

CONTRACTING UPDATE

SMALL BUSINESS CERTIFICATIONS

WHAT IS D/M/WBE? WHERE DO I APPLY?

There are many types of certifications for small businesses. The most common types of certifications are granted to disadvantaged, minority and women owned business enterprises, commonly referred to as D/M/WBE. At TRVA, we value our relationship with the Fort Worth small business community and want to do our part in educating you about the D/M/WBE certification process. Here's a quick look at certification agencies at the local, state and federal level.

LOCAL: In the Fort Worth/Dallas metropolitan area, the most recognizable certification agency is the North Central Texas Regional Certification Agency (NCTRCA). NCTRCA issues certifications to small businesses with qualifying DBE, MBE and/or WBE statuses. One of the benefits of being certified by NCTRCA is that the certification is accepted by numerous business entities such as the City of Fort Worth, Fort Worth Independent School District and Dallas Fort Worth International Airport, just to name a few. The NCTRCA certification process is approximately 90 days. For specific qualifications, applications and details about how to certify your small business with NCTRCA, visit them online at www.nctrca.org/certification.

STATE: At the state level, small businesses can apply to receive a historically underutilized business (HUB) designation. HUB is defined as a business formed for the purpose of making a profit in which at least 51 percent of the business is owned, operated, and controlled by individuals who are economically disadvantaged and who have been historically underutilized because of their identification as members of certain groups. Entities may also apply if their principal place of business is located in Texas and/or the entity's majority HUB owner(s) makes the decisions, controls the daily operations of the organization and participates in the business.

Small Business Certifications continued on next page>



CONSULTANT SPOTLIGHT

Carl DeZee



"Partnering with the TRVA, the City of Fort Worth, minority businesses, and other local companies on the Trinity River Vision has been the highlight

of my career," said Kimley-Horn Project Manager Carl DeZee, P.E. "Helping set the course of this area of the City for generations to come is a great source of pride for both me and our entire Fort Worth office." Kimley-Horn services for the Trinity River Vision project have included water and wastewater design, grading plans, and utility relocation.

The company has been providing municipal engineering services in Fort Worth and surrounding communities since the early 1990s. Kimley-Horn also provides traffic, roadway, land development, aviation, transit, environmental, parking, and landscape architecture services from Fort Worth and its seven other Texas office locations.



SIGN UP TO BE ON OUR VENDOR DATABASE!

Visit www.trinityrivervision.org and click on the Online Vendor Registration link to sign up to receive notifications for bid opportunities, educational workshops and networking events by email.

UPCOMING EVENTS

To learn more about doing business on the Trinity River Vision project attend an event that TRVA is participating in. Check www.trinityrivervision.org for more information.

NOVEMBER 4, 2010

State of Texas Small Business Forum

FALL 2010

Federal Certification Workshop

UPCOMING BID OPPORTUNITIES

Attention ALL Interested Bidders.

Be on the lookout for bid opportunities in the following areas; utility relocation, levee construction/excavation, demolition and asbestos abatement. Sign up on the TRVA Vendor Database to receive notifications on these bids.

All projects are subject to change due to scope of work and timing. For current information please review bid opportunities at www.trinityrivervision.org.

Diverse Business Facts

Diverse Business Participation reports providing committed dollars versus actual dollars spent and current participation percentages are posted at www.trinityrivervision.org.



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The Fort Worth Trinity River Vision will deliver an innovative new flood control system that will provide public safety as well as important quality of life elements including: recreational opportunities, ecosystem restoration, and urban revitalization. Central to the plan is to create 12 miles of public access along the river's edge and a 33-acre town lake.

For more information about the project or TRVA, please call 817-698-0700 or visit the TRVA Education Center located in downtown Fort Worth at 307 W. Seventh Street.



VENDOR DATABASE

Take advantage of the online vendor database. Vendors are finding it to be a very helpful networking tool. We now have over 565 registered vendors who are signed up and interested in working on this project. Go online and search by industry to find other interested prime and sub contractors to partner with on contracts.

Go to www.trinityrivervision.org and click on the Vendor Search and Registration link to access the database. By registering, you will receive notification for all Trinity River Vision bid opportunities and educational workshops.



KEEPING UP WITH THE SCHEDULE

Go to www.trinityrivervision.org to view the contracting schedule. This schedule outlines the types of professional service and construction bid opportunities expected for the project. The entity letting the contract is identified and target start dates are listed. TRVA will keep this chart updated regularly according to the current schedule. Stay in touch by periodically checking this online.

Small Business Certifications What is D/M/WBE? Where do I apply?

(Continued from front page)

HUB certification is not only recognized by the state of Texas but also by organizations such as Tarrant County and the University of Texas System. Go online to www.window.state.tx.us/procurement/prog/hub/ for information on how to apply, eligibility requirements and state HUB goals.

FEDERAL: The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers opportunities for federal self-certification for small businesses, small disadvantaged businesses, women owned small business, veteran and service disabled veteran owned small businesses. Additionally, eligible firms may apply for certification in the Historically Underutilized Business Zone (HubZone) and the 8(a) Business Development Program, as defined in the Small Business Act. The 8(a) Business Development Program offers a broad scope of assistance to certified firms. Check out the SBA's Frequently Asked Questions page at www.sba.gov for detailed information regarding this program or call 1-800-U-ASK-SBA (1-800-827-5722).



TRVA hosted an informational booth at the Alliance Texas Procurement Conference held on June 29th. The conference drew in over 700 attendees.