

DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM
Unified Certification Program Agreement

Reference: Subpart E of 49 CFR part 26, Participation by Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Financial Assistance Programs.

Background: With the publication of the DBE Program in the Federal Register on February 8, 1999, the U. S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) established new standards for the implementation of the Disadvantaged Enterprise Program. These new procedures required that each State Highway Agency establish a Unified Certification Program (UCP) by March 4, 2002.

The establishment of a UCP will recognize current procedures as the "approved" standard for DBE certification. As with past certification procedures, the UCP will not place undue burden on the VTrans or its operating administrations.

Intent: The intent of the UCP is to establish standard procedures and make certification decisions on behalf of all USDOT recipients in the state with respect to the DBE Program.

Terms: This agreement acknowledges the VTrans DBE Liaison Officer as the certifying official for all DBE program applicants. In this capacity, the DBE Liaison Officer will make all certification recommendations for review of the VTrans Prequalification Committee on behalf of the VTrans and its recipients and cooperate fully with oversight, review, and monitoring activities of the same. Additionally, the VTrans DBE Liaison Officer will ensure that all program recipients' EEO obligations are met.

In recognition of the Unified Certification Program (UCP), we, the signatories herein, dually agree to the terms set forth by this agreement and the mutual objectives listed below:

1. All USDOT recipients will participate in the UCP.
2. The VTrans DBE Liaison Officer shall manage the UCP and make all DBE certification recommendations to the Prequalification Committee on behalf of the VTrans and its recipients.
3. All certifications shall be considered contract pre-certifications.
4. The UCP is not required to process an application for certification from a firm having its principal place of business outside the state, if the firm is not certified by the UCP in the state which it maintains as the principal place of business.
5. The VTrans DBE Liaison Officer will maintain a unified DBE Directory for all firms certified under the auspices of the UCP, to be posted and available to the public electronically on the VTrans web site and in print.

Brian Searles, Secretary of Vermont Agency of Transportation

Jeannette Barry, Chittenden County Transportation Authority

Bob McEwing, Burlington International Airport

Shane O'Keefe – Town Manager, Rockingham

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