

**ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
CONSTRUCTION BUREAU**

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

POLICY STATEMENT

The Alabama Department of Transportation (ALDOT) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), 49 CFR Part 26. The ALDOT has received federal financial assistance from the USDOT, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the ALDOT has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26. It is the policy of the ALDOT to ensure that DBEs as defined in 49 CFR Part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in USDOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT- assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT- assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts;
6. To promote the use of DBEs in all types of federally-assisted contracts and procurement activities;
7. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
8. To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

As the Transportation Director, I have appointed Deputy Administrator, E. Maxine Wheeler, as ALDOT's DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In that capacity, the Deputy Administrator 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 ALDOT in its financial assistance agreements with the USDOT.

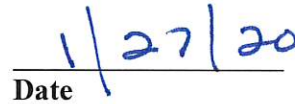
ALDOT has disseminated this policy statement to the Bureau Chiefs, Region Engineers and all of the components of our organization. This statement will also be distributed to the DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for us on USDOT-assisted contracts. The distribution was accomplished by the following methods:

- Broadcasting the policy statement to all DBE and non-DBE firms via United States Postal Service
- Publishing the policy on ALDOT's DBE Program web site at http://www.dot.state.al.us/cboweb/DBE_Program.html

This policy statement applies to all contractors and consultants.



John R. Cooper, Transportation Director



Date