



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

Martin O'Malley

Governor

Anthony G. Brown

Lt. Governor

Beverley K. Swaim-Staley

Acting Secretary

Dear Business Owner:

Maryland is home to one of the most robust communities of small, women and minority-owned businesses in the nation and State procurement agencies are working diligently to spend at least 25% of their procurement dollars with certified minority firms. This 25% goal is the highest in the nation and includes sub-goals of 7% for African-American and 10% for women-owned businesses.

In order to compete for these State contracting dollars, you must be certified as a Minority Business Enterprise (MBE). The Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) administers the State's certification program through the Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE). The program is free and applicants may simultaneously apply for certification to participate as a minority business on federally funded contracts as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE).. Certification offers a number of benefits, including greater exposure to contracting opportunities as an MBE/DBE and inclusion in MDOT's online MBE/DBE Directory. Certified firms actively participate in meeting public and private minority participation goals and have exclusive access to Maryland's Linked Deposit Program which offers discount loans and lines of credit through participating banks.

I encourage you to visit the Minority/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise tab at www.mdot.maryland.gov. You can learn more about the program, download the Uniform Certification Application, read our quarterly newsletter, check out upcoming events, access the online directory and connect to a variety of other resources from this site.

I also cordially invite you to attend our free MBE/DBE Application Assistance Workshop held the first Tuesday of every month. It provides a comprehensive overview of the program and offers you the opportunity to meet with a certification expert one-on-one. Be sure to visit the Application Assistance Workshop section of our website for complete details.

I firmly believe that certification as an MBE/DBE provides great opportunities to small, women- and minority-owned businesses and I hope you consider joining our program. Don't hesitate to contact my office with any questions at 410-865-1269 or mbe@mdot.state.md.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zenita Wickham Hurley".

Zenita Wickham Hurley

Director

Office of Minority Business Enterprise