



Agency Priority Goal | Action Plan | FY 2024 – Quarter 2

Equity

Goal Leaders



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Goal Overview

Goal statement

Equity: Increase wealth creation opportunities for underserved communities. By September 30, 2025, DOT commits to raise the small disadvantaged business utilization contract award dollars from 18.2% in FY 2021 to 21.5%.

Problem to Be Solved

DOT aims to increase wealth creation opportunities for underserved communities through direct procurement mechanisms. In 2021, DOT adopted its new Strategic Plan establishing a commitment to pursuing a comprehensive approach to advancing equity for all. DOT is taking actions to advance this Strategic Goal in four focus areas – wealth creation, power of community, interventions, and expanding access. This Agency Priority Goal (APG) is focusing on the first of these, removing barriers to wealth creation opportunities for underserved communities through increased US DOT contracts. In FY 2021, when the Strategic Plan was adopted 18.2% of all DOT contract dollars went to SDBUs. In FY 2023, that percentage was 20.5%. This APG seeks to raise the bar even higher to 21.5%

- Government-wide, approximately 11 percent of Federal agencies' total eligible contracting dollars go to small disadvantaged businesses, a category under Federal law for which Black-owned, Latino-owned, and other minority-owned businesses are presumed to qualify.

- Increasing the amount of Federal spending reaching underserved businesses not only helps more Americans realize their entrepreneurial dreams, but also narrows persistent wealth disparities.
- We are continuing to identify and remove barriers that hinder the inclusion of small disadvantaged businesses in Federal contracting.

The [Equity Action Plan](#) (EAP) outlines how the Department of Transportation is working to ensure that all communities receive the benefits of transportation. The EAP has five areas focus: 'Wealth Creation', 'Expanding Access', 'Institutionalizing Equity', 'Power of Community, and 'Proactive Intervention, Planning and Community Building'. The Equity APG aligns with the Wealth Creation Pillar which includes procurement, expanding net asset ownership, community wealth building, and plans for increasing wealth creation opportunities for underserved communities.

What Success Looks Like

Achieving success with this APG would mean an increase in the number of new small and disadvantaged businesses securing contracts with DOT. Accomplishing this goal would assist small and disadvantaged businesses in building capital, expanding business networks, and providing innovative solutions and expertise through DOT contracts.

Goal Target

	Achievement statement	Key indicator(s)	Quantify progress					Frequency
			Start value	As of (Date)	Target value FY 2024	Current value	As of (Date)	Update cycle
1	We will... Increase contract awards to small disadvantaged businesses to 21% by September 30, 2024.	USDOT direct contract dollars to small disadvantaged businesses (OSDBU)	18.2%	9/30/21	21%	20.24%	3/31/24	Quarterly

***Data retrieved from sam.gov on March 31, 2024*

Narrative—FY 2024 Quarter 2

Connections Marketplace: OSDBU created and kicked off the Connections Marketplace (CMP) series initiative in Fiscal Year 2022. Since the program kick off in February 2022, OSDBU has hosted 44 sessions with more than 4,945 small businesses participating. During FY24 Q2, OSDBU hosted 1 session – the 4th Annual Women’s Small Business Transportation Summit was held on March 12, 2024. The purpose of this virtual event was to celebrate women entrepreneurs and provide an opportunity for them to learn about technical assistance resources, capacity building, access to capital, and upcoming DOT initiatives. Over 850 participants registered for this event and 497 matchmaking meetings with small business were conducted. Through this virtual event, OSDBU provided an overview of the Federal contracting process, how to navigate DOT’s procurement forecast, upcoming opportunities, technical assistance, and available resources for small businesses.

Inaugural HUBZone Event: On February 21, 2024, OSDBU hosted “Small Business Summit: Roadmap to HUBZone Success.” The purpose of the event was to engage with HUBZone Certified Small Businesses with a day-long event focused on small business opportunities, matchmaking, access to capital and networking. There were 224 small business representatives in attendance and we facilitated over 450 matchmaking meetings.

BIL Funding Showcase: During FY24, OSDBU will participate in BIL project showcases across the country at multiple small business events to feature contracting opportunities for small businesses pertaining to the implementation of BIL-funded transportation infrastructure projects. These events will be supported by OSDBU staff, as well as USDOT's network of regional SBTRCs. Additional participants will include State DOTs, prime contractors, and capital providers.

Connect to Capital: The Connect to Capital initiative is providing the U.S. DOT Connect to Capital which was launched to provide a platform for Small Businesses and Investors to make continued connections. The impetus for the creation of The DOT Connect to Capital was a White House directive issued on July 26, 2022 to expand access to capital for Small Disadvantaged Business working on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law contracts by DOT and SBA collaborating to connect SDBs & DBEs pursuing or working on Bipartisan Infrastructure Law contracts to licensed Small Business Investment Companies (SBICs). The goals for the Connect to Capital initiative are – to provide an increased understanding of capital uses and access; as well as to establish relationships with private capital investors.

