



This edition of the newsletter contains information on how one DBE-owned business is faring in the COVID-19 influenced marketplace, how EOD's sections have been affected, and business-related information from sources we do not typically hear from.

Although there is current uncertainty, INDOT has not only continued its external operations, but increased them due to the dramatic lessening of road traffic seen early in the pandemic. This has resulted in increased opportunities to our DBEs as seen in the profile of JQOL below. Internally, INDOT quickly pivoted to a new model of internal operations, which required most of the staff to work from home. However, learning new ways of doing things has, in many cases, resulted in surprising and unexpected efficiencies that has often increased overall productivity.

INDOT's Economic Opportunity Division (EOD)'s stated goal is to ensure nondiscrimination in the award and administration of U.S. Department of Transportation-assisted contracts in highway, transit and airport financial assistance programs and to create a level playing field on which certified minority and women-owned businesses can fairly compete for USDOT-assisted contracts. We constantly work to educate our DBEs, prime contractors, and other INDOT divisions and streamline processes, while building relationships which help us to achieve this goal. Not only do we continue to meet our statewide DBE goal of 10.1%, this past report covering the period of October 1, 2019 thru March 31, 2020, but we achieved 12.95% thanks to the Race Neutral participation of our prime contractors.

In the near future, we plan to continue our webinar series with classes based on the results of our 2019 needs survey. Also, we are planning a webinar with IEDC, virtual networking events with our Major Projects Delivery Division, and a larger "Accessing Capital" webinar held in conjunction with our XBE partners. Look for notification of these events in the coming months.