



**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION'S FEDERALLY-APPROVED DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS
ENTERPRISE PROGRAM BY Fort Bend County**

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is by and between the **TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT)**, an agency of the State of Texas; and
Fort Bend County, a political subdivision of the State of Texas.

Whereas, from time to time Fort Bend County receives federal funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) through TxDOT to assist
Fort Bend County with the construction and design of projects partially or wholly funded through FHWA; and

Whereas, Fort Bend County, as a sub-recipient of federal funds, is required by 49 CFR 26, to implement a program for disadvantaged business enterprises (DBEs), as defined by 49 CFR 26 (DBE Program); and

Whereas, TxDOT has implemented a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program (DBE Program) that is approved by the FHWA pursuant to 49 CFR part 26; and

Whereas, certain aspects of Fort Bend County's procurement of construction and design services are subject to review and/or concurrence by TxDOT as a condition of receiving federal funds from FHWA through TxDOT; and

Whereas, Fort Bend County and TxDOT undertake substantially similar roadway construction projects and design projects and construct and design their respective projects using substantially the same pool of contractors; and

Whereas, Fort Bend County desires to implement a federally compliant DBE Program by adopting the TxDOT approved program, as recommended by FHWA; and

Whereas, TxDOT and Fort Bend County find it appropriate to enter into this MOU to memorialize the obligations, expectations and rights each has as related to
Fort Bend County's adoption of the TxDOT DBE's Program to meet the federal requirements;

Now, therefore, TxDOT and Fort Bend County, in consideration of the mutual promises, covenants and conditions made herein, agree to and acknowledge the following:

(1) TxDOT has developed a DBE Program and annually establishes a DBE goal for Texas that is federally approved and compliant with 49 CFR 26 and other applicable laws and regulations.

(2) Fort Bend County is a sub-recipient of federal assistance for construction projects and design projects and, in accordance with 49 CFR § 26.21, must comply with a federally approved DBE Program. The Fort Bend County receives its federal assistance through TxDOT. As a sub-recipient, Fort Bend County has the option of developing its own program or adopting and operating under TxDOT's federally approved DBE Program. The FHWA recommends that sub-recipients, such as
Fort Bend County, adopt the DBE program, administered through TxDOT, and Fort Bend County by its prescribed protocol adopted the TxDOT DBE Program as of the date when adoption occurred.

(3) This MOU evidences FHWA's and TxDOT's consent to the adoption of the TxDOT DBE Program by Fort Bend County to achieve its DBE participation in federally assisted Construction and Design Projects.

(4) The parties will work together in good faith to assure effective and efficient implementation of the DBE Program for Fort Bend County and for TxDOT.

(5) Fort Bend County and TxDOT have agreed upon the following delegation of responsibilities and obligations in the administration of the DBE Program adopted by Fort Bend County:

(a) Fort Bend County will be responsible for project monitoring and data reporting to TxDOT. Fort Bend County will furnish to TxDOT any required DBE contractor compliance reports, documents or other information as may be required from time to time to comply with federal regulations. TxDOT will provide the necessary and appropriate reporting forms, to Fort Bend County.

(b) Fort Bend County will recommend contract-specific DBE goals consistent with TxDOT's DBE guidelines and in consideration of the local market, project size, and nature of the good(s) or service(s) to be acquired. Fort Bend County's recommendation may be that no DBE goals are set on any particular project or portion of a project or that proposed DBE goals be modified. Fort Bend County and TxDOT will work together to achieve a mutually acceptable goal, however, TxDOT will retain final decision-making authority regarding DBE goals.

(c) TxDOT will cooperate with Fort Bend County in an effort to meet the timing and other requirements of Fort Bend County projects.

(d) Fort Bend County will be solely responsible for the solicitation and structuring of bids and bid documents to procure goods and services for its projects that use federal funds and will be responsible for all costs and expenses incurred in its procurements.

(e) The DBEs eligible to participate on TxDOT construction projects or design projects also will be eligible to participate on Fort Bend County construction projects or design projects subject to the DBE Program. The DBEs will be listed on TxDOT's website under the Texas Unified Certification Program (TUCP).

