

Civil Rights

Business Opportunity and Workforce Development Partnership Agreement

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Business Opportunity and Workforce Development (BOWD) Program is funded by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This joint effort seeks to provide a new technical assistance program to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) in partnership with public/private business sectors, prime contractors, minority colleges, community based organizations, and the DBE community. The BOWD Center will offer parallel DBE business development and On-the-Job Training (OJT) programs that target the needs of underutilized DBE firms and serve as a resource to recruit, hire and assist highway contractors in meeting On-the-Job Training requirements and developing a well trained highway construction workforce.

The BOWD Center will have a specific focus on identifying highway construction opportunities and will provide supportive services to selected DBE firms enrolled in the two-year business development pilot program. This Agreement establishes a voluntary partnership between Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce (VACC) and VDOT to maximize existing resources to enhance the effectiveness of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and On-the-Job Training (OJT) Programs that support the development of underutilized DBEs to compete for and perform on Federal-aid highway contracts.

The parties to this Agreement pledge to work together in the following efforts to:

- Advocate mutually beneficial entrepreneurial relationships between the public/private business sector and disadvantaged businesses;
- Promote community participation in On-the-Job Training opportunities on highway construction projects;
- Engage in collaborative activities designed to increase the success of DBE businesses in the Virginia highway program;
- Promote innovative programs that are focused on the development and enhancement of DBE performance on highway projects;
- Promote partnerships to create valuable and meaningful training programs for DBE contractors;
- Provide the BOWD Center with information regarding the value of in-kind services provided for the development of DBE firms;
- Assist in establishing a cadre of strengthened and knowledgeable DBE firms able to successfully compete for VDOT work.

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Partnership Agreement**

This Agreement in no way restricts any party from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.

_____ Date 10/15/07 _____ Date

_____ Virginia Department of Transportation _____
Tinh du Phan
Tinh du Phan, Chairman
Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce