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**City of Houston
Office of Business Opportunity**

**Proposed Goal for the Participation of
Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in
Department of Transportation Funded Contracts
Federal Fiscal Years 2020 – 2022**

Pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Section 49, Part 26, the City of Houston has proposed an overall goal of **31%** for the participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBE) at its Houston Airport System's William P. Hobby Airport (HOU) contracts that are funded by the US Department of Transportation (DOT), effective October 1, 2019 thru September 30, 2022. Of the **31%** overall goal, it is anticipated that **2.5%** can be achieved by race neutral means.

I. METHODOLOGY

Step 1

The first step in determining the overall goal for the Houston Airport System's Federal Fiscal Years 2020 – 2022 DBE program was to identify the base figure of ready, willing, and able minority and women-owned businesses, where the majority of the contracts are let and where the prime and sub-contractors are located.

In order to determine a base figure, the following data source was utilized:

- *The State of Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise in Construction: Evidence from Houston 2012* (Disparity Study)

NERA Economic Consulting was commissioned to examine the past and current status of minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises' participation on City of Houston construction contracts. The Study was published in April, 2012 and included a contract-by-contract review of 756 prime construction contracts and 7,440 associated subcontracts that occurred between the City's Fiscal Year 2005 through the first half of its Fiscal Year 2010. The contract-by-contract review included 49 Houston Airport System contracts, both federally and non-federally funded. The Study also included an availability analysis which identified the total number of business establishments in the market area, as well as determined the number of socially disadvantaged (minority and women- owned) establishments in Houston's market. This process included 1) Identifying all listed M/WBEs in the relevant market 2) Verifying the ownership status of listed M/WBEs, and 3) Estimating the number of unlisted M/WBEs in Houston's market.

There is one Core Based Statistical Area (CBSA) that encompasses the City of Houston. It is the Houston-Sugar Land-Baytown, TX Metropolitan Statistical Area. The Houston CBSA is comprised of the following Texas counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto, and Waller. According to the Study, contractors located within this CBSA account for the vast

majority of construction contract and subcontract awards by the City of Houston and its prime contractors.

Based on the detailed findings of the Study, it was concluded that the City of Houston's relevant market area of ready, willing, and able minority and women-owned construction businesses currently have an availability of 34.74%.

As such, the City of Houston's Houston Airport System will use the 34.74% as the base figure in establishing its overall goal for Federal Fiscal Years 2020 – 2022.

Step 2

The evidence available was examined in our jurisdiction and it suggested that the base figure needed to be adjusted to arrive at the overall goal. The base figure of 34.74% will be adjusted by the weighted availability for the anticipated projects.

Adjustment: Two sources of data were used to calculate weighted DBE availability – Texas Unified Certification Program's (TUCP) database of certified Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms and the 2014 United States Census' County Business Patterns.

A federally-assisted project with approximately \$10,447,500 in grant funds is anticipated during Federal Fiscal Years 2020 – 2022 (see Table 1). The majority of the federally-assisted contracts are primarily construction. A contract specific goal will be assigned to the project based on availability.

The corresponding NAICS Code(s) were identified and analyzed for major work elements (See Attachment 1).¹ The weighted availability figure was determined to be 29.1%.

Table 1
Estimated Contract Dollars to Be Awarded in
Federal Fiscal Years 2020 – 2022

LOC	Proj No.	Description	Estimated amount	Federal	Local
HOU	770	Taxiway (Hot Spots)	\$13,930,000	\$10,447,500	\$3,482,500

¹ The weighted availability figure was determined by taking the applicable NAICS Codes for major work elements of the projects and finding the number of certified DBEs listed with the Texas Department of Transportation with that NAICS Code, then dividing that number by the number of total businesses listed in the 2014 United States Census' County Business Patterns for the Houston MSA (that will determine the availability for each work element), then multiplying the percent of the budget for the identified work elements by the availability for each work element.

Adjustment: (Base Figure 34.74% + Weighted Availability 28%) / 2 = 31.37%

The proposed overall goal for the participation of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in Department of Transportation Funded Contracts for Federal Fiscal Years 2020 – 2022 for the City of Houston's Houston Airport System's William P. Hobby Airport is 31% or \$3,238,725 of the total expected Federal Funding amount of \$10,447,500.