Women and Girls in Transportation Initiative: The USDOT Women & Girls In Transportation Initiative (WITI) offers participation in an internship program for young women from colleges and universities across the country. The WITI internship programs is administered through the department's Small Business Transportation Resource Centers (SBTRC) which provide resources, technical assistance, and outreach to all 50 states and U.S. territories. Each SBTRC is responsible for placing qualified female college students in transportation related internships

throughout their regions. 2024 marks the 15th anniversary of the WITI program. In April, the USDOT Mid-South Atlantic Region, Small Business Transportation Resource Center (SBTRC) is hosting a commemoration of the program in Atlanta, GA. Students are invited to learn about Securing Internships and careers in transportation.

Goal Team

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DOT Secretary

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Senior Leads

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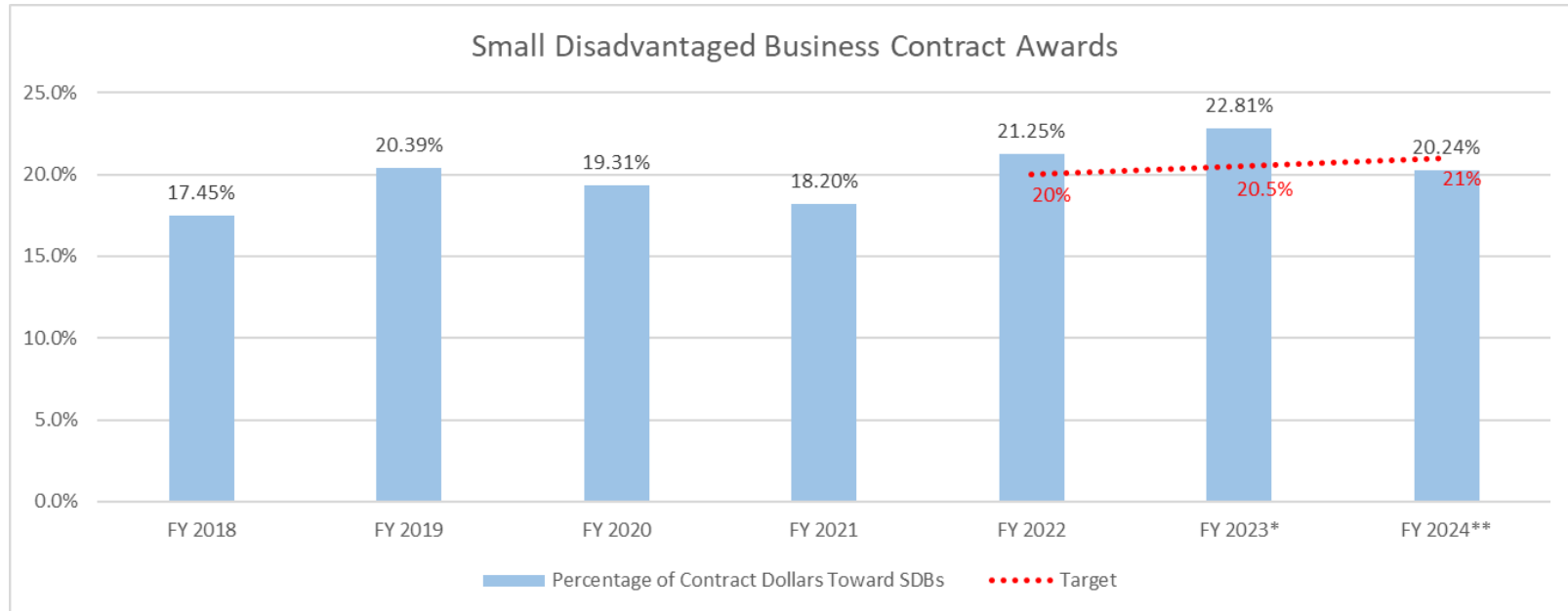
Marvin Poindexter
Director, Acquisition and Business Services (FAA)

Goal Strategies

- The DOT Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) will work with program offices to enhance procurement forecasting tools, ensure adequate training, and assist with vendor outreach and engagement.
- The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) will add an economically disadvantaged women-owned business set aside category to the Acquisition Management System (AMS).
- DOT will hold strategic conversations with internal stakeholders to target opportunities in the acquisition planning phases (as well as through the procurement forecasting activity) to highlight contract opportunities and increase small disadvantaged and minority-owned business participation. These strategic conversations will be conducted through forums including, but not limited to, the Acquisition Strategy Review Boards (ASRB), Strategic Acquisition Council (SAC), Acquisition Planning Working Group (APWG), and Procurement Management Reviews (PMR).
- DOT will target outreach to increase small disadvantaged and minority-owned business participation.

