



Metro

Equity in contracting progress report Calendar Year 2020

The end of calendar year 2020 was dominated by COVID-19 and racial tension, both contributed to challenges that, in our role as a regional public agency, Metro faced with determination in the face of our responsibilities to public equity improvement and balancing unprecedented budget restraints. In light of this, Procurement Services provides this update to show where our activities throughout the entire calendar year worked to advance the goal of improving equity and inclusion in contracting at Metro.

Policy updates

Extended COBID Marketplace Personal Services to \$150,000

COBID Marketplace for Personal Services allows Metro to directly award contracts to COBID-certified firms, with some restrictions. On May 7, 2020 Council approved increasing the limit for this program from \$50,000 to \$150,000 to encompass all intermediate contracts. This program allows COBID firms to access Metro contracts with limited process and barriers. This also provides small firms increased access to larger projects which can serve to provide additional experience and expanded knowledge of Metro projects and properties improving their chances in future opportunities with our agency.

Adopted Clean Air Construction Standard with provisions to support COBID firms

Diesel particulate matter pollution is a huge problem in our region, with levels well above state benchmarks. Neighborhoods where communities of color and low income residents live see the highest concentration of diesel pollution. At the same time, COVID-19 has been shown to affect people living in areas of high diesel pollution more severely. Metro's Clean Air Construction Standard adopted by Council on July 30, 2020 will decrease diesel pollution resulting from Metro's contracts and included provisions to support COBID firms.

Equity strategy activities

Updated equity strategy meeting equity lens

Equity strategy meetings are required for all formal-level procurements. Staff implemented an updated equity lens that can be used to explore the intended and unintended effects of a procurement. The lens will prompt staff to consider things like valuing indigenous and cultural knowledge, who receives the benefit and burdens, and how the project can prioritize historically marginalized communities. The new form provides for a more intuitive and user friendly process with the intent to increase effectiveness.

P+N Bond to develop Contracting Equity Plan

Procurement Services is working with Bond staff to develop goals and equity strategies for the bond projects. Procurement Services will support the implementation of the plan and help track progress toward the goals, as well as support the development of the long-term goals for the entire life-cycle of the Bond.



COBID-only special procurement for on-call maintenance and repair

COVID-19 has had severe impacts to the local economy and the most impacted businesses are those who have historically been excluded from public contracting. In this context, the approval of a designated contract-specific procurement process that targets those impacted businesses by accepting proposals only from COBID-certified minority-owned, woman-owned, service disabled veteran-owned and emerging small businesses is helping to ensure that Metro is contributing to economic recovery actions and supporting the firms most impacted

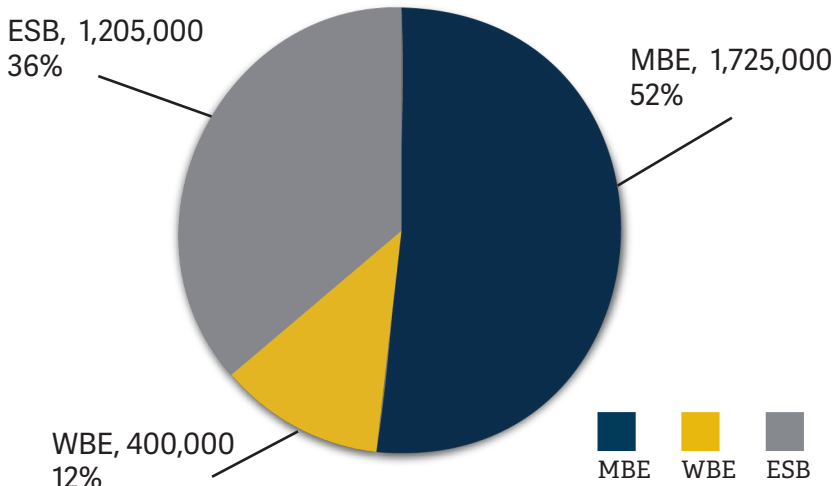
The special procurement process involved conducting a formal, competitive procurement open to COBID-certified firms only. This ensured that contract awards are financially responsible for Metro, in that they were based on competition, while also directing this work to certified minority-owned, woman-owned, service disabled veteran-owned and emerging small businesses.

