



## *Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program*

### **Statement of Policy**

The Pinellas Suncoast Transit Authority (PSTA) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. As a recipient of Federal financial assistance from the Department of Transportation, and as a condition of receiving this assistance, PSTA is committed to carrying out all requirements of 49 CFR Part 26, establishing and maintaining PSTA's DBE Program (the "DBE Program").

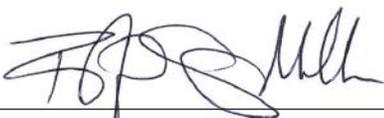
It is the policy of the PSTA to ensure that DBEs defined in 49 CFR Part 26 have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. The objectives of the DBE Program include:

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;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

PSTA's DBE Program will assure that all federally funded contracts and procurements are administered without discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex or national origin, and that DBEs have an equal opportunity to compete for and participate in the performance of all federally funded agreements, contracts and subcontracts awarded by PSTA. PSTA will implement its DBE Program in good faith and shall not permit the use of race or gender conscious quotas or set-asides in its administration.

PSTA's Chief Executive Officer ("CEO") is responsible for adherence to this DBE Program and has overall responsibility for directing development and implementation of this Program. The CEO has designated the Chief Compliance Officer ("CCO") as the DBE Liaison Officer (the "Liaison Officer"). The Liaison Officer will be responsible for development, implementation and monitoring of the DBE Program. It is the expectation of PSTA's Board of Directors and CEO the provisions of this DBE Program will be adhered to both in the spirit and letter by PSTA personnel. This Policy will be circulated to PSTA employees and made available to the public. In addition, PSTA will distribute this statement to DBE and non-DBE communities and business organizations. Distribution will be accomplished through posting on the PSTA website and publication in vendor and small business newsletters, and through electronic notification to DBE firms.

This DBE Program is intended to implement the federal requirements pertaining to the DBE Program, including, but not limited to, 49 CFR Part 26 as amended. In the event of any inconsistencies between the terms of the PSTA DBE Program and the terms of 49 CFR Part 26 as amended, the latter will prevail.



Brad Miller  
CEO

February 04, 2013

Date

