



Policies and Procedures No. 26

Board Approval: 10/14/2021

SUBJECT:

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM

PURPOSE:

To provide a program to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of federally-assisted contracts and create a level playing field on which disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs) can compete fairly for those contracts.

POLICY:

26.1 POLICY STATEMENT AND PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

Policy Statement/Objectives (CFR § 26.3, § 26.7, § 26.21, § 26.23)

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) has established and adopted a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 26 "Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs (49 CFR Part 26)." MTS has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, MTS has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of MTS to ensure that DBEs as defined in 49 CFR Part 26 have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in MTS's DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy to:

1. Ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of all MTS contracts and subcontracts;
2. Create a level playing field by which DBEs can compete for and perform in MTS's DOT-assisted contracts;
3. Ensure that the MTS DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law and current legal standards, including the Ninth Circuit Ruling in *Western States Paving vs. Washington State Department of Transportation*;



4. Ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. Help remove procurement and contracting barriers, which impede DBE participation in MTS DOT-assisted contracts;
6. Monitor and enforce contractors' compliance in meeting established goal objectives and program requirements;
7. Assist in the development of DBEs and Small Businesses to increase their ability to compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program; and
8. Ensure MTS contractors and subcontractors take all necessary and reasonable steps to comply with these policy objectives.

As evidence of MTS's commitment to pursue these policy objectives, the Chief Executive Officer has designated Deputy General Counsel as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In this capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. The DBELO has direct access to the Chief Executive Officer for DBE-related matters. Implementation of the DBE program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by MTS in its financial assistance agreements with DOT. MTS will disseminate this policy statement to all of the departments of our organization. Additionally, MTS will distribute this policy to DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform or are interested in performing work on MTS projects. Through such efforts, MTS will ensure DOT-assisted contracting and procurement related processes promote equity in access, consideration and opportunity for DBEs and other small businesses in response to requirements set forth under 49 CFR Part 26, DOT Directives and Final Rules.

26.2 APPLICABILITY (CFR § 26.3, § 26.21)

MTS, as a direct recipient of federal funds from the DOT, and as a condition of Federal financial assistance, is required to submit for approval to the DOT Operating Administration from which it receives the majority of its funding, a DBE Program developed in accordance with federal regulations published under Title 49 CFR Part 26 and subsequent guidance. This DBE Program sets forth the policies and procedures to be implemented by MTS to ensure that DBEs have an equitable opportunity to participate in DOT-assisted contracting opportunities.

In direct response to these regulatory requirements, MTS hereby establishes a DBE Program, which will:

1. Comply with federal regulations and financial assistance agreements;
2. Meet legal standards for narrow-tailoring requirements;
3. Ensure nondiscrimination in the award of DOT-assisted contracts; and
4. Reaffirm MTS's commitment to fairness and the principles of equal opportunity.

In conformance with 49 CFR Part 26, MTS will continue to carry out its DBE Program until all DOT funds have been expended.

MTS additionally complies with the California Department of Transportation's (Caltrans') DBE Program on projects on which it is a sub-recipient of federal funds through Caltrans.

MTS will advise all applicable DOT Operating Administrations of any significant updates and/or changes to this DBE Program.

26.3 DEFINITION OF TERMS (CFR § 26.5)

Race-Conscious Measure or Program: A program or portion thereof that focuses specifically on assisting only DBEs, including minority and women-owned DBEs, by the development and inclusion of participation goals or Good-Faith Effort activities.

Race-Neutral Measure or Program: A program or portion thereof that assists all small businesses, including DBEs, regardless of ownership status, in successfully participating in MTS's procurement program. For the purposes of the DBE Program, "race-neutral" includes gender-neutrality.

Any other term used in this DBE Program shall have the meaning set forth in 49 CFR Part 26.

