



Minnesota Department of Transportation

395 John Ireland Boulevard
Saint Paul, MN 55155

September 4, 2015

The Honorable Tim Kelly, Chair
House Transportation Policy & Finance Committee
559 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 Frank Hornstein, DFL Lead
House Transportation Policy & Finance Committee
243 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

The Honorable Ron Erhardt, DFL Co-Lead
House Transportation Policy & Finance Committee
245 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: Highway Construction Training and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program report

Dear Legislators:

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 2013 and 2014.

For the next biennium, MnDOT's civil rights programs will continue to enhance strategies proven successful to grow the on-the-job training opportunities. We will work to gain more participants within the program as well as promote relationships between contractors and training programs to ensure OJT trainees have the greatest opportunity to achieve journey level status.

The DBE program continues to show impressive strides in overall performance despite falling short of the statewide goal. MnDOT remains committed to continuous improvement in these efforts and has retooled the Office of Civil Rights, increased training to develop staff, and maintained our relationship with the DBE & Workforce Collaborative to make programmatic enhancements to better serve Minnesota.

MnDOT's Office of Civil Rights created this report outlining the programs and progress made towards the goals for the Highway Construction Training program and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program.

- MnDOT's annual FHWA-approved On-the-Job Training goal was 70 trainees in 2013 and 100 trainees in 2014. The actual number of minority and women OJT trainees placed on projects was 148 in FFY 2013 and 126 in FFY 2014.

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- MnDOT's statewide DBE participation on federally funded transportation projects was 9.3 percent for FFY 2013 and 9.8 percent for FFY 2014, compared to a statewide annual goal of 10.3 percent for both years. This performance is a considerable improvement over the 6.6 percent in FFY 2012.

Please contact me with any questions you may have, or you may contact Kim Collins at kim.collins@state.mn.us or (651) 366-3150.

Sincerely,



Charles A. Zelle
Commissioner

