

# New Disadvantaged & Small Business Enterprise Initiatives

Metro has introduced several new initiatives as part of the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Purple Line Extension Section 2. First, Proposers are now required to submit proposals with an innovative DBE Contracting Outreach and Mentoring Plan (COMP), as outlined below. Second, Proposers must also include a Mentor Protégé as well as sized-focused DBE Tier Programs in their proposals. Third, Race Conscious DBE contract goals will now apply to all federal DBE groups, including Caucasian Women.

In addition, Metro has eliminated the Good Faith Effort (GFE) provision from all non-federally funded requests for proposals (RFPs). This is expected to have a significant impact on the Small Business Enterprise (SBE) Program.

## COMP

The Proposers' COMP approach will be evaluated as one element of the RFP evaluation criteria, and Metro will review/approve each COMP submittal for the awarded contract. After award, the Proposer is required to submit annual COMP updates as well as quarterly reports on Mentor Protégé agreements. COMP is comprised of:

- *Mentor Protégé* – RFPs will outline minimum criteria for the COMP to include a Mentor Protégé Program, emphasizing proposers' creativity in providing business development assistance to selected DBE firms in both the design and construction phases of the project. The goal is for mentors to assist in the advancement of participating protégés, including measurable plans to grow and compete on a larger scale. NOTE: Mentor Protégés will be identified by Proposers/Bidders, not by Metro. Interested DBEs should contact the solicitation's Contract Administrator for the Plan Holders list of potential Proposers/Bidders who have expressed interest in the project.
- *DBE/SBE Tier Programs* – Proposers will be required to identify strategies to create DBE/SBE subcontracting opportunities based on firm size/average annual gross receipts defined by tiered dollar thresholds (i.e. \$3K-\$500K, \$501K-\$1.0M, \$1.1M-\$5M, \$5.1M-\$10M and \$10.1M-\$23.98M). The purpose is to increase DBE/SBE participation by further levelling the playing field and making it easier for DBE/SBEs to compete with firms of a similar size. Proposers are expected to develop and include sub-contracting opportunities at those dollar threshold levels in the COMP approach submitted in their proposals.

*Look for these NEW initiatives to be rolled out in future IFBs and RFPs greater than \$25 Million, including non-federally funded projects under the SBE Program.*

## Good Faith Effort Elimination (Non-Federal RFPs)

To reinforce its commitment to increase contracting opportunities for SBEs, Metro is eliminating GFE provisions from all non-federally funded RFPs. With this change, Proposers that do not demonstrate the SBE goal in their proposal meeting will not be eligible for award. NOTE: GFE requirements for federally funded contracts remain unchanged and documentation must be submitted at the time of bid or proposal.

## New DBE Program Change

For projects advertised as of September 14, 2015, Race Conscious DBE contract goal(s) applies to all federal DBE groups, which includes: African Americans, Asian Pacific Americans, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans, Subcontinent Asian Americans, and Women (including Caucasian Women).