26.4 RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DBE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

A. DBE Liaison Officer (CFR § 26.25)

MTS has designated the following individual as the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Liaison Officer (DBELO):

Samantha Leslie
Deputy General Counsel
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101
Telephone: (619) 557-4539; Fax: (619) 814-1559
E-mail: Samantha.Leslie@sdmts.com

In this capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE Program and ensuring that MTS complies with all provisions of 49 CFR Part 26 and subsequent DOT-issued directives and final rules. The DBELO has direct, independent access to the MTS Chief Executive Officer concerning DBE Program matters. The DBELO has sufficient support personnel who devote a portion of their time to implement the Program. The DBELO is responsible for developing, implementing and monitoring the DBE Program, in coordination with other appropriate officials.

The DBELO's and/or designee's duties include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

1. Gathers and reports statistical data and other information as required by the DBE Program, including preparation of

semiannual DBE reports and related analysis for submission to the applicable DOT Operating Administration.

2. Reviews applicable contracts, purchase requisitions, advertisements, boilerplate language specifications and other related documentation specific to implementing applicable DBE requirements.
3. Consults with all affected departments in developing overall DBE goals.
4. Ensures that bid notices and requests for proposals are made available to DBEs in a timely manner.
5. Reviews DOT-assisted contracts and procurements for purposes of applying applicable race-neutral measures.
6. Analyzes MTS's progress towards meeting overall DBE goals by monitoring individual contract DBE attainments.
7. Ensures that pre-bid meetings inform potential bidders and/or offerors regarding MTS's DBE Program.
8. Advises the Chief Executive Officer and/or the MTS Board on DBE matters and achievements.
9. Assesses DBE participation eligibility towards MTS's overall DBE goal.

Additionally, the DBELO and/or designee is charged with implementing the race-neutral measures listed in this DBE Program document.

B. Reconsideration Official (CFR § 26.53)

Should MTS implement a race-conscious component to this DBE Program, the DBE Program will be amended to provide the procedures for the administrative reconsideration process and to specify MTS's Reconsideration Official.

26.5 ADMINISTRATIVE REQUIREMENTS

A. Non-Discrimination Requirements (CFR § 26.7)

MTS 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, MTS 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.

B. Federal Financial Assistance Agreement Assurance (CFR § 26.13 {a})

MTS will sign the following assurance as a condition of financial assistance agreements with the DOT, and which is hereby made applicable to all of MTS's DOT-assisted contracts:

"MTS shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex in the award and performance of any U.S. DOT-assisted contract or in the administration of its DBE Program or the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26. MTS shall take all necessary and reasonable steps under 49 CFR Part 26 to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of U.S. DOT-assisted contracts. MTS's DBE Program, as required by 49 CFR Part 26 and as approved by U.S. 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 MTS of its failure to carry out its approved program, the Department may impose sanctions as provided under 49 CFR 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.)."

C. DBE Financial Institutions (CFR § 26.27)

It is the policy of MTS 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 utilize these institutions, as available, and to encourage prime contractors on MTS's DOT-assisted contracts to make use of these institutions.

The Federal Reserve Board compiles data on financial institutions that participate in the Department of the Treasury's Minority Bank Deposit Program. When MTS competitively procures financial services, MTS will notify any identified minority and women-owned financial institutions in MTS's geographic market area of the upcoming procurement. Through MTS's website and MTS's contract solicitations, MTS will also encourage contractors to use the services of minority and women-owned financial institutions identified from the listings. The Internet address of this listing is <http://www.federalreserve.gov/releases/mob/>.

D. DBE Directory (CFR § 26.31)

MTS refers interested parties to the California Unified Certification Program (CUCP) Database of Certified DBE Firms (DBE Directory) to assist in identifying certified DBEs. The DBE Directory is published at http://dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm.

E. Overconcentration (CFR § 26.33)

MTS has not identified any types of work that have a burdensome overconcentration of DBE participation. However, should MTS determine that overconcentration exists in a work classification, MTS will obtain the

approval of the concerned DOT Operating Administration of its determination and the measures devised to address it. Once these measures are approved, they will become part of MTS's DBE Program.

