EXHIBIT K

DBE PROVISIONS

TxDOT's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program is set forth in Attachment 1 to this Exhibit K. TxDOT's DBE program shall apply to the Initial Scope of Work and any Update Work. Developer's DBE obligations shall also include compliance with DBE Special Provisions 000-461, set forth in Attachment 2 to this Exhibit K and 009-007, set forth in Attachment 3 to this Exhibit K. Copies of any attachments referenced in TxDOT's DBE Program (Attachment 1 to this Exhibit K) which are not otherwise set forth in this Exhibit K are available from TxDOT's Business Opportunities Program Office. In the event of any conflict between the DBE Special Provisions and the DBE program, the former shall prevail.

Disadvantage Business Enterprise (DBE) Program (49 CFR 26)

REVISED JUNE, 2006
REVISED OCTOBER, 1999

Policy Statement

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has established a Disadvantaged Business enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part 26. TxDOT has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, TxDOT has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of TxDOT to ensure that DBEs, as defined in Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy to:

- ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts;
- create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT assisted contracts;
- ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law; ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
- help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts; and
- assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

Nondiscrimination Policy

TxDOT will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 49 CFR Part 26 on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

In administering its DBE program, TxDOT will not, directly or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the DBE program with respect to individuals of a particular race, color, sex, or national origin.

TxDOT has disseminated this policy statement to the Texas Transportation Commission and all the components of our organization. Through the distribution of this DBE program, we have distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on DOT-assisted contracts.

Appointment of DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO)

The Director of Business Opportunity Programs Office has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Director of Business Opportunity Programs Office is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE program is

accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by TxDOT in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

We have designated the following individual as our DBE Liaison Officer: James T. Dossett, 125 E. 11th St., Austin, Texas 78701. In the capacity, James T. Dossett is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program and ensuring that TxDOT complies with all provisions of 49 CFR Part 26. James T. Dossett has direct, independent access to the Executive Director concerning DBE program matters. The DBELO has 14 professional employees and 4 support staff assigned to the DBE program on a full-time basis. The attached organization chart displays the DBELO's position in the organization.

M. W. Behrens

Michael W. Behrens, P.E.
Executive Director
Texas Department of Transportation

1-13-06
Date

DISADVANTAGE BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM
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SUBPART A — GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 26.1 Objectives

The objectives are found in the policy statement on the first page of this program.

Section 26.3 Applicability

TxDOT is the recipient of federal airport funds authorized by 49 U.S.C. 47101, *et seq.*

TxDOT is the recipient of federal-aid highway funds authorized under Titles I and V of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA), Pub. L. 102-240, 105 Stat 1914, Titles I, III, and V of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21, Pub. L. 105-178, 112 Stat. 107. SAFETEA-LU, P.L. 109-59

TxDOT is the recipient of federal transit funds authorized by Titles I, III, V, and VI of ISTEA, Pub. L. 102-240 or by Federal transit laws in Title 49, U.S. Code, or Titles I, II, and V of the TEA-21, Pub. L. 105,178. SAFETEA-LU, P.L. 109-59

Section 26.5 Definitions

TxDOT will adopt the definitions contained in Section 26.5 for this program.

Section 26.7 Non-discrimination Requirements

TxDOT will never exclude any person from participation in, deny any person the benefits of, or otherwise discriminate against anyone in connection with the award and performance of any contract covered by 49 CFR Part 26 - **Attachment I** on the basis of race, color, sex, or national origin.

In administering its DBE program, TxDOT will not directly or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria or methods of administration that have the effect of defeating or substantially impairing accomplishment of the objectives of the DBE program with respect to individuals of a particular race, color, sex, or national origin.

Section 26.11 Record Keeping Requirements

Reporting to DOT: 26.1 I(b)

We will report DBE participation to DOT as follows:

We will submit annually The Uniform Report of DBE Awards or Commitment and Payments as modified for use by FAA recipients [as amended 68 FR 35556, June 16, 2003].

We will report on a semi-annual basis The Uniform Report of DBE Awards or Commitment and Payments as modified for use by FHWA [as amended 68 FR 35556, June 16, 2003].

We will report on a semi-annual basis The Uniform, Report of DBE Awards or Commitment and Payments as modified for use by FTA recipients [as amended 68 FR 35556, June 16, 2003].

These reports will reflect payments actually made to DBEs on DOT-assisted contracts.

Bidders List: 26.11(c)

TxDOT will create a bidders list, consisting of information about all DBE and non-UBE firms that bid or quote on DOT-assisted contracts. The purpose of this requirement is to allow use of the bidders list approach to calculating overall goals. The bidder list will include the name, address, DBE non-DBE status, age, and annual gross receipts of firms. We will collect this information in the following ways:

> The TxDOT Bidders list consists of firms that include highway construction prime contractors, professional service providers and subcontractor and material suppliers. Subcontractor and material supplier information is supplied by the low bid Prime Contractor. TxDOT Bidders List data was developed from contractors who have submitted bids on highway construction contracts. In the contract proposal, the low bidder, prior to award of the contract, is required to submit bidders information they received for the project. The Bidders List also contains data from DBEs that submitted bids for construction and professional service contracts and from the DBE Commitments and Awards made.

Section 26.13 Federal Financial Assistance Agreement

TxDOT has signed the following assurances, applicable to all DOT-assisted contracts and their administration:

Assurance: 26.13(a)

> TxDOT shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of any DOT assisted contract or in the administration of its DBE Program or the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. The recipient shall take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR Part 26 to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT assisted

contracts. The recipients DBE Program, as required by 49 CFR Part 26 and as approved by DOT, is incorporated by reference in this agreement. Implementation of this program is a legal obligation and failure to carry out its terms shall be treated as a violation of this agreement. Upon notification to TxDOT of its failure to carry out its approved program, the Department may impose sanction as provided for under Part 26 and may, in appropriate cases, refer the matter for enforcement under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and/or the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (31 U.S.C. 3801 *et seq.*).

This language will appear in financial assistance agreements with sub-recipients.

Contract Assurance: 26.13b

We will ensure that the following clause is placed in every DOT-assisted contract and subcontract:

> The contractor, sub-recipient, or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate. This information is included in the DBE Special Provision 000-461 1.A.1.b. -**Attachment 2.**

SUBPART B - ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Section 26.21 DBE Program Updates

The Department provides U.S. DOT with updates representing significant changes in the program as they occur. The department understands that all changes must be approved by FHWA, ETA, FAA prior to implementation.

