



Conference of Minority Transportation Officials
1330 Braddock Place, Suite 203
Alexandria, VA 22314
www.comtonational.org

2022 LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY PRIORITIES

Workforce Development Initiatives -- Implement policies that would:

- Identify skill gaps, training needs, as well as retraining needs of existing workers
- Address needs of chronically unemployed including minority/female/disabled individuals displaced by new technologies or COVID
- Focus on historically underserved communities
- Establish a Workforce Development Advisory Board at USDOT
- Establish accountability mechanisms for existing workforce development programs, including standardized performance reporting measures
- Set local hiring and training incentives that monetize implementation of workforce programs, giving “weight” to bids and proposals that are inclusive of such actions
- Establish a public sector paid internship program within USDOT
- Educate public about available paid internships and apprenticeships funded by BIL, with incentives to hire program graduates

Disadvantaged/Minority/Women-owned Business (D/M/WBE) Initiatives:

- Establish a DBE set-aside program based on the 8(a)-program model and identify set-aside for DBE prime competition; unbundle mega-transportation projects to give small D/M/WBEs prime contracting opportunities
- Require “net 30 payment”, meaning the D/M/WBE must be paid within 30 days of the invoice date
- Insurance indemnification or creative solutions to meeting bonding requirements for D/M/WBEs
- Establish a national DBE-certified database at the federal level at USDOT
- Create regional PNW ceilings, modeled after annual DBE goal setting methodology processes, which take into account local cost-of-living. Adjust PNW form to eliminate some asset items, to encourage saving and wealth generation
- Increase in federal overall DBE goals attached to FTA, FAA and FHWA funded projects to more than 10%, a goal out of step with current demographics which has been in place since 1983; same applies to pending FRA DBE program
- Implement consistent and realistic DBE size standards, in keeping with the FAA policies
- Incentivize the USDOT Mentor/Protégé Program and set a “grace period”, to provide assistance to firms through the “gap” years of post-DBE program graduation and encourage capacity building and generational wealth
- Provide support and feedback for the Administration’s Justice40 Initiative which aims to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of federal investments in climate and clean energy, including sustainable transportation, to underserved, disadvantaged communities

Accessibility:

- Highlight urgent need for accessibility and equality for the disabled, including special-needs safety protocol
- Educate employers on the benefits of hiring persons with disabilities including neurodiverse candidates

For additional details on each of these issues, contact info@comtonational.org