

October 13, 2017

The Honorable Paul Torkelson, Chair
House Transportation Finance Committee
381 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Linda Runbeck, Chair
House Transportation & Regional Governance Policy
Committee
417 State Office Building
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 Scott Newman, Chair
Senate Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
3105 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Scott Dibble
Ranking Minority Member
Senate Transportation Finance & Policy Committee
2213 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Connie Bernardy, DFL Lead
House Transportation & Regional Governance
Policy Committee
253 State Office Building
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: 2015-16 Highway Construction Training and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise 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 2015 and 2016.

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 the agency has increased training to develop staff, expanded resources for small businesses and maintained its relationship with the DBE and 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 100 trainees in 2015 and 150 trainees in 2016. The actual number of minority and women OJT trainees that participated in the program was 254 in federal fiscal year 2015 and 177 in FFY 2016.

- MnDOT's statewide DBE participation on federally funded transportation projects was 7.37 percent for FFY 2015 and 8.5 percent for FFY 2016, compared to a statewide annual goal of 10.3 percent for FFY 2015 and 11.7 percent for FFY 2016.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Charles A. Zelle". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Charles" being the most prominent.

Charles A. Zelle
Commissioner