

Policy Statement/Objectives (49 CFR 26.1)

Mississippi Coast Transportation Authority dba Coast Transit Authority (hereinafter referred to as Coast Transit Authority, CTA or the Authority) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26 CTA has received Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation and as a condition of receiving this assistance, CTA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of Coast Transit Authority to ensure that DBEs, as defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT assisted contracts. It is also our policy -

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of DOT assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT assisted contracts;
3. To ensure that the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT assisted contracts; and
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE program.
7. To provide appropriate flexibility to recipients of Federal financial assistance in establishing and providing opportunities for DBEs.

Ashley Seymour, Director of Administration & Finance has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity she is responsible for implementing all aspects of the DBE program. Implementation of the DBE Program is accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by Coast Transit Authority in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

CTA has disseminated this policy statement to the Board of Commissioners and all the components of our organization. We have distributed this statement to DBE and non-DBE business organizations that perform work for us on DOT- assisted contracts at the time of contract award.

