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IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT

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Announcement of Changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concession DBE (ACDBE) Programs

Dear valued partners,

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has issued new guidance [DBE IFR Guidance.9-30-2025.pdf](#) and an Interim Final Rule that makes significant changes to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Airport Concession DBE (ACDBE) programs. These changes are effective immediately and will impact how Unified Certification Programs (UCPs) and recipients of DOT funding administer the DBE and ACDBE certifications.

Key Changes:

1. **Removal of Race- and Sex-Based Presumptions.** The previous presumptions that certain individuals were “socially and economically disadvantaged” based on race, ethnicity, or sex have been removed.
2. **Revaluation of Existing Certifications:** All DBE’s and ACDBE’s must be reevaluated for eligibility (and re-certified by the Department) under the new criteria. Applicants must now demonstrate “socially and economically disadvantaged” through a personal narrative and supporting financial information/documentation.
3. **Transition Requirements:** Until reevaluation is complete for all current DBEs, recipients may not set DBE or ACDBE contract goals, nor may participation be counted toward overall DBE/ACDBE goals.

As a result, ITD will remove individual DBE project goals on our federal-aid projects until our entire UCP directory of DBE and ACDBE firms has been evaluated under the new program rules. Currently advertised construction contracts with DBE Goals will have the DBE percentages reduced to 0% by addendum. Advertisements for Consultant Services with assigned DBE goals will also have the required percentage reduced to 0%. Therefore, ITD will not establish individual DBE project goals for our federal-aid projects until this process is complete and further guidance is provided.

We understand these adjustments may raise questions, and we are committed to providing accurate and up-to-date information through this transition. For specific questions on active projects, please contact your ITD contract administrator, or consultant agreement administrator. Additional resources, guidance, and updates will be shared as they become available.

Sincerely,

David B. Kuisti, P.E.
Chief Engineer
Idaho Transportation Department