the CTDOT DBE Taskforce Meeting on June 19, 2018.
- Publish its goal on its Website [gogbt.com](http://gogbt.com) and seek public comments;
- Hold a reception at its Bridgeport facility to share goal development and upcoming contracting opportunities with DBEs;
- Share its goal (in this presentation format) with two regional Chambers of Commerce (The Valley Chamber and the Bridgeport Regional Business Council) and seek comments;
- Share its goal with the Minority Construction Council (MCC) and seek comments;
- Share its goal with DBEs across the State through the newsletter of the Minority Construction Council (MCC) and seek comments;
- Share its goal with the City of Bridgeport Office of Small and Minority Business Enterprise and seek comments;
- Share its goal with the Connecticut Construction and Industry Association (CCIA); and
- Make a presentation of its goal at the July 11<sup>th</sup> public meeting of the GBT Board of Commissioners
- Document any comments on or changes to the goal before its final submission to FTA by August 1, 2018



GBT Staff presenting 2019-2021 DBE goal and Upcoming contracting Opportunities with members of the CTDOT DBE Taskforce – June 19, 2018.

Comments on GBT's DBE Goal for 2019-2021 should be received by July 26, 2018

# Questions and Comments Welcome

If you have any questions or comments about this presentation or any element of GBT's DBE program, please contact:

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