



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Civil Rights**

Date: June 6, 2005

To: Council Member Natalie Johnson Lee, Chair
Health & Human Services Committee

Subject: City of Minneapolis Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program Plan

Recommendation:

1. It is recommended that the City of Minneapolis adopt a Disadvantage Business Program Plan for implementation on the Nicollet Hotel Block Project.
2. It is also recommended that proper City Officers be authorized to execute a DBE plan for submission to the Federal Transit Administration for approval, as required by section 49 of the Federal Code of Regulations.
3. It is further recommended that proper City Officers be authorized to execute an agreement to allow the City of Minneapolis to become a member of the Minnesota Uniform Certification Program as required by the Federal Department of Transportation regulations.

Previous Directives:

- Council authorized the acceptance of a Nicollet Mall Grant from the Federal Transit Administration. The application and grant included a "North Terminal" for the Shuttle, now also referred to as the Downtown Circulator.
- On May 2, 2003, the City Council approved the issuance of the first RFP for the Nicollet Hotel Block.
- The Council rejected the only proposal received.
- On July 2, 2004, the City Council authorized staff to issue a new RFP for this project.

Prepared/Submitted by: Marvin Taylor, Contract Compliance Officer 612-673-2086

Approved by:

Jayne Baccus Khalifa
Director of Civil Rights

Presenter in Committee: Marvin Taylor

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

- No financial impact - or - Action is within current department budget
If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information)
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Capital Budget
- Action requires an appropriation increase to the Operating Budget
- Action provides increased revenue for appropriation increase
- Action requires use of contingency or reserves
- Other financial impact (Explain):
- Request provided to the Budget Office when provided to the Committee Coordinator

Community Impact (use any categories that apply)

Neighborhood Notification
City Goals
Comprehensive Plan
Zoning Code
Other

Background/Supporting Information

On July 2, 2004, the City Council authorized the creation of a new Request for Proposals for plans to develop the Nicollet Hotel Block/North Transit Terminal project. This project anticipates the use of federal transit funds. Federal regulations require the development and approval of a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program prior to committing the allocation of FTA funds to local recipients.

The DBE program will increase opportunities for disadvantaged businesses to participate on the project. Businesses owned by women or minority citizens are assumed to be socially and economically disadvantaged and can be certified as such. Based on research and consultation with area entities such as the Metropolitan Council, with statistical history with these types of programs, goals have been set at twenty (20) percent.

Federal regulations also require that local fund recipients join a joint certification program in their respective area. The Minnesota Uniform Certification Program (MnUCP) meets the federal criteria. They are willing to accept Minneapolis as a non certifying member with the execution of their memorandum of understanding. The Program is run by the Airports Commission, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Metropolitan Council. Financial impact on the City of Minneapolis is virtually non existent.

The City of Minneapolis Disadvantaged Business Plan is attached for your review and approval.