

## **DBE Joint Task Force Meeting**

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Date & Time: May 14, 2019, 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (Sign-in at 8:45 a.m.)

Location: ADOT BECO Office, Conference Room – 1801 W. Jefferson Street, Suite 101, Phoenix

Attendees: See attached Sign-In Sheets

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### **Professional Services Task Force Summary:**

The ADOT Professional Services Task Force was formed to identify the barriers faced by DBE professional services firms when attempting to do ADOT work. The task force will attempt to solve barriers to entry for professional services firms.

### **Meeting Minutes**

**1. Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting was called to order by Enamul Hoque, Co-Chair, DBE Professional Services Task Force.

**2. DBE Disparity Study – Dave Keen, Keen Independent Research**

ADOT will be conducting a new Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Disparity Study to help set new overall goals for DBE participation in ADOT's federally-funded contracts. Every three years, ADOT analyzes the availability of DBEs and other firms to perform its contracts. The DBE Disparity Study will provide information for ADOT to adopt new overall DBE goals in 2020. ADOT currently has an overall goal of 9.55% for dollars of Federal Highway Administration-funded contracts going to DBEs. The Disparity Study will analyze whether there is a level playing field for minority- and women-owned firms when competing for transportation work in Arizona. The study team, led by Keen Independent Research, is assessing what ADOT might do to increase contract opportunities for minority- and women-owned firms and other small businesses. ADOT will also use results to set new overall goals for participation of disadvantage business enterprises (DBEs) in its federally-funded contracts. The study will take into account a mix of work, including engineering. The study will look at "Bundling" projects, which other states have problems with extreme and long-term bundling, resulting in work not flowing down to DBE firms. A research firm will be calling DBEs later in 2019, and more lengthy interviews may be performed. Results will be released in the spring 2020 and be adopted in October 2020. For more information on this process and to provide insights, please visit [azdot.gov/DBEDisparityStudy](http://azdot.gov/DBEDisparityStudy) or send an email to [info@adotdbestudy.com](mailto:info@adotdbestudy.com). (see attached Factsheet)

**3. Engineering Consultants Section (ECS) Report – Greg Wristen, Manager, ECS**

**Upcoming Projects** - Upcoming advertisements are posted on ADOT's website under Engineering Consultants, under current advertisements (see ECS Pending Advertisements at <https://azdot.gov/business/ContractsandSpecifications/CurrentAdvertisements>). The ECS section on ADOT's website show current advertisements as well. The ECS website currently lists 7 projects will be out by the end of June to conclude ADOT's fiscal year. Notably, an Alternative Delivery Project, the P3 010 MA 149 F007201C PHOENIX-CASA GRANDE HIGHWAY (I-10) 1-17 (SPLIT) TO SR 202L (SANTAN) Design-Build RFQ is advertised; look for teaming opportunities.

**4. American Council of Engineering Companies (ACEC): Leadership Role and Industry Advocate – Justan Rice, President, ACEC of Arizona**

ACEC is a dynamic business association with a mission is to assist member firms in achieving higher professional, ethical, business and economic standards, enabling member firms to provide quality consulting engineering and/or land surveying services to their clients and the public. Ms. Rice has

been President of the organization for a year and a half, has been on a “Listening Tour” to understand the industry’s needs, including working with ADOT. As an advocate for the entire membership, she has been lobbying Congress for infrastructure improvement funding. Specific to engineering, she has been against the threat to licensing as there have been many states de-regulating professionals. The value of vetting their skills is a matter of public safety. A current House bill will allow out of state professional engineering firms to work in Arizona, she is working to uphold Arizona’s standards. This workforce is needed in Arizona, there are not enough engineering graduates to sustain the need. Ms. Rice has been talking with Arizona’s Congressmen who sit on transportation committees and will be going back to DC in June and September. We will get updates from her after each trip. For more information, visit: [www.acecaz.org](http://www.acecaz.org)

**5. Business Engagement and Compliance Office (BECO) Report** – Kimberly Swanson, Small Business Officer, BECO

a. **DBE Utilization** – The current utilizations reports are found on BECO’s web page at: <https://azdot.gov/business/business-engagement-and-compliance/dbe-goals>

The following goals have been approved for ADOT by the indicated USDOT Funding Agency:

Funding Agency	Federal Fiscal Timeframe	Overall Current DBE Goal	Race Conscious %	Race Neutral %
FHWA	2018-2020	9.55%	4.54%	5.01%
FTA	2019-2021	11.00%	N/A	11.00%
FAA	2016-2018	4.87%	N/A	4.87%

Monthly Contract Award and DBE Commitment Reports provide information about the DBE commitments for each federally funded FHWA project awarded in a given month. The increase in Design participation in March, an increase to 36.92%, is due to a DBE Prime firm performing work.

Federal Fiscal Year 2018			
Month	Design	Construction	Total
<a href="#">October 2018</a>	11.59%	9.19%	9.22%
<a href="#">November 2018</a>	9.55%	7.75%	7.69%
<a href="#">December 2018</a>	13.01%	15.16%	15.10%
<a href="#">January 2019</a>	6.70%	8.58%	8.38%
<a href="#">February 2019</a>	7.33%	5.50%	5.67%
<a href="#">March 2019</a>	36.92%	8.59%	9.79%
<b>Year to Date</b>	8.63%	8.91%	8.89%

Kimberly noted several staffing changes: Paula Brown has taken a new position outside of BECO but is still with ADOT. Steve Navis has joined BECO and will be managing Apprentice opportunities.

**6. DBE Supportive Services Upcoming Events** – Kent Lane, DBE/SS Program Manager

- Lunch and Learn Series – May 31: Contracts and Specifications (see flyer). A note to be on the watch for fraudulent emails posing as agency email addresses – look before you click on links.
  - SBRC/Friday Forums – Upcoming forums include the “Art of Networking” and “Certification Vs. Registration.”
  - Business Counseling and How to Apply – DBEs are encouraged to contact the BECO office to discuss your business needs and set up an appointment.
  - Expo Recap – Private industry building has \$24B in work coming up. There are many opportunities out there and DBEs are encouraged to attend industry events to network.
- 7. DBE Success Story – Yung Koprowski, PE, PTOE, Y2K Engineering**  
 Ms. Koprowski described with examples of how Y2K Engineering, a transportation planning and civil engineering firm, began in 2017 and now has grown to 10 employees. She gained insight and support from the engineering community and BECO to learn how to grow a company, including business and marketing practices. She talked about pursuing both public and private work focused on traffic engineering and transportation planning, specifically in safety, intelligent transportation systems (ITS), traffic operations, and active transportation (walking, biking, transit). As part of her marketing efforts, Yung utilizes social media to talk about her work and connect with the community.
- 5. State Engineers Meeting Report – Presented by Enamul Hoque, Co-Chair, DBE Professional Services Task Force**  
 On March 21, 2019, Mr. Hogue, Mr. Ogbonna (DBE Professional Services TF Chair), and Ms. Haenfier (DBE Construction Services TF Chair) met with five of ADOT’s Leadership members along with BECO. The group met for two hours discussing two main concerns: the bundling of 140 projects and the TempTech Contract (which expanded from 5 firms on the last contract to 19 firms on the current contract). The meeting addressed procurement timelines, delivery methods, priming, teaming, sub-ing SOQ requirements, language concerning number of firms to select (ie. On-Calls, etc.). The discussion included technician certification, opening up training to small businesses, and numbers of trainings annually. ADOT will meet internally to discuss the concerns and a follow-up meeting will be scheduled. BECO encourages firms to bring issues/concerns like these to the Task Force to be addressed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.