Section 26.23 Policy Statement

The Policy Statement is elaborated on the first page of this program.

Section 26.25 DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO)

The Director of Business Opportunity Programs Office has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Director of Business Opportunity Programs Office is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by TxDOT in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

We have designated the following individual as our DBE Liaison Officer: James T. Dossett, 125 E. 11th St. Austin, Texas 78701, (512) 486-5500, jdossett@dot.state.tx.us

In that capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program and ensuring that TxDOT complies with all provision of 49 CFR Part 26. The DBELO has direct, independent access to the Executive Director concerning DBE program matters. An organizational chart - **Attachment 3** displays the DBELO's position in the organization.

The DBELO is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the DBE program, in coordination with other appropriate officials. The DBELO has a staff of 17 to assist in the administration of the program. The duties and responsibilities of the DBELO and staff include the following:

1 Gathers and reports statistical data and other information as required by DOT.
2 Works with all departments to set overall annual goals.
3 Ensures that bid notices and requests for proposals are available to DBEs in a timely manner.
4 Identifies contracts and procurements so that DBE goals are included in solicitations (both race-neutral methods and contract specific goals attainment and identifies ways to improve progress).
5 Participates with the Division Directors and District Officials to determine contractor compliance with good faith efforts.
6 Analyzes TxDOT's progress toward DBE goal attainment and identifies ways to improve progress.
7 Participates in pre-bid meetings.
8 Advises the Executive Director and the Texas Transportation Commission on DBE matters and achievement.
9 Chairs the DBE Liaison Committee.
10 Participates in pre-bid meetings.
11 Provides DBEs with information and assistance in preparing bids, obtaining bonding and insurance.
12 Plans and participates in DBE training seminars.
13 Certifies DBEs according to the criteria set by DOT and acts as liaison to the Uniform Certification Process in Texas.
14 Provides outreach to DBEs and community organizations to advise them of opportunities.
15 Maintains the Texas Unified Certification Program (TUCP) updated directory on certified DBEs.

Section 26.27 DBE Financial Institutions

It is the policy of TxDOT to investigate the full extent of services offered by financial institutions owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the community, to make reasonable efforts to use these institutions, and to encourage prime contractors on DOT-assisted contract to make use of these institutions. We have made a thorough search for financial institutions owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals in the State of Texas and were unable to identify financial institutions meeting the requirements of Section 26.27.

Section 26.29 Prompt Payment Mechanisms

TxDOT will require prime contractors to pay subcontractors for satisfactory performance of their contracts as specified in the Special Provision 009-007 Measurement and Payment - **Attachment 4**, which is included in all federal-aid contracts.

In regards to the prompt pay full payment of retainage, TxDOT has adopted option 2. TxDOT will decline to hold retainage from prime contractors and require a contract clause obligating prime contractors to make prompt and full payment of any retainage held by prime contractor to the subcontractor as specified in Special Provision 009-007 Measurement and Payment — **Attachment 4**.

[68 FR 35553, June 16, 2003]

Section 26.31 Directory

TxDOT maintains a directory identifying all firms eligible to participate as DBEs. The directory lists the firm's name, address, phone number, date of the most recent certification, and the type of work the firm has been certified to perform as a DBE. We revise the Directory on a weekly basis.

The TUCP Certifying Partners agree that TxDOT will serve as the TUCP directory manager. The directory manager will be responsible for the following actions:

- Input all data and make any corrections, additions and/or deletions upon receipt of information from the Certifying TUCP Partners;
- Maintain and keep the DBE directory current;
- Make the DBE directory available to all TUCP Partners and other interested parties;

- Maintain the TUCP directory website at www.dot.state.tx.us see **Attachment 5** for sample.

Section 26.33 Over-concentration

TxDOT has not identified that over-concentration exists in the types of work that DBEs perform.

Section 26.35 Business Development Programs

TxDOT has not established a business development program.

Section 26.37 Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms

TxDOT will take the following monitoring and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with 49 CFR Part 26:

> Monitoring Mechanisms-To ensure that DBE requirements of the DOT assisted contract are complied with, the Department will monitor the Contractors efforts to involve DBEs during the performance of the contract. This will be accomplished by a review of monthly reports submitted to the Area Engineer by the Contractor indicating his progress in achieving the DBE contract goal, and by compliance reviews conducted on the project site by the Department. The DBE Special Provision 000-461 – **Attachment 2** is included in all federal-aid projects and outlines the monitoring mechanism for compliance with 49 CFR Part 26.
>
> Enforcement mechanisms- A Contractor's failure to comply with the requirements of the DBE Special Provision 000-461 — **Attachment 2** shall constitute a material breach of the federal-aid contract. In such a case, the Department reserves the right to terminate the contract; to deduct the amount of DBE goal not accomplished by DBEs from the money due or to become due the Contractor, or to secure a refund, not as a penalty but as liquidated damages to the Department or such other remedy or remedies as the Department deems appropriate.

[As amended at 65 FR 68951 Nov 15, 2000, 68 FR 35554, June 16, 2003]

SUBPART C — GOALS. GOOD FAITH EFFORTS, AND COUNTING

Section 26.43 Set-asides or Quotas

TxDOT does not use set-asides or quotas in any way in the administration of this DBE program.

Section 26.45 Overall Goals

In accordance with Section 26.45(0 TxDOT will submit its overall goal to DOT on August 1 of each year. Before establishing the overall goal each year, TxDOT will consult with women's and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations which could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses to obtain information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and TxDOT's efforts to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs.

Following this consultation, we will publish a notice of the proposed overall goals, informing the public that the proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours at our principal office for 30 days following the date of the notice, and informing the public that TxDOT will accept comments on the goals for 45 days from the date of the notice. The notice is published on TxDOT's website, newsletter, newspapers, available minority- focus media, and trade publications. Normally, we will issue this notice by June 25th of each year. The notice must include addresses to which comments may be sent and addresses (including offices and websites) where the proposal may be reviewed.

Our overall goal submission to DOT will include a summary of information and comments received during this public participation process and our responses.

We will begin using our overall goal on October 1 of each year, unless we have received other instructions from DOT. If we establish a goal on a project basis, we will begin using our goal by the time of the first solicitation for a DOT-assisted contract.