F. Business Development Programs (CFR § 26.35)

MTS has not established a business development program. The DBELO will continually evaluate the need and assess whether MTS should establish a Business Development Program and/or a Mentor Protege Program. If MTS establishes either program, the program will be guided by the applicable Appendix of 49 CFR Part 26 and approved by the cognizant DOT Operating Administration before being implemented.

G. Fostering Small Business Participation (CFR § 26.39)

MTS will structure contracting requirements to facilitate competition by small businesses by advising the contracting community of the benefits of becoming SB certified, the eligibility requirements to become certified as a SB, and the online directory of certified SBs, found at the California Department of General Services (DGS) website:

<https://caleprocure.ca.gov/pages/PublicSearch/supplier-search.aspx>.

MTS may also implement a Small Business Set Aside (i.e. competition among only small businesses) on certain contracts. The MTS Procurement Manager or designee shall consider whether there is a reasonable expectation of obtaining offers from three (3) or more responsible small business concerns that are competitive in terms of market prices, quality, and delivery before applying a Small Business Set Aside to a procurement. MTS will define a small business as a business that meets the definition of small business concern set out in 49 CFR § 26.5. A certified DBE will be presumed eligible to participate in a small business set aside, as all certified DBEs must meet the definition of a small business concern. To avoid program fraud, MTS will verify eligibility of a firm to participate in a small business set aside.

26.6 DETERMINING, MEETING, AND COUNTING DBE PARTICIPATION TOWARDS THE OVERALL DBE GOAL (CFR § 26.45; § 26.51; § 26.55)

MTS is currently operating a strictly race-neutral DBE Program in accordance with DOT guidance following the *Western States Paving* decision of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. Should MTS incorporate a race-conscious DBE Program in the future, the breakout of estimated race-neutral and race-conscious participation in MTS's DBE goal will be updated.

As MTS is currently operating a strictly race-neutral DBE Program, contract goals are not applicable to MTS procurements. Should MTS, at a future date, incorporate a race-conscious component to its DBE Program, it will then use contract goals to meet any portion of the overall goal MTS does not project being able to meet using race-neutral means. As required by *Western States Paving*, if MTS incorporates a race-conscious DBE Program, MTS will gather evidence to determine if discrimination in the transportation contracting industry is present. MTS will make a determination at that time what type of evidence gathering is appropriate, based on DBE regulations and case law.

A. Methodology for Setting Overall DBE Goals (CFR § 26.45; 26.49)

In accordance with § 26.45(e)(3), and with FTA approval, MTS will establish an overall program goal on a triennial basis. The overall program goal will represent the amount of DOT-assisted funds MTS anticipates expending on DBE firms over three years, and will be presented as a percentage of the total DOT assistance received.

The overall program goal will be developed in accordance with the 2-step process specified in § 26.45 (c) & (d). The first step is to determine the goal "base figure" based on the relative availability of DBEs in MTS's market area. The second step is to adjust the goal "base figure" from Step 1 so that it reflects as accurately as possible the DBE participation MTS would expect in the absence of discrimination based on past participation, a disparity study and/or information about barriers to DBE participation. Annual projections on DBE participation during each fiscal year will be developed as specified by § 26.45 (e)(3)(iii).

Additionally, MTS will provide for public participation in establishing an overall program goal. MTS will publish a notice of the proposed overall program goal on MTS's website and a newspaper of general circulation, informing the public that the proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection and comment.

Additionally, MTS will consult with minority, women's and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations to solicit information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses, the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and MTS's efforts to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs.

MTS will submit the overall program goal to DOT in accordance with § 26.45 (f)(2). The overall goal submission to DOT will include a summary of information and comments received during this public comment/participation process and any MTS responses.

MTS 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 for the project.

B. Shortfall Analysis and Corrective Action Plan (CFR § 26.47)

If at the end of each year, awards/commitments are less than the applicable overall goal, MTS will analyze the reasons for the shortfall and establish specific steps that may enable MTS to meet its overall goal in the next year. MTS will submit its Shortfall Analysis and Corrective Action Plan to the FTA by December 29 for any applicable year.

