



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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Office of the  
Commissioner

An Equal Opportunity Employer

### Connecticut Department of Transportation Comments by Commissioner James P. Redeker

#### Connecticut General Assembly Black and Puerto Rican Caucus

#### Public Hearing - March 29, 2012

The Department of Transportation (Department) is pleased to provide information regarding our commitment to Minority Business Enterprise/ Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MBE/DBE) and Small Business Enterprise (SBE) businesses. The Department is committed to having the best DBE and SBE/MBE programs possible in the context of the guidelines for each of the respective programs. As you know, the SBE/MBE program administered by the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) is for state-funded expenditures, and there is a set aside for SBE and MBE firms. The DBE program for federal expenditures has an overall goal for DBE firms. Similar to the SBE/MBE program, the program does not have a specific goal for ethnic and non-ethnic groups.

It should be noted that the Department has met or exceeded all of the goals set for MBE/DBE/SBE programs. For example, in 2010, the DBE goal was 11.0% and we achieved 11.5%. In 2011, the goal was 11.0% and we achieved 13.8%. However, the Department has also implemented several initiatives to increase the utilization of DBE/SBE/MBE firms. Several of those efforts are enumerated below:

1. The Department hosts networking and showcase events to encourage partnering with the larger prime consultants.
2. The Department has held targeted programs for major projects, like the New Britain to Hartford Busway, to develop opportunities for firms to participate.
3. The Department has "unbundled" large projects into smaller, specialty programs in an attempt to provide more opportunities for participation by firms
4. The Department will continue to host training sessions for contractors and consultants to discuss the DBE program requirements.
5. The Department has increased its outreach to DBE/SBE/MBE firms to encourage certification.

I assure you that the Department has a total commitment to ensuring Connecticut's workforce goals are met on state-funded projects, and that we meet all of our goals for federally funded projects as well.

If you would like any additional information from the Department on specific projects or programs, please contact Pamela Sucato at 860 594-3013.

**MDC Disparity Study**

**Final Report**

**July 31, 2009**

**Page E-21 – “Conclusions” States:**

“Based on the findings in the previous nine chapters, Miller Three Consulting draws an inference of discrimination against:

- **African American**-owned firms in construction;
- **African American-, Hispanic American**-owned firms and WBEs in non=professional services and,
- **Asian American-, African American-, Hispanic American**-owned firms and WBEs in goods & supplies.”

(This information is taken directly from the Final Report referenced above)