A description of the methodology to calculate the overall goal and the goal calculations can be found in Attachment 6 to this program. This section of the program will be updated annually.

Section 26.49 Transit Vehicle Manufacturers Goals

TxDOT will require each transit vehicle manufacturer, as a condition of being authorized to bid or propose on FTA-assisted transit vehicle procurements, to certify that it has complied with the requirements of this section. Alternatively, TxDOT may, at its discretion and with FTA approval, establish project-specific goals for DBE participation in the procurement of transit vehicles in lieu of the TVM complying with this element of the program.

Section 26.51(d-g) Contract Goals

TxDOT will use contract goals to meet any portion of the overall goal TxDOT does not project being able to meet using race-neutral means. Contract goals are established so that, over the period to which the overall goal applies, they will cumulatively result in meeting any portion of our overall goal that is not projected to be met through the use of race-neutral means.

We will establish contract goals only on those DOT-assisted contracts that have subcontracting possibilities. We need not establish a contract goal on every such contract, and the size of contract goals will be adapted to the circumstances of each such contract (e.g., type and location of work, availability of DBEs to perform the particular type of work.)

We will express our contract goals as a percentage of the total amount of a DOT-assisted contract.

TxDOT DBE Special Provision and Bidder's Certification

The purpose of the DBE Special Provision is to carry out the U. S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) policy of ensuring nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts and creating a level playing field on which firms owned and controlled by individuals who are determined to be socially and economically disadvantaged can compete fairly for DOT assisted contracts. If the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal is greater than zero, Article A, "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise in Federal-Aid Construction', of this Special Provision shall apply to this contract. If there is no DBE goal, Article B, "Race-Neutral DBE Participation", of this Special Provision shall apply to this contract. The percentage goal for DBE participation in the work to be performed under this contract will be shown on the proposal.

Certification of DBE Goal Attainment

The certification of DBE goal attainment is included in all proposals for federal-aid highway projects. By signing the proposal, the Bidder certifies that the DBE goal will be met by obtaining commitments equal to or exceeding the DBE percentage or that the Bidder will provide a good faith effort to substantiate the attempt to meet the goal. Failure to provide commitments to meet the stated goal or provide a satisfactory good faith effort will be considered a breach of the requirements of the proposal. As a result, the bid proposal guaranty of the bidder will become property of the Department and the Bidder will be excluded for re bidding on the project when it is re-advertised. See **Attachment 7**.

Tracking and monitoring of DBE goals throughout the life of the contract will be performed by the Department.

The Contractor shall submit monthly reports, after work begins, on DBE payments to meet the DBE goal and for DBE race-neutral participation. The monthly report is to be sent to the Area Engineer. These reports will be due within 15 days after the end of a calendar month. The Business Opportunity Programs Office reviews monthly progress reports through computer programs, i.e. Site Manager and Subcontractor Monitoring System (SMS). Upon continual monitoring of the DBE commitment and payments by the Area Engineer, the Area Engineer will notify the Business Opportunity Programs Office of any issue that requires further review. The Business Opportunity Programs Office will initiate a compliance review and take the appropriate contract remedies. See attached DBE Special Provisions 000-461 - **Attachment 2.**

Section 26.53 Good Faith Efforts Procedures

Demonstration of good faith efforts (26.53(a) & (c))

The obligation of the bidder/offeror is to make good faith efforts. The bidder/offeror can demonstrate that it has done so either by meeting the contract goal or documenting good faith efforts.

TxDOT's SOP Office is responsible for determining whether a bidder/offeror who has not met the contract goal has documented sufficient good faith efforts to be regarded as responsive.

We will ensure that all information is complete and accurate and adequately documents the bidder/offer's good faith efforts before we commit to the performance of the contract by the bidder/offeror. This process for Good Faith Effort is included in the DBE Special Provision 000-461 3.c. - **Attachment 2.**

Information to be submitted (26.53(b))

TxDOT treats bidder/offers' compliance with good faith efforts requirements as a matter of responsiveness.

Each solicitation for which a contract goal has been established will require the bidders/offerors to submit the following information:

1. The names and addresses of DBE firms that will participate in the contract;
2. A description of the work that each DBE will perform;
3. The dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm participating;
4. Written and signed documentation of commitment to use a DBE subcontractor whose participation it submits to meet a contract goal;
5. Written and signed confirmation from the DBE that it is participating in the contract as provided in the prime contractors commitment and

6. If the contract goal is not met, evidence of good faith efforts.

Administrative reconsideration (26.53(d))

Within 15 days of being informed by TxDOT that it is not responsive because it has not documented sufficient good faith efforts, a bidder/offeror may request administrative reconsideration. Bidders/offerors should make this request in writing to the Director of the BOP Office, Mr. James T. Dossett 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, (512) 486-5500, jdossett@dot.state.tx.us The reconsideration official will not have played any role in the original determination that the bidder/offeror did not document sufficient good faith efforts.

As part of this reconsideration, the bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to provide written documentation or argument concerning the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do so. The bidder/offeror will have the opportunity to meet in person with our reconsideration official to discuss the issue of whether it met the goal or made adequate good faith efforts to do. We will send the bidder/offeror a written decision on reconsideration, explaining the basis for finding that the bidder did or did not meet the goal or make adequate good faith efforts to do so. The result of the reconsideration process is not administratively appealable to the Department of Transportation.

Good Faith Efforts when a DBE is replaced on a contract (26.53(f))

Contractors' requests for substitutions of DBE subcontractors shall be accompanied by a detailed explanation which should substantiate the need for a substitution. The Contractor may not be allowed to count work on those items being substituted toward the DBE goal prior to approval of the substitution from the Department.

The Districts will be responsible for coordinating and approving Prime s request for Substitution. Districts will notify BOP Office of the determination of a contractors compliance and/or noncompliance of the DBE Special Provision and be responsible for coordinating appropriate sanctions with TxDOTs DBE Liaison Officer. If the contractor fails to comply according to federal regulations specified in 49 CFR §26.53 and according to TxDOT contract specifications the contractor will be sanctioned as outlined in TxDOT DBE Special Provision 000-461-**Attachment 2**.

