

**MESA COUNTY/GRAND VALLEY TRANSIT  
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program FY 2022-2024**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

Section 26.1, 26.23 Objectives/Policy Statement

The Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office (RTPO) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR part 26. The RTPO has received Federal financial assistance from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the RTPO has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR part 26.

It is the policy of the RTPO to ensure that DBEs defined in part 26, have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in FTA- assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of FTA - assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for FTA -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 FTA assisted contracts;
6. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

The RTPO Mobility Manager has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer. In that capacity, the Mobility Manager 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 the RTPO in its financial assistance agreements with the Department of Transportation.

The RTPO has disseminated this policy statement to the elected and appointed officials of Mesa County, Colorado and all of the components of our organization.

	<b>7/26/2021</b>
Janet Rowland, Mesa County Board of Commissioners, Chair	Date

	<b>7/26/2021</b>
Pete Baier, Mesa County Administrator	Date

	<b>7/26/2021</b>
Tina Peters, Mesa County Clerk	Date

## Section 26.45: Overall Goal Calculation

### Amount of Goal

The RTPO overall goal for FY 2022-2022 is the following: 1.7% of the Federal Financial assistance we will expend in FTA - assisted contracts exclusive of FTA funds to be used for the purchase of transit vehicles, staff salaries, utilities, land purchases, rental of real property, etc.

### Methodology used to Calculate Overall Goal

#### Step 1: 26.45(c)

The base figure for the relative availability of DBEs was calculated as follows:

$$\text{Base figure} = 1.7\% \frac{\text{Ready, willing, and able DBEs} \quad 8}{\text{All firms ready, willing and able} \quad 467}$$

The data source used to derive the numerator was through the availability of DBEs from information supplied by the Colorado Department of Transportation Unified Certification Program dated March 2, 2021. This information was used to determine a total of 8 ready, willing, and able DBEs in the counties of Mesa, Garfield, Montrose, Delta, and Gunnison.

The data sources used to derive the denominator was through the U.S. Census Bureau's 2018 County Business Pattern. 467 businesses were identified were in the categories of commercial and institutional building construction; specialty trade contractors, painting and wall covering contractors, lawyers, sign manufacturing, other transit and ground passenger transportation, metal coating, advertising, commercial printing, and janitorial services.

When we divided the numerator by the denominator we arrived at the base figure for our overall goal of 1.7%.

#### Step 2: 26.45(d)

The RTPO did not adjust our figure for Fiscal Years 2022-2024 because the availability of DBEs in the Mesa County area is minimal. Figures of past performance by DBEs in Mesa County are very limited and show minimal participation.

### Section 26.51(a-c) Breakout of Estimated Race-Neutral & Race-Conscious Participation

Mesa County will meet the maximum feasible portion of its overall goal by using race-neutral means of facilitating DBE participation. Mesa County uses the following 100% race-neutral means to increase DBE participation.

When Federal Transit Administration dollars are used on projects, Mesa County includes a required outreach effort to subcontract DBEs in its Request for Proposals. Staff intends to obtain the FY 2022-2024 goal of 1.7% using this method. Mesa County will monitor the participation level and reserves the right to make changes as required in order to obtain satisfactory DBE participation.

Race-neutral DBE participation occurs when a DBE wins a contract or subcontract that did not have contract specific goals, or when the DBE status was not considered in making the award. Examples of race-neutral means are: making RFPs or bids attractive, i.e., unbundling or low bid by splitting DBEs; simplifying or reducing bonding requirements by minimum bonding amount; making DBEs aware of opportunities; and distributing DBE directories to prime contractors.

### **Public Participation**

Mesa County shared information with the following women and minority contracting groups and industry stakeholders who are expected to have information on the availability of disadvantaged business in our area:

- Downtown Development Authority
- Fruita Chamber of Commerce
- Grand Junction Business Incubator
- Grand Junction Regional Airport
- Grand Junction Economic Partnership
- Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce
- Horizon Drive Business Improvement District
- Mesa County Women's Network
- Palisade Chamber of Commerce
- Western Colorado Contractors Association
- Western Colorado Latino Chamber of Commerce
- Mesa County Workforce Center
- Young Professionals Network of Mesa County

These groups were provided information about the FTA DBE goal setting process and were invited to attend one of two virtual outreach sessions, held on June 21 at 11:00 AM and June 23 at 3:00 PM, 2021. Meeting participants were encouraged to provide input and comments during the meeting, and groups unable to attend the meeting were given the opportunity to email their comments to the DBELO by 5:00 PM on June 23, 2021. Groups were also asked to share Mesa County's DBE goal information with their members. Comments received from this group were:

- Meeting attendees suggested organizing a DBE training in Mesa County for local businesses to become more acquainted with the DBE process and benefits of being a certified DBE business.

- The General Contractors Association commented that they were aware of existing DBE groups in Mesa County that were not listed within the CDOT DBE directory. They were going to check with these groups to make sure their codes were correct and send Mesa County a list of these businesses.
- Questions for clarification on the budget for GVT bus pullouts.
- Questions regarding Senate Bill 260 Rural Transit Projects, and whether or not these funds could be used for DBE contracts. Some of these may be used for DBE contracts depending on which funds flow through Mesa County and the use of these funds.

Mesa County published the overall goal methodology on June 24, 2021 on the Mesa County RTPO website at <https://rtpo.mesacounty.us/> under the What's New section of the home page. During the review period, the DBELO e-mailed or provide a hard-copy of the DBE Goal to any requesting party. Mesa County's overall goal submission to FTA included a summary of information and comments received during this public participation process and our responses.

