

SOUTHEAST AREA TRANSIT DISTRICT
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
PROGRAM GOAL
FOR FISCAL YEARS 2022 – 2024

SUMMARY

As required by 49 Code of Federal Regulations Part 26 (49 CFR Part 26), *Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs*, Southeast Area Transit District (SEAT) has set its overall goal under the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) participation during Fiscal Years (FY) 2022 – 2024 contracts funded in whole or in part with Federal Transit Administration (FTA) funds. SEAT proposes an overall goal of **0.5 percent Race Neutral (RN)** which reflects the relative availability of DBE's to participate in contracts and procurements projected by SEAT. 100% of our goal will be race neutral (RN).

In accordance with 49 CFR 26.45, SEAT's proposed goal was published on their website: www.seatbus.com, listed in Appendix A and in the Norwich Bulletin and The Day newspapers listed in Appendix B, Appendix C & C.2. No comments were received following publication of the FTA goal.

METHODOLOGY (Part 46.45)

The following is a summary of the method SEAT used to calculate this goal:

STEP I: Base Figure Determination (Part 26.45(c))

STEP 1 of the goal setting process is the establishment of a **Base Figure** for the relative availability of DBE's in the market area utilized by SEAT. The base figure was established by determining the number of ready, willing and able Connecticut DBE's and the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau data for Connecticut provided relevant and reliable data to measure its marketplace. This approach was utilized for the following reasons:

- All DBE's certified to work in Connecticut are tracked by type of work and their approved North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes as provided on the Connecticut Department of Transportation website at: http://www.biznet.ct.gov/dot_dbe/DBESearch.aspx .
- The U.S. Census Bureau's County Business Pattern (CBP-NAICS) data base from 2012 provides statistics for Connecticut, including the number of vendors by NAICS codes on both a State-wide and County-wide basis. A list of the number of vendors and NAICS codes are listed at the following website: <http://censtats.census.gov/cgi-bin/cbpnaic/cbpdetl.pl>

The number of potential DBE bidders determined in this analysis (4) is then divided by the total number of all potential bidders (37) in order to arrive at the relative availability

of DBE's in Southeast Area Transit District's market area, as expressed by a percentage. The results of this analysis are as follows:

FTA Procurements and Miscellaneous Transit	
Projected weighted dollar value x DBE-relative availability = Weighted DBE-relative availability	
<i>Projected weighted dollar value for FTA procurements & miscellaneous transit:</i>	
<u>Estimated FTA Procurement & Misc.</u>	<u>\$3,016,268</u> = 1
Total FTA-assisted programs	\$3,016,268
<i>Projected DBE-relative availability in FTA procurements and miscellaneous transit:</i>	
4 DBE's in projected utilized areas = 0.1081	
37 All vendors in market area	
Weighted DBE Relative Availability in FTA procurements & misc. = 0.02515 x 0.0045 (0.5%)	

STEP II: Adjustments to Base Figure (Part 26.45 (d))

Step II of the goal-setting process involves examining available evidence in the State of Connecticut in order to determine what adjustment, if any, is needed to the base figure in order to arrive at the overall, final goal. The contracting opportunities that SEAT uses are spread across the State of Connecticut. SEAT feels like this was the most accurate representation of our market area. No disparity studies are available for the SEAT area based on:

- SEAT's additional efforts in locating DBE groups/organizations listings for the New London County are as follows:
 - The Bureau of Business Practice which was in Waterford, CT is no longer in business;
 - SEAT's staff went to New London, Waterford, Groton, Otis, Mystic and Noank Public Libraries. None of the said libraries have DBE listings.
 - SEAT's staff went to the Chamber of Commerce – Eastern CT located in Waterford, CT and found that no DBE listing.

SEAT has determined that the base goal of 0.5% would not be affected because no additional evidence is available in our jurisdiction. SEAT's total overall DBE goal for FY 2022 – 2024 is 0.5%.

Public Participation – Part 26.45(g) (1) and (2)

SEAT has published a notice of its proposed overall DBE goal as noted in Appendix A. This notice informs the public that the proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours at our office at 21 Route 12, Preston, CT 06365. The notice further informs the public that Southeast Area Transit District will accept comments on the goal for 30 days from the date of the notice.

Due to the Coronavirus pandemic and the shut down which started in March of 2020, SEAT staff was limited in being able to participate in any public outreach forums.

Means Used to Meet SEAT Overall DBE Goal (Part 26.51)

SEAT's FY 2022 – 2024 DBE goal of 0.5% will be obtained entirely through race-neutral means. SEAT is a small urban transit system (located in an urbanized area with a population of 265,206), and very rarely has a large contract with sub-contracting opportunities. No such contract is anticipated for FY 2022 – 2024. SEAT anticipates meeting its DBE goal entirely through race-neutral measures, which include but are not limited to the following:

- Ensuring the widest possible distribution of SEAT's DBE Directory – which is the CDOT state-wide DBE Listing;
- Reducing bonding requirements when possible;
- Arranging all possible aspects of solicitations, including delivery schedules, in ways to facilitate DBE participation;
- Provision of information to bidders, upon request, in other languages other than English.

Appendix A

Advertising

Southeast Area Transit District announcement of its proposed FTA goal for FY 2022 – 2024 was published in the following:

Website:

<https://www.southeastareatransitdistrict.com/about-us/policies-documents/dbe-goal/>