C. Transit Vehicle Manufacturers (TVM) Certifications (CFR § 26.49)

In accordance with § 26.49, MTS will not include TVM vehicle procurements in its overall goal calculation or semiannual reports. MTS will require each TVM, as a condition of being authorized to bid or propose on DOT-assisted transit vehicle procurements, to certify that it has complied with the requirements of this section. Alternatively, MTS may, at its discretion and with DOT 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. Within 30 days of making an award to a TVM, MTS will submit notice to the FTA regarding the name of the successful bidder and the total dollar value of the contract.

D. Race-Neutral Measures (CFR § 26.51)

MTS will implement the following race-neutral measures which are aimed at increasing DBE and other small business participation.

1. MTS will hold and/or participate in conferences, which include a networking component to promote teaming opportunities between prospective prime contractors and the DBE and Small Business contracting community. MTS will also actively promote the Small Business conferences, programs, and support services offered by other agencies that have established DBE and Small Business Programs.
2. MTS will provide assistance in overcoming limitations such as inability to obtain bonding or financing. Specifically, MTS will, through its website, refer the DBE and Small Business contracting community to the U.S. Small Business Administration Bonding Assistance Program and San Diego Small Business Development Center.
3. MTS will solicit DBEs and other small business participation by carrying out information on specific contract opportunities. Specifically, MTS will: ensure the inclusion of DBEs and other small businesses on MTS's mailing lists of bidders and/or MTS's e-procurement web based vendor list; make available to prime contractors information on how to view a listing of potential DBE and other small business subcontractors; and provide contracting information in languages other than English, where appropriate and upon request.
4. MTS will advise its contracting community of the benefits of becoming DBE certified, the eligibility requirements to become certified as a DBE, and the online directory of certified DBEs, found at the CUCP website:
http://dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/find_certified.htm.

E. Use of Set-Asides or Quotas (CFR § 26.43)

Except as otherwise provided for in Section 26.5(G) (i.e. small business set aside), MTS shall not permit the use of quotas for DBEs on DOT-assisted contracts in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26. Further, MTS shall not set aside contracts for DBEs on DOT-assisted contracts subject to the regulatory provisions, except in limited and extreme circumstances where no other method could be reasonably expected to redress egregious instances of discrimination.

F. Counting DBE Participation and Commercially Useful Function (CFR § 26.55)

MTS will count DBE participation toward overall and contract specific goals as provided in 49 CFR Part 26.55. MTS will not count the participation of a DBE subcontract toward a contractor's final compliance with its DBE obligations on a contract until the amount being counted has actually been paid to the DBE subcontractor.

26.7 REQUIRED CONTRACT PROVISIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

A. Contractor's Assurance Clause Regarding Non-Discrimination (CFR § 26.13)

MTS will ensure that the following clause is placed in all DOT-assisted contracts and subcontracts: *"The contractor 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 Title 49, CFR, Part 26 in the award and administration of MTS's U.S. 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 MTS deems appropriate."*

B. Prompt Payment Provisions (CFR § 26.29)

The DBE Program found at Title 49 CFR Part 26 requires that any delay or postponement of payment over 30 days from the prime contractor to any subcontractor for work performed pursuant to their agreements may take place only for good cause and with MTS's prior written approval.

1. Prompt Progress Payments to Subcontractors

In accordance with 49 CFR 26.29, MTS will include a contract clause that will require the prime contractor to pay each subcontractor participating on the contract for satisfactory performance of its contract no later than 7 days from the receipt of each payment the prime contractor receives from MTS. Any delay or postponement of payment over 30 days may occur only for good cause following written approval of MTS. This clause applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontractors.

2. Payment of Retention Withheld from Subcontractor

When MTS elects to hold retainage from the prime contractor, MTS will provide prompt and regular incremental acceptances of portions of the work on each contract and pay retainage to the prime contractor based on these acceptances.