(f) Fort Bend County will conduct reviews and provide reports with recommendations to TxDOT concerning any DBE Program compliance issues that may arise due to project specific requirements such as Good Faith Effort (GFE), Commercially Useful Function (CUF), etc. Fort Bend County and TxDOT will work together to achieve a mutually acceptable goal, however, TxDOT will retain final decision-making authority on those issues and reserves the right to perform compliance reviews. Fort Bend County shall provide TxDOT with a listing of sanctions that will be assessed against contractors for violation of federal DBE regulations and its procedures for investigation of violations and assessment of sanctions for documented violations. Fort Bend County will require contractors for its FHWA federally assisted projects to use the attached forms as follows:

Attachment 1 – Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Commitment Agreement
Form SMS 4901

Attachment 2 – DBE Monthly Progress Report Form SMS 4903

Attachment 3 – DBE Final Report Form SMS 4904

Attachment 4 – Prompt Payment Certification Form (Federal-air Projects) 2177

(g) Fort Bend County will designate a liaison officer to coordinate efforts with TxDOT's DBE Program administrators and to respond to questions from the public and private sector regarding Fort Bend County's administration of the DBE Program through TxDOT.

(h) Fort Bend County will be responsible for providing TxDOT with DBE project awards and DBE Commitments, monthly DBE reports, DBE Final Reports, DBE shortfall reports, and annual and updated goal analysis and reports.

(i) TxDOT will be responsible for maintaining a directory of firms eligible to participate in the DBE Program, and providing business development and outreach programs.

Fort Bend County and TxDOT will work cooperatively to provide supportive services and outreach to DBE firms in Fort Bend County area.

(j) Fort Bend County will submit DBE semi-annual progress reports to TxDOT.

(k) Fort Bend County will participate in TxDOT sponsored training classes to include topics on Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, DBE Annual Goals, DBE Goal Setting for Construction Projects and Design Projects, DBE Contract Provisions, and DBE Contract Compliance, which may include issues such as DBE Commitments, DBE Substitution, and Final DBE Clearance. TxDOT will include DBE contractors performing work on Fort Bend County projects in the DBE Education and Outreach Programs.

(l) The Executive Director of Fort Bend County will implement all federal requirements, including those stated in Attachments A through F, which are incorporated as though fully set out herein for all purposes.

(m) In accordance with 23 CFR 200.1, Fort Bend County shall develop procedures for the collection of statistical data (race, color, religion, sex, and national origin) of participants in, and beneficiaries of State highway programs, i.e., relocatees, impacted citizens and affected communities; develop a program to conduct Title VI review of program areas; and conduct annual reviews of special emphasis program areas to determine the effectiveness of program area activities at all levels. TxDOT, in accordance with federal law, may conduct compliance reviews by TxDOT's Office of Civil Rights (OCR).

(n) Fort Bend County will comply with 49 CFR 26.29 as stated in Attachment F.

(6) In the event there is a disagreement between TxDOT and Fort Bend County about the implementation of the TxDOT DBE Program by Fort Bend County the parties agree to meet within ten (10) days of receiving a written request from the other party of a desire to meet to resolve any disagreement. The parties will make good faith efforts to resolve any disagreement as efficiently as is reasonably possible in consultation with FHWA. Non-compliance by Fort Bend County can result in restitution of federal funds to TxDOT and withholding of further federal funds upon consultation with FHWA.

(7) This MOU becomes effective upon execution by all parties and automatically renews each year unless a party notifies the other parties of its intent to terminate the agreement.

(8) If this MOU is terminated for any reason, Fort Bend County will be allowed reasonable time in which to seek approval from FHWA for an alternative DBE Program, without being deemed non-compliant with 49 CFR Part 26.

(9) This MOU applies only to projects for which Fort Bend County is a sub-recipient of federal funds through TxDOT. Fort Bend County may also implement a Minority and Women-Owned Small Business Enterprise (M/W/SBE) policy and program that applies to projects for which it is not a sub-recipient of federal funds through TxDOT and which are not subject to the TxDOT DBE Program. Fort Bend County may, at its option, use some aspects of the TxDOT DBE Program and other similar programs in implementing its other policies and programs for its non-federally funded projects.

