POLICY STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY FOR THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

In accordance with Federal Regulations 49 CFR, Part 26.81, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) operates the Unified Certification Program (UCP) for the State of Maryland. MDOT manages the Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program. Included within MDOT are the following six Administrations: Maryland Aviation Administration, Maryland State Highway Administration, Maryland Port Administration, Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, Maryland Transit Administration and the Maryland Transportation Authority (an independent agency that is subject to MDOT policies regarding the DBE Program).

As the designated Unified Certification Program agency, MDOT renews its commitment to enhance the existing DBE Program to reflect changes in State and Federal law, as well as changes in the marketplace and the DBE community. MDOT, through the DBE Program, continues to encourage the growth of disadvantaged and/or minority owned and operated businesses that seek to avail themselves of business opportunities in Maryland.

MDOT will ensure that:

- No discrimination exists in contract awards or administration in the DBE Program
- Certified DBE firms will fully meet eligibility standards
- Assistance will be given to firms to develop and compete successfully in the marketplace without the DBE Program
- The DBE Program is narrowly tailored, with appropriate flexibility
- Every effort is made to remove barriers to the participation of DBE firms on MDOT contracts
- A level playing field is created so that DBE firms can compete fairly for USDOT-assisted contracts
- Appropriate flexibility is provided to recipients of federal financial assistance to establish and provide opportunities for DBE firms
- Statutory requirements for concessions are followed

MDOT is committed to the successful implementation of the DBE Program. The Assistant Secretary for Administration, MDOT, is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE Program. The Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE) provides policy development and guidance, policy monitoring and overall goal development.

Each Administration is responsible for program implementation including the goal setting on individual contracts, contract administration, contract compliance, participation reporting, and enforcement and sanctions.

Transportation serves as the lifeline of the State's economy, and viable, competitive DBEs are a vital part of a balanced economic climate. Together we can build a better Maryland.