In accordance with 49 CFR 26.29, MTS will include a contract clause that will require the prime contractor to make prompt and full payment of any retainage owed to subcontractors for satisfactory completion of the subcontractors work within 7 days after subcontractor's work has been satisfactorily completed. Any delay or postponement of payment over 30 days may occur only for good cause following written approval of MTS. This clause applies to both DBE and non-DBE subcontractors.

26.8 DBE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS (CFR § 26.61-3 26.73; § 26.81; § 26.83a)

As a non-certifying member of the CUCP, MTS will accept DBE certifications from certifying member agencies of the CUCP.

For more information about the certification process or to apply for certification, firms should visit the CUCP website at:
http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/bep/business_forms.htm.

26.9 RECORD KEEPING AND MONITORING (CFR § 26.11, § 26.37)

A. Bidders List (CFR § 26.11)

MTS will develop and maintain a Bidders List consisting of all firms bidding on prime contracts, and bidding or quoting subcontracts on MTS's DOT-assisted projects/contracts. The following information will be included in the bidders list:

1. Firm Name;
2. Address;
3. Years in Business;
4. Status as a DBE or non-DBE;
5. Type of Work; and
6. Annual Range of Gross Receipts.

B. Reporting to DOT (CFR § 26.11)

MTS will submit to the applicable DOT Operating Administration the "Uniform Report of DBE Awards or Commitments and Payments" semiannually on June 1 and December 1 of each year, as required. The June 1 report will include DBE activity from October 1 through March 31. The December 1 report will include DBE activity from April 1 through September 30. This report presents a summary of DOT-assisted prime contracts and subcontracts that are: awarded or committed to; open; and completed during the applicable reporting period.

Upon request, MTS will compile and submit ad-hoc DBE contract award and progress reports for DOT-assisted projects. Furthermore, MTS will continue to provide reports relative to MTS's DBE Program, as directed. These reports will provide DBE participation information on MTS's race-neutral and gender-neutral contracts on all DOT assisted procurement activities.

C. Information, Confidentiality, Cooperation (CFR § 26.109)

MTS will safeguard from disclosure to third parties information that may reasonably be regarded as confidential business information, consistent with Federal Freedom of Information and Privacy Acts (5 U.S.C. 552 and 552a), California Public Records Act (Government Code § 6250) state, and local law. Notwithstanding the preceding provision, MTS will not release any information that may reasonably be construed as confidential business information to any third party (other than DOT) without the written consent of the firm that submitted the information.

D. Monitoring and Enforcement Mechanisms (CFR § 26.37)

MTS will implement appropriate mechanisms to ensure compliance with 49 CFR Part 26 requirements by all program participants (e.g., applying legal and contract remedies available under Federal, state and local law).

1. Monitoring Work Committed to DBE

MTS's DBE Program will include a monitoring and enforcement mechanism to ensure that work committed to DBEs is actually performed by DBEs. This will include a written certification by MTS that contract records have been reviewed and work sites have been monitored to ensure work is actually performed by the DBE. In addition, MTS will maintain a running tally of actual DBE attainments (e.g., payments actually made to DBE firms) to compare against the prime contractor's commitments to use a DBE, when applicable.

2. Termination or Substitution of DBE subcontractors

MTS includes a contract clause in each federally assisted contract that requires the prime contractor to notify and receive consent from MTS whenever a DBE subcontractor is terminated or substituted. For construction contracts, MTS shall follow applicable state law for terminations or substitutions of subcontractors.

3. Monitoring Payments to DBE and Non-DBE subcontractors

MTS undertakes monitoring of prime payments to subcontractors over the course of any DOT- assisted contract. MTS includes a contract clause in each federally assisted contract that the prime contractor must provide subcontractor payment information to the MTS Contract Administrator monthly, if any payments were made to subcontractors. In addition, MTS bi-annually requests

subcontractor payment information from the prime contractor to ensure MTS has accurate listing of subcontractor payment information within its records. Lastly, MTS may use a monthly prompt payment certification form that requires prime contractor to certify prompt payments were made to subcontractor.