As Metro was in need of a series of solicitations for various on-call maintenance and repair scopes, Council approved a special procurement for this series of contracts to be solicited among COBID-certified firms only. These contracts resulted in the award of the following:

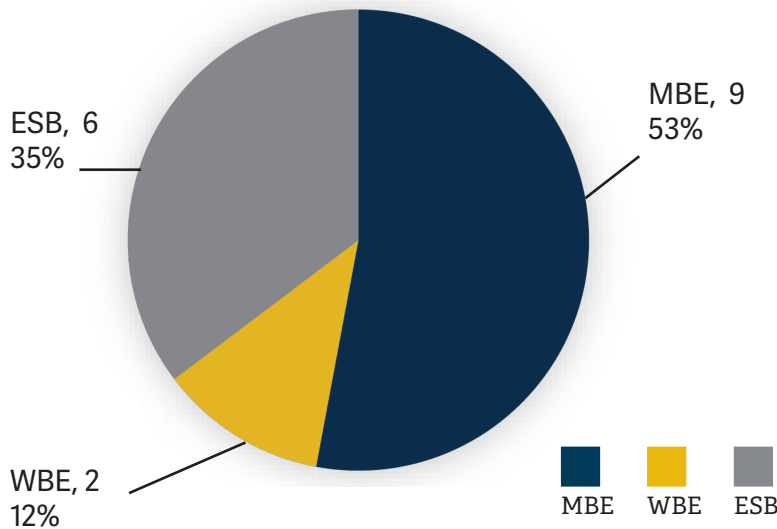
Work Category	MBE	WBE	ESB
Electrical	3		2
Interior/Exterior Painting	1		2
HVAC	3		1
General Maintenance and Repair	2	2	1
Total Awards	9	2	6



On-Call services awarded dollars



On-Call services awarded contracts



Doing business with Metro

Metro purchases goods and services locally when possible. Purchases range from operating supplies to professional services. Contract opportunities for services include construction, maintenance and repair, engineering, consulting, food, training and various types of planning.

Contact the Metro Procurement team at 503-797-1613

oregonmetro.gov/equity



Outreach events

The small business open house continues to be very popular in the regional business community. February 26, 2020 still allowed us to conduct an in-person event and in its 6th year, the event brought over 260 people eager to meet project managers. For the 60 Metro staff in attendance, it was a great way to make connections, build relationships and talk about project needs with small firms. The many training sessions educated small business owners about how to do business with Metro and Multnomah County, how to get COBID certified, how to write winning bids and proposals and more.

Metro staff continued to participate in various outreach events that in 2020 went virtual to engage with the small business community including annual events such as the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) tradeshow, Business Expo West, Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week, and regular networking with business associations including National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC), Oregon Native American Chamber (ONAC), Professional Business Development Group (PBDG), and more. Maintaining a consistent presence at events such as these is important to establish trust and maintain relationships with business owners especially during this difficult time of a pandemic.

Continued regular activities

Training and Office Hours

Monthly offerings for prospective suppliers to meet with Metro procurement staff for 30 minute one-on-one information sessions on how to do business with Metro.

In February we were still able to conduct an in-person technical assistance workshop held by one of our COBID consultants.

Attending virtual networking

While in-person networking has been on hold, staff have regularly attended virtual networking events, including OAME, ONAC, NAMC, PBDG, BESThq and BDI. Staff have also attended annual events that have been provided virtually.

Participating in sponsored events

Metro sponsored and virtually attended the OAME Tradeshow and ONAC Annual Gala.

Representation on boards

Staff continue to support non-profit partners that focus on businesses in communities of color. Staff serves on boards for the following organizations: OAME, ONAC, BestHQ, NIGP Columbia Chapter

Metro's practices for equity in contracting

Metro is working to expand its program to mitigate barriers and currently follows these practices:

- Intermediate – must contact minimum of 3 COBID firms
- COBID Marketplace – Personal services up to \$150,000 may be awarded directly to COBID firms without competition,
- Public improvement contracts under \$50,000 are COBID only
- RFPs – 20% of points to diversity in employment, including 5% for COBID certification.
- Public improvement requirements for subcontractor equity
- Contract with CBOs directly without need for competition
- Equity strategy discussion for formal procurements required
- Bid and Proposal preparation assistance
- Technical assistance to COBID-certified and –eligible firms on business readiness topics
- Relationship building at associations supporting businesses owned by people of color and women
- Right-size project scope and specifications to make work accessible to smaller firms
- Proposal evaluation based on skills presented, not just flashy proposal design
- Utilize COBID Certification Directory to identify firms available for projects and notify about opportunities
- Internal training to staff on equity in contracting program
- Annual reporting to Council on progress with equity in contracting
- Department-specific support to focus on priorities for particular programs
- Inter-agency collaboration to support internal and regional progress



Arts and events
Garbage and recycling
Land and transportation
Oregon Zoo
Parks and nature

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