A Contractor's failure to comply with the requirements of the DBE Special Provision shall constitute a material breach of the contract. In such a case, the Department reserves the right to terminate the contract, deduct the amount of DBE goal not accomplished by DBEs from the money due or to become due to the Contractor, secure a refund, not as a penalty but as liquidated damages to the Department, or such other remedy or remedies as the Department deems appropriate.

Section 26.55 Counting DBE Participation

TxDOT will count DBE participation toward overall and contract goals as provided in 49 CFR 26.55.

The district will perform CUF reviews on contracts that have a DBE goal. A CUE review will be performed on DBEs listed on the approved contract commitment using the *Commercially Useful Function (CUP) Project Site Review* checklist. If needed to verify a CUE, obtain a copy of the subcontract agreement for clarification regarding the DBEs contractual responsibilities. BOP Office will perform the CUF reviews on DBE suppliers. For non-supplier DBEs listed on the contract DBE commitment working on the project site and associated project specific locations, complete the checklist as follows:

1. Complete the initial checklist as soon as possible after the DBE's commencement of its work.
2. Monitor the DBE's performance and conduct additional reviews when the DBE's work performance brings into question whether the DBE meets CUF requirements.
3. If information obtained indicates possible noncompliance with the CUF requirements, contact BOP Office for a final determination.

In order to provide consistent interpretations statewide, BOP Office will make final negative CUF determinations and provide guidance and assistance for CUF reviews.

For trucking firms TxDOT will count DBE goal credit as follows:

A DBE trucking firm (including an owner operator who is certified as a DBE is considered to be performing a CUE when the DBE is responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation on a particular contract and the DBE itself owns and operates at least I fully licensed, insured, and operational truck used on the contract.

(a) The Contractor receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the DBE provides on a contract using trucks it owns, insures, and operates using drivers it employs.
(b) The DBE may lease trucks from another DBE firm, including an owner operator who is certified as a DBE. The DBE who leases trucks from another DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the lessee DBE provides on the Contract.
(c) The DBE may also lease trucks from a non-DBE firm, including from an owner-operator. The DBE who leases trucks from a non-DBE is entitled to credit for the total value of transportation services provided by non-DBE lessees not to exceed the value of transportation services provided by the DBE-owned trucks on the contract. Additional participation by non-DBE lessees receive credit only for the fee or commission it receives as result of the lease arrangement

(d) A lease must indicate that the DBE has exclusive use of and control over the trucks giving the DBE absolute priority for use of the leased trucks. Leased trucks must display the name and identification number of the DBE.

[68 FR 35554, June 16,2003]

Use Of Joint Checks

With department approval, the use of joint checks between a prime contractor and a DBE subcontractor is allowed. The new DBE Special Provision Section 1.A.5.d. states the following regarding the use of joint checks:

"If the Contractor chooses to assist a DBE firm, other than a manufacturing material supplier or regular dealer, and the DBE firm accepts the assistance the Contractor may act solely as a guarantor by use of a two-party check for payment of materials to be used on the project by the DBE The material supplier must invoice the DBE who will present the invoice to the Contractor. The Contractor may issue a Joint check to the DBE and the material supplier and the DBE firm must issue the remittance to the material supplier. No funds shall go directly from the Contractor to the material supplier. The DBE firm may accept or reject this joint checking arrangement

The Contractor must obtain approval from the Department prior to implementing the use of joint check arrangements with the DBE. Submit to the Department Joint Check Approval Form 2178 for requesting approval. Provide copies of cancelled joint checks upon request No DBE goal credit will be allowed for the cost of DBE materials that are paid by the Contractor directly to the material supplier."

Procedures- For all federal-aid contracts, review and approve the use of joint checks prior to their use. Districts should verify that the DBE subcontractor is responsible for ordering scheduling delivery and issuing payment for the materials.

Prime contractor requests for joint check approval must be submitted to the Area Engineer on *Form 2178, DBE Joint Chock Approval* - **Attachment 8**. The Department will expedite approval or denial of the use of DBE joint check agreements to ensure timely delivery of materials. Reasons for denial include, but are not limited to, the prime contractor's insistence on the joint check arrangement and failure of all parties to agree to the arrangement (only the DBE or the supplier may request the use of a joint check).

Obtain copies of cancelled joint checks as necessary to verify that the joint checks have passed through the DBE. Bank images are an acceptable method of review. Review the joint check agreements as necessary to ensure that a three party arrangement exists.

Material cost paid by the prime contractor directly to the material supplier is not allowed for DBE goal credit and may cause the denial of DDE goal credit for all work performed by the DDE subcontractor.

SUBPART D — CERTIFICATION STANDARDS

TxDOT will use the certification standards of Subpart D of Part 26 to determine the eligibility of firms to participate as DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts. To be certified as a DDE, a firm must meet all certification eligibility standards. We will make our certification decisions based on the facts as a whole.
For information about the certification process or to apply for certification, firms should contact:

The BOP Office, 125 B 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701, Toll Free 1-866480-2518

Our certification application forms and documentation requirements are found in the attached TUCP Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) at **Attachment 9**.

SUBPART E — CERTIFICATION PROCEDURES

TxDOT is a member of the Texas Unified Certification Program (TUCP)]. The TUPC will meet all of the requirements of this section. A description of the TUCP Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) is found at **Attachment 10**.

Withdrawal of DBE Application: TxDOT will follow the procedures under the TUCP for withdrawal DDE Application. A DDE may withdraw their application prior to a certification decision being rendered by TxDOT. TxDOT will acknowledge the DBE request for withdrawal of DDE Application by certified letter. The DBE may not reapply for certification for a period of 12 months from the date of receipt of TXDOT's letter, this withdrawal may not be appealed to US DOT.

Voluntary Surrender of Certification: TxDOT will follow the procedures under the TUCP for surrender of DDE Certification. A DBE may surrender their certification and TxDOT will acknowledge the DBE's request for surrender of their certification by certified letter. The DDE may not reapply for certification for a period of 12 months from the date of receipt of TxDOT's letter. This voluntary surrender may not be appealed to US DOT.

Section 26.83 Procedures for Certification Decisions

For procedures for the certification decisions see the attached TUCP Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) at **Attachment 9**.

TxDOT is one of six certifying agencies in Texas. The six certifying agencies have agreed by Memorandum of Agreement that TxDOT will be responsible for all highway construction industry DBE applications, Annual Affidavits, three-year on-site review, and decertification if applicable.