II. Breakout of the Estimated Race Neutral and Race Conscious Participation

Regarding the calculation of the Race Neutral Goal, several factors were considered. They are:

- A. Past participation by DBE prime contractors.**
- B. Voluntary DBE utilization on contracts with no DBE goals.**
- C. The amount by which goals were exceeded or missed in the past.**
- D. Description of efforts to use race-neutral means.**

Examples of our efforts to use race-neutral means include, but are not limited to the following:

- 1) Participation in over 25 events annually through Outreach Fairs with other stakeholders that receive Federal DOT funding (Port of Houston, METRO, etc.). Reaching over 10,000 potential DBEs.
- 2) Arranging solicitations, times for the presentation of bids, quantities, specifications, and delivery schedules in ways that facilitate DBEs and other small businesses' participation (i.e., unbundling large contracts to make them more accessible to small businesses, requiring or encouraging prime contractors to subcontract portions of work that they might otherwise perform with their own forces).
- 3) Providing technical assistance and other services.
- 4) Providing information and communications programs on contracting procedures and specific contract opportunities (i.e., ensuring the inclusion of DBEs, and other small businesses on recipient mailing lists for bidders; ensuring the dissemination to bidders on prime contracts of lists of potential subcontractors; provision of information in languages other than English, where appropriate).

- 5) Providing services to help DBEs and other small businesses improve long-term development; increase opportunities to participate in a variety of work; handle increasingly significant projects and achieve eventual self-sufficiency.
- 6) Ensuring distribution of the DBE directory through print and electronic means, to all potential prime contractors.
- 7) Assisting DBEs and other small businesses in developing their capability to utilize emerging technology and conduct business through electronic media.

We will be using the previously approved Race Neutral amount of 2.5%, as there were not any closed DBE projects in Fiscal Years 2017 – 2019.

III. Public Participation

In establishing an overall goal, the City of Houston provided time for public participation. This public participation included:

(1) Consultation with minority, women and general contractor groups, community organizations, and other officials or organizations which could be expected to have information concerning the availability of disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged businesses and that can describe the effects of discrimination on opportunities for DBEs, and the City of Houston's efforts to establish a level playing field for the participation of DBEs.

(2) A published notice announcing the proposed overall goal, informing the public that the proposed goal and its rationale are available for inspection during normal business hours at the City Secretary's Office for 30 days following the date of the notice, and informing the public that the City of Houston and the Houston Airport System will accept comments on the goals for 45 days from the date of the notice. The notice included addresses to which comments may be sent, and it was published in general circulation media and available to minority-focused media and trade association publications. The notice was published in the City Secretary's Office and on the City of Houston Airport System's website at www.fly2houston.com.

(3) Copies of the DBE Plan were available for public review during the 30 day review period at the following locations:

- Houston Airport System
Office of Business Opportunity
18600 Lee Rd.
Humble, TX. 77338
- Office of Business Opportunity
611 Walker St. 7th Floor
Houston, TX. 77002
- Office of City Secretary
900 Bagby St.
Houston, TX. 77002

Attachments:

- a. Attachment 1 - Weighted Ratio of Certified DBEs to Available Firms in the Market Area

Houston Airport System
Office of Business Opportunity
DBE Goal Calculation FY-2020-2022
Capacity Estimates
Weighted Ratio of Certified DBEs to Available Firms in Market Area

NAICS Codes	Description	% of Work	Budget Amounts	DBEs	All Firms	DBE Availability	Weighted Availability
236910	Site Preparation Contractors including Concrete breaking and cutting for demolition	51%	\$ 5,347,031	128	369	34.69%	17.75%
237310	Airport Runway Construction	29%	\$ 2,998,433	4	130	3.08%	0.88%
238210	Electrical Contractors including runway lighting	11%	\$ 1,141,912	184	1,047	17.57%	1.92%
237110	Water and Sewer Line and Related Structures Construction	9%	\$ 960,125	186	204	91.18%	8.38%
	TOTAL	100%	\$ 10,447,500				28.94%

Projects in projected period
Non-Standard FAA Taxiway Hot
Spots (construction)