On the 1st day the draft DBE Goal was available for public review, the document was available in hard copy at the RTPO office. During the review period, the DBELO e-mailed or provide a hard-copy of the DBE Goal to any requesting party.

The comments received were: None

The public comment period ended on July 15, 2021. Comments related to the draft were directed to and collected by the Mesa County RTPO DBELO at the following address and then incorporated into the final methodology document.

Sarah Brooks  
DBELO  
525 S. 6th Street, 2nd Floor  
Grand Junction, CO 81501  
[sarah.brooks@mesacounty.us](mailto:sarah.brooks@mesacounty.us)

The DBE Goal was presented to and approved by the Grand Valley Regional Transportation Committee at their meeting on June 28, 2021 as well as the Mesa County Board of Commissioners meeting on July 26, 2021.

**CALCULATION OF FUND AMOUNTS SUBJECT TO DBE  
FISCAL YEARS 2022-2024**

STEP 1:

Determine the proposed agency budget for Capital and Operating expenses over the next three years. \$ 15,207,100

Project	Total Costs	Construction Costs	Professional Services	Supplies/ Services
<b>2022</b>				
Operating Expenses	\$ 981,061			
GVT Operations Contract	\$ 2,838,439		\$ -	
Advertising/Marketing	\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000	
Bench Replacement (after Oct)	\$ 85,000			\$ 85,000
Concrete Pads	\$ 10,000	\$ 10,000		
Fare Passes	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
Janitorial	\$ 46,000		\$ 46,000	
Legal Services	\$ 15,000		\$ -	
Printing	\$ 2,500			\$ 2,500
Sign Manufacturing	\$ 2,000			\$ 2,000
Cutaway CNG Paratransit Bus (2)	\$ 273,000			
Cutaway CNG Fixed Route Bus (2)	\$ 346,000			
Lowfloor CNG Bus (2)	\$ 1,119,300			
<b>2023</b>				
Operating Expenses	\$ 905,646			
GVT Operations Contract	\$ 2,912,474		\$ -	
Advertising/Marketing	\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000	
Fare Passes	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
Janitorial	\$ 47,380		\$ 47,380	
Legal Services	\$ 15,000		\$ -	
Printing	\$ 2,500			\$ 2,500
Shelter repairs	\$ 70,000		\$ 70,000	
Sign Manufacturing	\$ 2,000			\$ 2,000
Cutaway CNG Bus (0)	\$ -			
Lowfloor CNG Bus (2)	1,119,300			
<b>2024</b>				
Operating Expenses	\$ 822,652			
GVT Operations Contract	\$ 2,994,046		\$ -	
Advertising/Marketing	\$ 30,000		\$ 30,000	
Fare Passes	\$ 10,000			\$ 10,000
Janitorial	\$ 48,801		\$ 48,801	
Legal Services	\$ 15,000		\$ -	
Printing	\$ 2,500			\$ 2,500
Sign Manufacturing	\$ 2,000			\$ 2,000
Cutaway Paratransit CNG Bus (3)	\$ 409,500			
Lowfloor CNG Bus (0)	-			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,207,100</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>	<b>\$ 302,181</b>	<b>\$ 128,500</b>

STEP 2:

Estimate that portion which is Federally funded. Include funds estimated to be received from 5310, 5311, 5316 and 5339, as appropriate. \$ 8,743,378

STEP 3:

Determine if your agency receives sufficient Federal assistance to put it over the threshold. For Capital and Operating expenses, the threshold is \$250,000 in Federal funds, exclusive of transit vehicle purchase.

YES: X  
NO: \_\_\_\_\_

STEP 4:

If your agency is covered by the program, determine the percent Federal participation in the overall agency budget (i.e., divide the number from Step 2 by the number from Step 1).

57%

STEP 5:

Estimate the portion of your agency's total budget that is not available for contracting. Subtract those funds, which are used for staff salaries, utilities, land purchases, rental of real property, etc. Also, remember to subtract those funds that will be used for transit vehicle purchases. Subtracted funds that are already under contract such as GVT Operations, fleet maintenance/fuel and legal services.

\$ 14,766,419

STEP 6:

Determine the portion of your total agency budget that is available for contracting. Subtract the number to determine in Step 5 from the number shown in Step. 1.

\$440,681

STEP 7:

Determine that portion of the total amount available for contracting which is attributable to Federal Sources. Multiply the amount in Step 6 and the percentage determined in Step 4. The resulting dollar figure is the amount to which your DBE/WBE goals will apply.

\$253,371

STEP 8:

Use figure determined in Step 7.

\$253,371

STEP 9:

Include the DBE goal percentage.

1.7%

STEP 10:

Determine the contracting amounts for DBE goals. Multiply the figure in Step 8 by DBE percentage in Step 9. \$4,340

STEP 11:

Determine the actual dollar value of various types of contracts which must be placed with DBE firms in order to come up with the amount determined in Step 10. \$7,251

**First** estimate that portion of the contracting amount determined in Step 10 to be placed in the following categories: construction, professional services, supplies/services, or other.

Construction: 22%  
Professional Services: 68%  
Supplies/Services: 10%  
Other: 0%  
TOTAL: 100%

**Second** decide within the four categories if the proposed expenditures will be counted toward the goal at 100% or 60% of the contract amount. Generally, construction would be a 100% item; professional services would be a 100% item, supplies and services are likely to be 60% items (but could be a 100% item if purchased from DBE manufacturers, refiners or underwriters, rather than dealers or brokers) and the other category could be either 100% or 60% items).

Construction: 100%  
Professional Services: 100%  
Supplies/Services: 60%  
Other: 0%

Prepared by: Sarah Brooks, Kathy Young & Dana Brosig

Name of Agency: Mesa County Regional Transportation Planning Office (RTPO)