TxDOT will ensure that the decision in a proceeding to remove a firm's eligibility (decertification) is made by personnel that did not take part in actions leading to or seeking to implement the proposal to remove the firm's eligibility and are not subject, with respect to the mailer, to direction from personnel who did take part in these actions.

SUBPART F — COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 26.109 Information, Confidentiality, Cooperation and Intimidation or Retaliation

TxDOT will not release information that may be reasonably construed as confidential business information to any third party without the written consent of the firm that submitted the information. This includes applications for DBE Certification and supporting documentation.

TxDOT will keep the identity of complainants confidential at their election, however complainants will be advised that in some circumstances, failure to waive the privilege will result in the closure of the investigation or proceeding or hearing. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) follows the procedures of 14 CFR part 16 with respect to confidentiality of information and complaints.

All participants in the Department's DBE Program (including but not limited to, recipients, DBE firms and applicants for DBE certification, complainants and appellants and contractors using DBE firms to meet contract goals) are required to cooperate fully and promptly with DOT and recipient compliance reviews, certification reviews, investigation and other request for information. Failure to do so shall be a ground for appropriate action against the party involved.

If you are a recipient, contractor, or any other participant in the program you must not intimidate, threaten, coerce, or discriminate against any individual or firm for the purpose of interfering with any right or privilege secured by this part or because the individual or firm has made a complaint, testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in an investigation, proceeding, or hearing under this part. If you violate this prohibition, you are in noncompliance with this part. Records must be retained for a period of 3 years following completion of the contract work, and shall be available at reasonable times and places for inspection by authorized representatives of the Department or the DOT. Provide copies of subcontracts or agreements and other documentation upon request.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 DBE Regulations: 49 CFR Part 26
Attachment 2 DBE Special Provision 000461
Attachment 3 Organizational Chart
Attachment 4 Measurement and Payment Special Provision 009-007
Attachment 5 TUCP DBE directory example and website address to the directory
Attachment 6 DBE Goal Methodology
Attachment 7 DBE Bidder Certification
Attachment 8 DBE Joint Check Approval Form
Attachment 9 TUCP SOP
Attachment 10 TUCP MOA

ATTACHMENT 2 TO EXHIBIT K

DBE PROVISIONS

SPECIAL PROVISION
000---461
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise in Federal-Aid Construction

1. **Description.** The purpose of this Special Provision is to carry out the U. S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) policy of ensuring nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts and creating a level playing field on which firms owned and controlled by individuals who are determined to be socially and economically disadvantaged can compete fairly for DOT assisted contracts. If the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal is greater than zero, Article A, "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise in Federal-Aid Construction", of this Special Provision shall apply to this contract. If there is no DBE goal, Article B, "Race-Neutral DBE Participation", of this Special Provision shall apply to this contract. The percentage goal for DBE participation in the work to be performed under this contract will be shown on the proposal.

A. **Article A. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise in Federal-Aid Construction.**

1. **Policy.** It is the policy of the DOT and the Texas Department of Transportation (henceforth the "Department") that DBEs, as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, Subpart A and the Department's DBE Program, shall have the opportunity to participate in the performance of contracts financed in whole or in part with Federal funds. The DBE requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, and the Department's DBE Program, apply to this contract as follows:

   a. The Contractor will solicit DBEs through reasonable and available means, as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, Appendix A and the Department's DBE Program, or show a good faith effort to meet the DBE goal for this contract.

   b. The Contractor, subrecipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.

c. The requirements of this Special Provision shall be physically included in any subcontract.

d. By signing the contract proposal, the Bidder is certifying that the DBE goal as stated in the proposal will be met by obtaining commitments from eligible DBEs or that the Bidder will provide acceptable evidence of good faith effort to meet the commitment. The Department will determine the adequacy of a Contractor's efforts to meet the contract goal, within 10 business days, excluding national holidays, from receipt of the information outlined in this Special Provision under Section 1.A.3, "Contractor's Responsibilities." If the requirements of Section 1.A.3 are met, the conditional situation will be removed and the contract will be forwarded to the Contractor for execution.

2. Definitions.

a. "Department" means the Texas Department of Transportation.

b. "DOT" means the U.S. Department of Transportation, including the Office of the Secretary, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

c. "Federal-Aid Contract" is any contract between the Texas Department of Transportation and a Contractor which is paid for in whole or in part with DOT financial assistance.

d. "DBE Joint Venture" means an association of a DBE firm and 1 or more other firm(s) to carry out a single business enterprise for profit for which purpose they combine their property, capital, efforts, skills and knowledge, and in which the DBE is responsible for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract and whose share in the capital contribution, control, management, risks, and profits of the joint venture are commensurate with its ownership interest.

e. "Disadvantaged Business Enterprise" or "DBE" means a firm certified through the Texas Unified Certification Program in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26.

f. "Good Faith Effort" means efforts to achieve a DBE goal or other requirement of this Special Provision which, by their scope, intensity, and appropriateness to the objective, can reasonably be expected to fulfill the program requirement.

g. "Manufacturer" is a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the contract and of the general character described by the specifications."

h. "Regular Dealer" is a firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. To be a regular dealer, the firm must be an established, regular business that engages in, as its principal business and under its own name, the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question.

A regular dealer in such bulk items as steel, cement, gravel, stone, and petroleum products need not keep such products in stock if it owns and operates distribution equipment for the products. Any supplementing of regular dealers own distribution equipment shall be by a long-term lease agreement and not on an ad hoc or contract-by-contract basis. Brokers, packagers, manufacturers' representatives, or other persons who arrange or expedite transactions shall not be regarded as a regular dealer.

i. "Broker" is an intermediary or middleman that does not take possession of a commodity or act as a regular dealer selling to the public.

j. "Race-neutral DBE Participation" means any participation by a DBE through customary competitive procurement procedures.

k. "Race-conscious" means a measure or program that is focused specifically on assisting only DBEs, including women-owned businesses.

l. "Texas Unified Certification Program" or "TUCP" provides one-stop shopping to applicants for certification, such that applicants are required to apply only once for a DBE certification that will be honored by all recipients of federal funds in the state. The TUCP by Memorandum of Agreement established six member entities to serve as certifying agents for Texas in specified regions.

