

DBE Program Update

§ 26.39 Fostering Small Business Participation

To facilitate competition by small businesses in projects, funded in-part by USDOT, MARC will unbundle projects as appropriate to help eliminate obstacles to small business participation.

Small Business Definition

MARC uses the Small Business Administration's (SBA) definition and size standards (as it may be amended from time to time) to define a small business:

“... a small business concern is one that is independently owned and operated, is organized for profit, and is not dominant in its field. Depending on the industry, size standard eligibility is based on the average number of employees for the preceding twelve months or on sales volume averaged over a three-year period.”

Set Asides

MARC's transportation projects historically are of a size and magnitude (range \$25,000 to \$500,000) that already accommodate small business participation. Therefore MARC will not use small business set asides to facilitate small business participation.

Mega Project

Projects that are multi-year design build or in excess of \$2,000,000 is considered a “*mega project*”. Bidders on a prime contract of a “*mega project*” will specify elements of the contract or specific subcontracts that are of a size that small businesses, including DBEs, can reasonably perform.

Good Faith Implementation

To actively implement the small business program MARC has partnered and collaborated with local, regional and national partners' initiatives that are encouraging greater collaboration to form strong partnerships with small businesses. MARC and its partners are offering technical assistance and training to those individuals pursuing entrepreneurialism. The objectives of these programs are:

- Develop stronger workforce development systems
- Support startup or expansion of new companies
- Assist entrepreneurs and small businesses with technical assistance and assessments.
- Offer feasibility and technical assistance for small to mid-sized companies
- Increase awareness of transportation related work opportunities in Kansas City region.
- Strengthen and develop community college programs to support small business needs
- Provide support to disadvantaged workers to access job training