(10) The following attachments to this MOU are also incorporated as if fully set out herein for all purposes:

Attachment A – FHWA Memorandum HCR-1/HIF-1 (relating to access required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973);

Attachment B – SPECIAL PROVISION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT / RMA / NON-STANDARD CONTRACTS

Attachment C – 49 CFR §26.13 (contractual assurances)

Attachment D – DBE Program Compliance Guidance for Local Government Agencies

Attachment E – FHWA Form 1273

Attachment F – Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program with attachments as follows:

Attachment F1 – DBE Regulations: 49 CFR Part 26

Attachment F2 – DBE Special Provisions 000-1966

Attachment F3 – TxDOT's Organizational Chart

Attachment F4 – Measurement and Payment Special Provision 009-007

Attachment F5 – Texas Unified Certification Program (TUCP) DBE directory example and website address to the directory

Attachment F6 – DBE Goal Methodology

Attachment F7 – DBE Bidder Certification

Attachment F8 – DBE Joint Check Approval Form

Attachment F9 – TUCP Standard Operating Procedures (SOP)

Attachment F10 – TUCP Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)

Attachment F11 – Forms list

(11) The following procedure shall be observed by the parties in regard to any notifications:

(a) Any notice required or permitted to be given under this MOU shall be in writing and may be effected by personal delivery, by hand delivery through a courier or a delivery service, or by

registered or certified mail, postage prepaid, return receipt requested, addressed to the proper party, at the following address:

Fort Bend County

Robert E. Hebert
County Judge

Hand Delivery:

401 Jackson, Richmond, Tx 77469

Registered or Certified Mail (Return receipt requested):

401 Jackson, Richmond, Tx 77469

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DBE Liaison
Office of Civil Rights
Address: 125 E. 11th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

(b) Notice by personal delivery or hand delivery shall be deemed effective immediately upon delivery, provided notice is given as required by Paragraph (a) hereof. Notice by registered or certified mail shall be deemed effective three (3) days after deposit in a U.S. mailbox or U.S. Post Office, provided notice is given as required by Paragraph (a) hereof.

(c) Either party hereto may change its address by giving notice as provided herein.

(12) This MOU may be modified or amended only by written instrument, signed by both

Fort Bend County and the TxDOT and dated subsequent to the effective date(s) of this MOU. Except as authorized by the respective parties, no official, employee, agent, or representative of the parties has any authority, either express or implied, to modify or amend this MOU.

(13) The provisions of this MOU are severable. If any clause, sentence, provision, paragraph, or article of this MOU, or the application of this MOU to any person or circumstance is held by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable for any reason, such invalidity, illegality, or unenforceability shall not impair, invalidate, nullify, or otherwise affect the remainder of this MOU, but the effect thereof shall be limited to the clause, sentence, provision, paragraph, or article so held to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, and the application of such clause, sentence, provision, paragraph, or article to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected; provided, however,

Fort Bend County and TxDOT may mutually agree to terminate this MOU.

(14) The following provisions apply in regard to construction of this MOU:

(a) Words of any gender in this MOU shall be construed to include the other, and words in either number shall be construed to include the other, unless the context in this MOU clearly requires otherwise.

(b) When any period of time is stated in this MOU, the time shall be computed to exclude the first day and include the last day of the period. If the last day of any period falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or national holiday, or state or county holiday, these days shall be omitted from the computation. All hours stated in this MOU are stated in Central Standard Time or in Central Daylight Savings Time, as applicable.

(15) This MOU shall not be construed in any way as a waiver by the parties of any immunity from suit or liability that parties may have by operation of law, and the parties hereby retain all of their respective affirmative defenses.

EXECUTED in duplicate originals by TxDOT and Fort Bend County, acting through each duly authorized official and effective on the latest date signed.

The signatories below confirm that they have the authority to execute this MOU and bind their principles.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION Fort Bend County

By: James M. Bass
James Bass
Executive Director (Interim)

Date: 2/5/14

By: Robert E. Hebert
Robert E. Hebert
County Judge

Date: January 7, 2014