3. Contractor's Responsibilities. These requirements must be satisfied by the Contractor.

a. After conditional award of the contract, the Contractor shall submit a completed Form No. SMS.4901, "DBE Commitment Agreement" for each DBE he/she intends to use to satisfy the DBE goal or a good faith effort to explain why the goal could not be reached, so as to arrive in the Department's Business Opportunity Programs (BOP) Office in Austin, Texas not later than 5:00 p.m. on the 10th business day, excluding national holidays, after the conditional award of the contract. When requested, additional time, not to exceed 7 business days, excluding national holidays, may be granted based on documentation submitted by the Contractor.

b. DBE prime Contractors may receive credit toward the DBE goal for work performed by his/her own forces and work subcontracted to DBEs. A DBE prime must make a good faith effort to meet the goals. In the event a DBE prime subcontracts to a non-DBE, that information must be reported on Form No. SMS.4902.

c. A Contractor who cannot meet the contract goal, in whole or in part, shall make adequate good faith efforts to obtain DBE participation as so stated and defined in 49 CFR Part 26, Appendix A. The following is a list of the types of action that may be considered as good faith efforts. It is not intended to be a mandatory checklist, nor is it intended to be exclusive or exhaustive. Other factors or types of efforts may be relevant in appropriate cases.

- Soliciting through all reasonable and available means (e.g. attendance at prebid meetings, advertising, and/or written notices) the interest of all certified DBEs who have the capability to perform the work of the contract. The solicitation must be done within sufficient time to allow the DBEs to respond to it. Appropriate steps must be taken to follow up initial solicitations to determine, with certainty, if the DBEs are interested.

- Selecting portions of the work to be performed by DBEs in order to increase the likelihood that the DBE goals will be achieved. This includes, where appropriate, breaking out contract work items into economically feasible units to facilitate DBE participation, even when the Contractor might otherwise prefer to perform the work items with its own forces.

- Providing interested DBEs with adequate information about the plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract in a timely manner to assist them in responding to a solicitation.

- Negotiating in good faith with interested DBEs to make a portion of the work available to DBE subcontractors and suppliers and select those portions of the work or material needs consistent with the available DBE subcontractors and suppliers, so as to facilitate DBE participation. Evidence of such negotiations includes the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of DBEs that were considered; a description of the information provided regarding the plans and specifications for the work selected for subcontracting; and evidence as to why additional agreements could not be reached for DBEs to perform the work.

- A Bidder using good business judgment would consider a number of factors in negotiating with subcontractors, including DBE subcontractors, and would take a firm price and capabilities as well as contract goals into consideration. However, the fact that there may be some additional cost involved in finding and using DBEs is not in itself sufficient reason for a bidders failure to meet the Contract DBE goal as long as such cost are

reasonable. Also, the ability or desire of the Contractor to perform the work of the Contract with its own organization does not relieve the Bidder of the responsibility to make good faith effort. Contractors are not, however, required to accept higher quotes from DBEs if the price difference is excessive or unreasonable.

- Not rejecting DBEs as being unqualified without sound reasons based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities. The Contractor's standing within its industry, membership in specific groups, organizations, or associations and political or social affiliations (for example union vs. non-union employee status) are not legitimate cause for the rejection or non-solicitation of bids and the Contractors efforts to meet the project goal.

- Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, or insurance as required by the recipient or Contractor.

- Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services.

- Effectively using the services of available minority/women community organizations; minority/women Contractors' groups; local, state, and Federal minority/women business assistance offices; and other organizations as allowed on a case-by-case basis to provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of DBEs.

- If the Program Manager of the BOP Office determines that the Contractor has failed to meet the good faith effort requirements, the Contractor will be given an opportunity for reconsideration by the Director of the BOP Office.

d. Should the bidder to whom the contract is conditionally awarded refuse, neglect or fail to meet the DBE goal or comply with good faith effort requirements, the proposal guaranty filed with the bid shall become the property of the state, not as a penalty, but as liquidated damages to the Department.

e. The preceding information shall be submitted directly to the Business Opportunity Programs Office, Texas Department of Transportation, 125 E. 11th Street, Austin, Texas 78701-2483.

f. The Contractor shall not terminate for convenience a DBE subcontractor named in the commitment submitted under Section 1.A.3.a. of this Special Provision. Prior to terminating or removing a DBE subcontractor named in the commitment, the Contractor must have a written consent of the Department.

g. The Contractor shall also make a good faith effort to replace a DBE subcontractor that is unable to perform successfully with another DBE, to the extent needed to meet the contract goal. The Contractor shall submit a

completed Form No. 4901, "DBE Commitment Agreement," for the substitute DBE firm(s). Any substitution of DBEs shall be subject to approval by the Department. Prior to approving the substitution, the Department will request a statement from the DBE concerning it being replaced.

h. The Contractor shall designate a DBE liaison officer who will administer the Contractor's DBE program and who will be responsible for maintenance of records of efforts and contacts made to subcontract with DBEs.

i. Contractors are encouraged to investigate the services offered by banks owned and controlled by disadvantaged individuals and to make use of these banks where feasible.

4. Eligibility of DBEs.

a. The member entities of the TUCP certify the eligibility of DBEs and DBE joint ventures to perform DBE subcontract work on DOT financially assisted contracts.

b. The Department maintains the Texas Unified Certification Program DBE Directory containing the names of firms that have been certified to be eligible to participate as DBE's on DOT financially assisted contracts. This Directory is available from the Department's BOP Office. An update of the Directory can be found on the Internet at http://www.dot.state.tx.us/business/tucpinfo.htm.

c. Only DBE firms certified at the time commitments are submitted are eligible to be used in the information furnished by the Contractor as required under Section 1.A.3.a. and 3.g. above. For purposes of the DBE goal on this project, DBEs will only be allowed to perform work in the categories of work for which they are certified.

d. Only DBE firms certified at the time of execution of a contract/subcontract/purchase order, are eligible for DBE goal participation.

5. Determination of DBE Participation. When a DBE participates in a contract, only the values of the work actually performed by the DBE, as referenced below, shall be counted by the prime contractor toward DBE goals:

a. The total amount paid to the DBE for work performed with his/her own forces is counted toward the DBE goal. When a DBE subcontracts part of the work of its contract to another firm, the value of the subcontracted work may be counted toward DBE goals only if the subcontractor is itself a DBE. Work that a DBE subcontracts to a non-DBE firm does not count toward DBE goals.

b. A Contractor may count toward its DBE goal a portion of the total value of the contract amount paid to a DBE joint venture equal to the distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract performed by the DBE.

