



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard

Saint Paul, MN 55155

February 28, 2013

The Honorable Frank Hornstein, Chair
House Transportation Finance Committee
471 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Linda Runbeck, GOP Lead
House Transportation Policy Committee
295 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Michael Beard, GOP Lead
House Transportation Finance Committee
207 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Scott Dibble, Chair
Senate Transportation and Public Safety
Committee
111 Capitol
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Ron Erhardt, Chair
House Transportation Policy Committee
543 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable John C. Pederson
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation and Public Safety
Committee
27 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155-1206

Dear Senators and Representatives:

In accordance with Minn. Stat. 174.03 the Minnesota Department of Transportation is submitting its Highway Construction Training and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program report for 2011 and 2012.

Over the past two years, MnDOT has demonstrated its continued commitment to transformational changes in civil rights contracting programs. MnDOT's Office of Civil Rights, which administers these programs, implemented organizational changes to better address the needs of Minnesota highway construction stakeholders and is working to fully integrate our efforts into the communities we serve. The DBE and Workforce Collaborative, established in the 2010 legislative session under Minn. Stat. 174.186, remains a flagship initiative for the Department.

The Collaborative is a critical component of MnDOT's civil rights in contracting programs. It brings together representatives of eight broad stakeholder groups including general contractors, DBE contractors, training organizations, unions, business/workforce advocates, non-union contractors/workforce, the Federal Highway Administration and MnDOT. While MnDOT is a member of the Collaborative, it is just one voice at the table. FHWA recently recognized MnDOT's collaborative model and its success in improving and strengthening the department's external civil rights programs with an Excellence in Program Administration award.

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This report outlines progress made as a result of the OCR reorganization, the Collaborative's efforts, increased enforcement, new training programs, revised special provisions and the work of stakeholders across the state. While work remains, the successes of the past two years indicate we are heading in the right direction:

- MnDOT exceeded its workforce employment on the job training goal of 70 during both of the past two years, with 127 minority and women on-the-job trainees on construction projects across the state in 2011 and 105 in 2012.
- Minority workforce participation on state, city and county highway heavy construction projects increased from 8.5 percent in 2011 to 9.1 percent in 2012.
- The participation of women in the highway heavy construction workforce increased from 4.5 percent in 2011 to 5 percent in 2012.
- DBE participation on federally funded transportation projects increased from 5.6 percent in 2010 to 7.6 percent in FFY 2011. It was 6.6 percent in 2012.

Please contact me with any questions you may have, or you may contact Mary Prescott at Mary.Prescott@state.mn.us (651-366-3150).

Sincerely,



Charles A. Zelle
Commissioner

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