

Dept. of Transportation: Seeks public input on Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program

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The Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) invites the public to review and comment on the agency's updates to the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program triennial goals. DBE firms are small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals, as required by federal regulations. The upcoming triennial projected DBE goal for 2024-2026 is 12.42%. Setting a DBE goal is a complex process that closely examines availability of DBE certified firms competing for federally funded transportation contracts.

"Our agency has a long tradition of working with small and emerging firms through the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program," WisDOT Secretary Craig Thompson said. "Establishing goals for participation broadens our focus on quality programming to ensure DBE firms get the tools and education they need to most effectively compete for state highway work."

Public involvement adds value to the goal-setting process. WisDOT is committed to working with DBE firms, contractors and any interested parties to hear comments, questions or concerns about the program. WisDOT encourages anyone interested to complete the [online survey](#) as part of the public comment period through July 1, 2023.

The DBE program started with the Surface Transportation Assistance Act of 1982, which set a national goal of placing at least 10% of federal highway and transit funds with persons who qualify as disadvantaged small business operators. A subsequent act in 1987 included women. The department has exceeded the DBE goal for the past two federal fiscal years. Learn more about [WisDOT's DBE program](#).