



Maryland Department of Transportation
The Secretary's Office

POLICY STATEMENT OF THE SECRETARY

FOR

THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Since 1978, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) has been a partner with the rest of State Government in developing and operating the Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) Program. MDOT has also met the challenges of managing the Federal Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in conjunction with the MBE Program. We take great pride in the knowledge that our Program continues to be used as a model for DBE/MBE efforts in many jurisdictions throughout the United States, and serves as a blueprint for other states and programs.

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

The Department will ensure that:

- no discrimination exists in contract awards or administration in the DBE/MBE Program
- participation of DBE/MBE firms will fully meet eligibility standards
- assistance will be given to firms to develop and compete successfully in the marketplace without the DBE/MBE Program
- the DBE/MBE Program is narrowly tailored, with appropriate flexibility
- if contract barriers are identified every effort will be made to remove such barriers so that DBEs/MBEs can compete fairly for contracts
- statutory requirements for concessions are followed.

The Department's leadership, from the Secretary's Office to the Modal Administrations, is committed to the successful implementation of the DBE/MBE Program. The Deputy Secretary, who is the Chief Operating Officer of the Department and the Department's DBE Liaison Officer, is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE/MBE Program. The Office of Minority Business Enterprise, within the Secretary's Office, is the uniform certification office, providing policy development and guidance, policy monitoring and overall goal development.

The Modal Administrations and the Maryland Transportation Authority with guidance from the Secretary's Office, are responsible for program implementation including the goal setting on individual contracts, contract administration, contract compliance, participation reporting, enforcement and sanctions.

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