Key Indicators (SDB Contract Awards)

USDOT Direct Contract Dollars to Small Disadvantaged Businesses (OSDBU)



* FY2023 Data; Source: SAM.gov; considered preliminary until certified by the SBA.

** FY2024 Data for transactions between 10/1/2023 through 3/31/2024; Data retrieved on 4/18/2024; Source: SAM.gov

Key Milestones

Milestone Summary

Key Milestone	Milestone Due Date	Milestone Status	Change from last quarter	Owner	Comments
Connections Marketplace Program (CMP)	9/30/2024	On Track	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>FY 2024, Q2 Performance Period</u>: 2 events reaching 438 attendees. <u>Cumulative FY 2024 to date</u>: Hosted 5 events with 1,867 attendees and 1,352 matchmaking meetings. 	Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) Procurement Assistance Division	OSDBU kicked off the Connections Marketplace sessions in February 2022. Enhancements to CMP are in progress to continue making improvement to the utility of the site.
BIL Funding Showcase	9/30/2024	On Track	N/A	Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) Regional Assistance Division	Showcase events planned to launch in FY24.
Socioeconomic Group Annual Events	9/30/2024	On Track	<p>Hosted the in-person HUBZone event in February and the WOSB Event virtually in March. The WOSB event was the most widely attended CMP event to date with over 850 registrants.</p> <p>Planning for the SDVOSB event in November 2024 is underway.</p>	Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) PAD	No additional events will be hosted in FY24. OSDBU is planning the SDVOSB event in November 2024,

Data Accuracy & Reliability

Sources: Contract Action Report (CAR) reported in the [Federal Procurement Data System \(FPDS\)](#).

Statistical Issues: CARs are manually completed by contracting offices and are subject to data entry issues. The responsibility for the completion and accuracy of the individual CAR resides with the contracting officer who awarded the contract action. CARs in a draft or error status in FPDS are not considered complete. The CAR must be confirmed for accuracy by the contracting officer prior to release of the contract award. The CAR must then be completed in FPDS within three business days after contract award. The Senior Procurement Executive in coordination with the head of the contracting activity is responsible for developing and monitoring a process to ensure timely and accurate reporting of contractual actions to FPDS.

Completeness: Many Federal datasets are not disaggregated by race, ethnicity, gender, disability, income, veteran status, or other key demographic variables. Lack of data impedes efforts to measure and advance equity.

Reliability: DOT's dashboard tracks minority-owned business participation in DOT direct contracts, including contracts awarded to women-owned small businesses by race. The data sets include acquisition, procurement, and contracting data available through USASpending, FPDS, and related sources. The dashboard helps DOT leadership and acquisition practitioners to make data-informed decisions as DOT implements a variety of Procurement-related Executive Order activities.

DOT engages with the Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) and other systems experts in examining and improving processes to enhance procurement forecasting tools. The tools help

identify industries where minority-owned businesses are achieving success in securing DOT contracts and where their participation may be lower than expected.

Scope: The President has set a policy of using Federal contract spending to support small businesses and advance equity. In [Executive Order 13985, Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities through the Federal Government](#) (the Executive Order), the President directed agencies to ensure that Federal contracting and procurement opportunities be made more readily available to all eligible vendors and to remove barriers faced by underserved individuals and communities.

In the President's June 2021 speech commemorating the centennial of the Tulsa Race Massacre, he charged every agency to assess available tools to increase opportunities for small businesses and traditionally underserved entrepreneurs to compete for Federal contracts. He set a goal of increasing the share of contracts awarded to SDBs to 15 percent by 2025.

Closing racial gaps in wages, housing credit, lending opportunities, and access to higher education would amount to an additional \$5 trillion in gross domestic product in the American economy over the next 5 years. The Federal Government's goal in advancing equity is to provide everyone with the opportunity to reach their full potential. Consistent with this priority, each agency must assess whether, and to what extent, its programs and policies perpetuate systemic barriers to opportunities and benefits for people of color and other underserved groups. Such assessments will better equip agencies to develop policies and programs that deliver resources and benefits equitably to all.

Additional Information

Contributing Programs

Organizations:

- Office of Senior Procurement Executive
- U.S. Small Business Administration
- Minority Business Development Agency
- DOT Operating Administrations; Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Small Business Programs
- U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration

Stakeholder / Congressional Consultations

Our office has increased communication and engagement with national stakeholders, including chambers of commerce, trade associations, State and local governments, and other Federal agencies to enhance our outreach activities in support of the small business community. Also, FAA has issued a public request for information to improve small disadvantaged business access to contracting opportunities.