4. Prompt Payment Dispute Resolution

The obligations of prompt payment and release of retainage does not arise if there is a legitimate dispute over a subcontractor's performance. Subcontractor should first attempt to work with the prime contractor regarding whether subcontractor's work has been satisfactorily performed. If a dispute remains as to whether work has been satisfactorily completed for purposes of prompt payment requirements, notice should be given to the DBELO to take further action. Steps to resolve dispute may include, but are not limited to, conducting a meeting between prime contractor, subcontractor, and MTS project manager to review whether subcontractor work was completed in accordance with contract, plans and specifications.

5. Prompt Payment Complaints

Complaints by subcontractors regarding prompt payment should first be directed to the prime contractor and their payment bond surety, if applicable. If affected subcontractor needs assistance in communicating with the prime contractor regarding payment or is unable to resolve payment discrepancies with prime, subcontractor should contact DBELO in writing to initiate the complaint. The complaint should identify specifics regarding the subcontract payment language, items of work in question, and the subcontractor's attempts to obtain payment from the prime contractor and payment bond surety, if applicable.

Upon receipt of a subcontractor's written complaint that contains the above described information, DBELO will contact prime contractor directly, advising them of MTS's receipt of a prompt payment complaint, of prime contractor's responsibility to work with the subcontractor to resolve the dispute and potential enforcement action, as further described in Section 26.9 (D)(5) of this Board Policy. If after notice to the prime there is still no timely and meaningful action by the prime to resolve prompt payment disputes, affected subcontractor may refer the complaint to the responsible FTA contact.

6. Enforcement Action for Noncompliance of Prompt Payment and Return of Retainage

MTS will include a contract clause in its DOT- assisted contracts that any violation of prompt payment requirements, as defined in Section 26.27 (B) of this Board Policy, shall subject the violating prime contractor or subcontractor to the penalties, sanctions and other remedies specified in Section 7108.5 of the Business and

Professions Code, if applicable. It may also result in the application of appropriate administrative sanctions, including, but not limited to, prime contractor not being reimbursed for work performed by subcontractors unless and until the prime contractor ensures that the subcontractors are promptly paid for the work they have performed.

7. Enforcement Action for False, Fraudulent or Dishonest Conduct

MTS will bring to the attention of the DOT any false, fraudulent, or dishonest conduct in connection with the program, so that DOT can take the steps provided in § 26.107 (e.g., referral to the Department of Justice for criminal prosecution, referral to the DOT Inspector General, action under suspension and debarment or Program Fraud and Civil Penalties rules). Additionally, MTS will consider similar action under its own legal authorities, including responsibility determinations in future contracts.

Additional DBE Documents (Available from DBELO upon request)

- A. DBE Program Regulations
- B. DBE Program Organizational Chart
- C. Listing of DBE Financial Institutions located within MTS's geographic market area
- D. MTS Goal Setting Methodology
- E. CUCP DBE Certification Application
- F. Uniform Report of DBE Awards or Commitments and Payments

Original Policy approved on 12/6/84.

Policy revised on 4/28/88.

Policy revised on 4/25/91.

Policy revised on 1/26/95.

Policy revised on 10/16/97.

Policy revised on 8/12/99.

Policy revised on 8/10/00.

Policy revised on 9/27/01.

Policy revised on 7/25/02.

Policy revised on 3/11/04.

Policy revised on 7/22/04.

Policy revised on 2/16/12.

Policy revised on 7/16/15.

Policy revised on 7/26/18.

Policy revised on 7/25/19

Policy revised on 10/14/21

Attachments: Exhibit A – DBE Policy Statement

Exhibit A – MTS Board Policy No. 26

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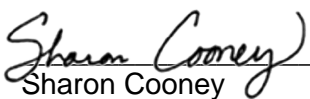
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8. Ensure MTS contractors and subcontractors take all necessary and reasonable steps to comply with these policy objectives.

MTS has designated Deputy General Counsel as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). In this capacity, the DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program.

This signed and dated policy statement expresses MTS's commitment to pursuing the objectives of the DBE Program.


Sharon Cooney
Chief Executive Officer

10/15/21
Date