(1) A Contractor may count toward its DBE goal only expenditures to DBEs that perform a commercially useful function (CUF) in the work of a contract or purchase order. A DBE is considered to perform a CUF when it is responsible for execution of the work of the contract and is carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. To perform a CUF, the DBE must also be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies used on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, and installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself.

In accordance with 49 CFR Part 26, Appendix A, guidance concerning Good Faith Efforts, contractors may make efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services. Contractors may not however, negotiate the price of materials or supplies used on the contract by the DBE, nor may they determine quality and quantity, order the materials themselves, nor install the materials (where applicable), or pay for the material themselves. Contractors however, may share the quotations they receive from the material supplier with the DBE firm, so that the DBE firm may negotiate a reasonable price with the material supplier.

In all cases, prime or other subcontractor assistance will not be credited toward the DBE goal.

(2) A DBE does not perform a CUF if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation.

Consistent with industry practices and the DOT/Department's DBE program, a DBE subcontractor may enter into second-tier subcontracts, amounting up to 70% of their contract. Work subcontracted to a non-DBE does not count towards DBE goals. If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30% of the total cost of its contract with its own work force, or the DBE subcontracts a greater portion of the work of a contract than would be expected on the basis of normal industry practice for the type of work involved, it will be presumed that the DBE is not performing a CUF.

(3) A DBE trucking firm (including an owner operator who is certified as a DBE is considered to be performing a CUF when the DBE is responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation on a particular contract and the DBE itself owns and operates at least 1 fully licensed, insured, and operational truck used on the contract.

(a) The Contractor receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the DBE provides on a contract using trucks it owns, insures, and operates using drivers it employs.

(b) The DBE may lease trucks from another DBE firm, including an owner operator who is certified as a DBE. The DBE who leases trucks from another DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the lessee DBE provides on the Contract.

(c) The DBE may also lease trucks from a non-DBE firm, including from an owner-operator. The DBE who leases trucks from a non-DBE is entitled to credit for the total value of transportation services provided by non-DBE lessees not to exceed the value of transportation services provided by the DBE-owned trucks on the contract. Additional participation by non-DBE lessees receive credit only for the fee or commission it receives as result of the lease arrangement

(d) A lease must indicate that the DBE has exclusive use of and control over the trucks giving the DBE absolute priority for use of the leased trucks. Leased trucks must display the name and identification number of the DBE.

(4) When a DBE is presumed not to be performing a CUF the DBE may present evidence to rebut this presumption.

c. A Contractor may count toward its DBE goals expenditures for materials and supplies obtained from a DBE manufacturer, provided that the DBE assumes the actual and contractual responsibility for the materials and supplies. Count expenditures with DBEs for materials or supplies toward DBE goals as provided in the following:

(1) If the materials or supplies are obtained from a DBE manufacturer, count 100% of the cost of the materials or supplies toward DBE goals. (Definition of a DBE manufacturer found at 1A.c.(1) of this provision.)

For purposes of this Section (1.A.c.(1)), a manufacturer is a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces, on the premises, the materials, supplies, articles, or equipment required under the contract and of the general character described by the specifications.

(2) If the materials or supplies are purchased from a DBE regular dealer, count 60% of the cost of the materials or supplies toward DBE goals.

For purposes of this Section (1.A.5.c.(2)), a regular dealer is a firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract

are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business:

(A) To be a regular dealer, the firm must be an established, regular business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question.

(B) A person may be a regular dealer in such bulk items as petroleum products, steel, cement, gravel, stone or asphalt without owning, operating, or maintaining a place of business as provided in the first paragraph under Section 1.A.5.c.(2), if the person both owns and operates distribution equipment for the products. Any supplementing of regular dealers' own distribution equipment shall be by a long-term lease agreement and not on an ad hoc or contract-by-contract basis.

(C) Packagers, brokers, manufacturers' representatives, or other persons who arrange or expedite transactions are not regular dealers within the meaning of Section 1.A.5.c.(2).

(3) With respect to materials or supplies purchased from DBE which is neither a manufacturer nor a regular dealer, count the entire amount of fees or commissions charged for assistance in the procurement of the materials and supplies, or fees or transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies required on a job site, toward DBE goals, provided you determine the fees to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services. Do not count any portion of the cost of the materials and supplies themselves toward DBE goals.

(4) Count the entire amount of fees or commissions charged by a DBE firm for providing a bona fide service, such as professional, technical, consultant or managerial services, or for providing bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of a DOT-assisted contract, toward DBE goals, provided you determine the fee to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services.

d. If the Contractor chooses to assist a DBE firm, other than a manufacturing material supplier or regular dealer, and the DBE firm accepts the assistance, the Contractor may act solely as a guarantor by use of a two-party check for payment of materials to be used on the project by the DBE. The material supplier must invoice the DBE who will present the invoice to the Contractor. The Contractor may issue a joint check to the DBE and the material supplier and the DBE firm must issue the remittance to the material supplier. No funds shall go directly from the Contractor to the material supplier. The DBE firm may accept or reject this joint checking arrangement.

The Contractor must obtain approval from the Department prior to implementing the use of joint check arrangements with the DBE. Submit to the Department, Joint Check Approval Form 2178 for requesting approval. Provide copies of cancelled joint checks upon request. No DBE goal credit will be allowed for the cost of DBE materials that are paid by the Contractor directly to the material supplier.

e. No DBE goal credit will be allowed for supplies and equipment the DBE subcontractor leases from the contractor or its affiliates.

f. No DBE goal credit will be allowed for the period of time determined by the Department that the DBE was not performing a CUF. The denial period of time may occur before or after a determination has been made by the department. In case of the denial of credit for non-performance of a CUF of a DBE, the Contractor will be required to provide a substitute DBE to meet the contract goal or provide an adequate good faith effort when applicable.

