

ACEC DBE/WBE/MBE/VOSB Committee Meeting

October 10, 2018

1:30 PM

Atlas Engineering Group
Northbrook

Meeting called by: Natalia Homedi, Atlas Engineering Group, Ltd. (AEG) **Type of meeting:** DBE Committee Meeting

Chairperson: Natalia Homedi, AEG **Note taker:** Melissa Angelucci, Synnov Group

Attendees: DBE Committee Members

Minutes

Agenda item: ACEC Executive Committee Report **Presenter:** Dave Bender, ACEC

Discussion:

Dave Bender, President and CEO of ACEC kicked off the meeting, and welcomed everyone.

1. Veto or Lame Duck Session (next year).
2. House Bill SB1.
3. TFIC Champions.
4. Goal is to have Design-Build projects as a Pilot Program without affecting IDOT's Program.
5. Prime and DBE firms (70-80%) generally oppose Design-Build Projects.
6. Bait and Switch Amendment.
7. TFIC Education Process.
8. Board of Directors Meeting was held on September 6th.

Agenda item: DBE Committee Goals **Presenter:** Natalia Homedi, AEG

Discussion:

The group discussed committee goals and framework under which the committee is operating. Committee goals were approved by the ACEC Board.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
None		

Agenda item: MAASTO Unified Certification Subcommittee **Presenter:** Natalia Homedi, AEG for Geri Boyer, Kaskaskia

Discussion:

This subcommittee's ultimate goal is to help establish an interstate Unified Certification Program. This would allow DBE's to easily obtain certification in other states once they have already been certified in their home state. This would be similar to how the PE licensure works in most states. The committee aims to accomplish this goal in the midwestern states as a first step. Subcommittee is looking for DBE firms certified in multiple states to join this subcommittee to actively assist with this initiative.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Requesting Volunteer DBE Firms with Multi-state Certifications	Geri Boyer & Natalia Homedi	None

Agenda item: Proposed Subcommittees Discussion Presenter: Natalia Homedi, AEG

Discussion:

- Several subcommittees were proposed: **Business Resource and Education Committee** to serve as a resource to DBE firms including certifications ; **Program and Policy Committee** to focus on DBE specific policies such as target market opportunities and DBE compliance ; **Events Subcommittee** to plan recommended topics for ACEC conferences , educational sessions, DBE Roundtable meetings and plan a Networking Forum ; **Liaison Representatives** to represent DBE issues at ACEC Agency meetings.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
Subcommittee sign up list will be distributed to members	Natalia Homedi	Next meeting

Agenda item: DBE Committee Representation at ACEC-IL Agency Meetings Presenter: Group Discussion

Discussion:

- Group discussed necessity to have DBE Committee representation at all ACEC-IL Agency Committee meetings to coordinate issues which affect DBE/WBE/MBE/VOSB firms, including issues involving diversity, disparity, prequalifications, and Mentor-Protégé programs.

Action items	Person responsible	Deadline
None		

Agenda item: Look Ahead: Next DBE Committee Meeting will be Spring 2019 (Location TBD) Presenter: Group Discussion

OTHER INFORMATION

- Natalia and Dave Bender are meeting with Gustavo Geraldo (ISTHA) on November 2, 2018 to coordinate with Tollway Diversity
- There were comments and concerns about a lack of DBE Representation at every ACEC Committee.
- P4G Partnering for Growth / Mentor Protégé Programs
- Group discussed need for DBE Representation on all Agencies Selection Committees
- DBE compliance on contracts / Waiver for Scope or DBE Allocation.
- IDOT Disparity Study.
- Consultant Compensation – ACEC hopes to continue negotiations with IDOT based on the fact that its position does not adhere to Federal Accounting Standards. Illinois is the only state implementing the policies as such.
- ACEC is continuing its legislative campaign to gather votes for its position on a long-term transportation funding package. ACEC's approach would include a gas tax.
- The City of Chicago seems to be debating a bill that would eliminate the maximum revenue and owner's personal net worth threshold for MBE certification.
- EPAS does not allow a provision for a firm to be a protégé if the firm is not already prequalified in the work category for which it is proposed to be mentored in. Clarification is needed whether this is an EPAS glitch or whether this reflects an IDOT policy.
- EPAS currently does not allow a protégé to be a prime on a project. This refers to the idea of a "reverse M/P" allowed by the Tollway. Needs clarification.

- The group raised concern that IDOT requires DBE firms pursuing roadway projects as a Prime to have a structural prequalification and does not allow a structural prequalification through a subconsultant. This requirement precludes many DBE firms from pursuing design projects.
- IDOT has noted a **decrease** in the number of submittals on project pursuits on PTB's and is stressing the need for an increase in the number consultants submitting on IDOT Bulletin project pursuits.

IDOT Changes to Compensation: Effective PTB 185

- Salary cap changed to \$75 for all classifications
- Salary cap will be used for negotiations and establishing the contract upper limit. Firms may invoice at actual rates.
- Profit formula will be changed from 0.37 to 0.33.
- Profit on subconsultant labor is 10 percent (regardless of the number of subconsultants).
- Total profit is capped at 15 percent.
- Escalation rate changed from 3% to 2%.