



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Transit  
Administration**

**Headquarters**

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Washington, DC 20590

Dear Participants:

Thank you for attending the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) first ever National Advocacy Organization Roundtable. The event was a success because of your active involvement. To recap, we discussed the critical role of national organizations in the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal-setting process and ways to increase DBE and small business participation on FTA-assisted vehicle contracts.

If you were unable to attend the roundtable, FTA wants to include you in this ongoing dialogue. We have posted the roundtable webinar presentation, a non-exhaustive list of national organizations, and the contact information for each transit vehicle manufacturer's (TVM) DBE liaison officer at <http://www.fta.dot.gov/civilrights/12885.html>.

**What's Next?** All parties must carry the momentum from this event into the field and institute more meaningful consultation between national organizations and TVMs. Specifically, TVMs, as part of the DBE goal methodology due to FTA on August 1, 2014, must fulfill the public participation requirements and expose DBEs and small businesses to your contracting opportunities. National organizations, you must be willing to participate in the process and proactively engage vehicle manufacturers about their contracting opportunities. As for FTA, we will continue our efforts to improve the DBE program by hosting roundtable events, contributing to the DBE final rule and other Department of Transportation initiatives, firmly enforcing compliance and oversight measures, and producing additional DBE knowledge tools for all stakeholders.

It is important that all stakeholders, both customers and suppliers, work together in these efforts. FTA stands willing to assist.

Thank you for your continued participation and support of the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.

**FTA Office of Civil Rights**