6. Records and Reports.

a. The Contractor shall submit monthly reports, after work begins, on DBE payments to meet the DBE goal and for DBE or HUB race-neutral participation. Report payments made to non-DBE HUBs. The monthly report is to be sent to the Area Engineer. These reports will be due within 15 days after the end of a calendar month. These reports will be required until all DBE subcontracting or material supply activity is completed. Form No. SMS.4903, "DBE or HUB Progress Report," is to be used for monthly reporting. Form No. SMS.4904, "DBE or HUB Final Report," is to be used as a final summary of DBE payments submitted upon completion of the project. The original final report must be submitted to the Business Opportunity Programs Office and a copy must be submitted to the Area Engineer. These forms may be obtained from the Department or may be reproduced by the Contractor. The Department may verify the amounts being reported as paid to DBEs by requesting copies of cancelled checks paid to DBEs on a random basis. Cancelled checks and invoices should reference the Department's project number.

b. DBE subcontractors and/or material suppliers should be identified on the monthly report by Vendor Number, name, and the amount of actual payment made to each during the monthly period. Negative reports are required when no activity has occurred in a monthly period.

c. All such records must be retained for a period of 3 years following completion of the contract work, and shall be available at reasonable times and places for inspection by authorized representatives of the Department or the DOT. Provide copies of subcontracts or agreements and other documentation upon request.

d. Prior to receiving final payment, the Contractor shall submit Form SMS.4904, "DBE or HUB Final Report". If the DBE goal requirement is not met, documentation supporting Good Faith Efforts, as outlined in Section 1.A.3.c. of this Special Provision, must be submitted with the "DBE or HUB Final Report."

e. Provide a certification of prompt payment, the Prompt Payment Certification Form 2177, to certify that all subcontractors and suppliers were paid from the previous months payments and retainage was released for those whose work is complete. Submit the completed form each month and the month following the month when final acceptance occurred at the end of the project.

7. Compliance of Contractor. To ensure that DBE requirements of this DOT assisted contract are complied with, the Department will monitor the Contractor's efforts to involve DBEs during the performance of this contract. This will be accomplished by a review of monthly reports submitted to the Area Engineer by the Contractor indicating his progress in achieving the DBE contract goal, and by compliance reviews conducted on the project site by the Department.

The Contractor shall receive credit toward the DBE goal based on actual payments to the DBE subcontractor. The Contractor shall notify the Area Engineer if he/she withholds or reduces payment to any DBE subcontractor. The Contractor shall submit an affidavit detailing the DBE subcontract payments prior to receiving final payment for the contract.

Contractors' requests for substitutions of DBE subcontractors shall be accompanied by a detailed explanation which should substantiate the need for a substitution. The Contractor may not be allowed to count work on those items being substituted toward the DBE goal prior to approval of the substitution from the Department.

The prime Contractor is prohibited from providing work crews and equipment to DBEs. DBE Goal credit for the DBE subcontractors leasing of equipment or purchasing of supplies from the prime contractor or its affiliates is not allowed.

When a DBE subcontractor, named in the commitment under Section 1.A.3.a. of this Special Provision, is terminated or fails to complete its work on the contract for any reason, the prime contractor is required to make good faith efforts to find another DBE subcontractor to substitute for the original DBE. These good faith efforts shall be directed at finding another DBE to perform at least the same amount of work under the contract as the DBE that was terminated, to the extent needed to meet the contract goal.

A Contractor's failure to comply with the requirements of this Special Provision shall constitute a material breach of this contract. In such a case, the Department reserves the right to terminate the contract; to deduct the amount of DBE goal not accomplished by DBEs from the money due or to become due the Contractor, or

to secure a refund, not as a penalty but as liquidated damages to the Department or such other remedy or remedies as the Department deems appropriate.

B. Article B. Race-Neutral Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Participation. It is the policy of the DOT that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) as defined in 49 CFR Part 26 Subpart A, be given the opportunity to compete fairly for contracts and subcontracts financed in whole or in part with Federal funds and that a maximum feasible portion of the Department's overall DBE goal be met using race-neutral means. Consequently, if there is no DBE goal, the DBE requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, apply to this contract as follows:

The Contractor will offer DBEs as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, Subpart A, the opportunity to compete fairly for contracts and subcontractors financed in whole or in part with Federal funds. Race-Neutral DBE and non-DBE HUB participation on projects with no DBE goal shall be reported on Form No. SMS.4903, "DBE or HUB Progress Report" and submitted to the Area Engineer each month and at project completion. Payments to DBEs reported on Form SMS.4903 are subject to the requirements of Section 1.A.5, "Determination of DBE Participation."

The Contractor, subrecipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the performance of this contract. The Contractor shall carry out applicable requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the award and administration of DOT-assisted contracts. Failure by the contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy as the recipient deems appropriate.

ATTACHMENT 3 TO EXHIBIT K

DBE PROVISIONS

SPECIAL PROVISION
009---007
Measurement and Payment

For this project, Item 009, "Measurement and Payment," of the Standard Specifications, is hereby amended with respect to the clauses cited below, and no other clauses or requirements of this Item are waived or changed hereby.

Article 9.6. Progress Payments, Section A, Retainage is voided and replaced by the following:

A. Retainage. Retainage will not be withheld on this project.

Article 9.6. Progress Payments, Section B, Payment Provisions for Subcontractors is voided and replaced by the following:

B. Payment Provisions for Subcontractors. For the purposes of this Article only, the term subcontractor includes suppliers and the term work includes materials provided by suppliers at a location approved by the department. Pay the subcontractors for work performed within 10 days after receiving payment for the work performed by the subcontractor. Also, pay any retainage on a subcontractor's work within 10 days after satisfactory completion of all of the subcontractor's work. Completed subcontractor work includes vegetative establishment, test, maintenance, performance, and other similar periods that are the responsibility of the subcontractor.

For the purpose of this Section, satisfactory completion is accomplished when:

- the subcontractor has fulfilled the Contract requirements of both the Department and the subcontract for the subcontracted work, including the submittal of all information required by the specifications and the Department; and
- the work done by the subcontractor has been inspected and approved by the Department and the final quantities of the subcontractor's work have been determined and agreed upon.

The inspection and approval of a subcontractor's work does not eliminate the Contractor's responsibilities for all the work as defined in Article 7.14, "Contractor's Responsibility for Work."

The Department may pursue actions against the Contractor, including withholding of estimates and suspending the work, for noncompliance with the subcontract requirements of this Section upon receipt of written notice with sufficient details showing the subcontractor has complied with contractual obligations as described in this Article.

These requirements apply to all tiers of subcontractors. Incorporate the provisions of this Article into all subcontract or material purchase agreements.