

**AGREEMENT
BETWEEN
THE INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND
THE KENTUCKY TRANSPORTATION CABINET
CONCERNING
RECIPROCITY OF DBE CERTIFICATIONS**

Indiana EDS No. 0000000000000000000093158

This Agreement (“Agreement”) is made and entered into as of the date of approval by the Indiana Attorney General by and between the State of Indiana, acting by and through the Indiana Department of Transportation (“INDOT”), and the Commonwealth of Kentucky, acting by and through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (“KYTC”), collectively referred to herein as the “Parties” and individually as a “Party.”

WITNESSETH

WHEREAS, INDOT is the agency responsible for Indiana's certification of disadvantaged business enterprise ("DBE") firms and the operation of Indiana's DBE Program under the Unified Certification Program ("UCP") in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the State of Indiana, and KYTC is the agency responsible for Kentucky's certification of DBE firms and the operation of Kentucky's DBE Program under the UCP in accordance with the requirements of 49 CFR Part 26 in the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, INDOT and KYTC agree to help remove any potential barriers to the participation of eligible certified DBE firms by establishing a Reciprocal DBE Certification Program; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 49 CFR §26.81(e) and (f), INDOT and KYTC may, at their discretion, accept the certification of any other UCP, enter into written reciprocity agreements with other UCPs, or grant reciprocity to another jurisdiction's certification decisions; and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that reciprocal acceptance of certification of DBE firms in their respective states is mutually beneficial in their efforts to achieve the objectives of the DBE Program as they are stated in 49 CFR §26.1, achieve each state's DBE participation goals, and to facilitate the completion of significant transportation projects;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises, covenants, other good and valuable consideration, the adequacy and receipt of which are hereby acknowledged, and intending to be legally bound, the Parties agree as follows:

1. **Purpose.** The purpose of this Agreement is to:
 - a. Remove regulatory and administrative barriers which discourage participation by certified DBE firms in significant federally-funded transportation projects;
 - b. Increase opportunities for DBE firms;
 - c. Increase the utilization of certified DBE firms on federally-funded transportation infrastructure, construction and maintenance projects in the State of Indiana and the Commonwealth of Kentucky by allowing unimpeded certification reciprocity between the states' primary transportation agencies;
 - d. Work cooperatively with sister recipient agencies to assist in the achievement of their respective DBE participation goals; and
 - e. Reduce the cost of construction projects by increasing price competition amongst contractors.
2. **Term.** This Agreement shall be effective upon the execution of this Agreement by the Attorney General of the State of Indiana and shall terminate two (2) years from that date unless terminated early as provided herein. This Agreement may be amended in writing at the pleasure of the Parties. Following the completion of the initial two (2) year term of this Agreement, the Parties may, by mutual written agreement, extend the term an additional two (2) years, not to exceed four (4) total years.
3. **Early Termination.** This Agreement may be terminated by either Party for any reason upon forty-five (45) days written notice to the other Party. Such notice shall be delivered by certified mail.

If a DBE firm is utilizing this Agreement in its non-home state and is in the process of providing services on any project when this Agreement is terminated or expires under its own terms, the DBE firm shall be allowed to continue to work in its non-home state until the project(s) on which it is providing services ends.

4. **Reciprocity.**

- a. The Parties agree that Indiana and Kentucky DBEs certified in their respective home states shall be eligible to work as a certified DBE contractor or subcontractor on any job let by the non-home state's primary transportation agency without seeking further DBE certification on federally funded transportation projects.
- b. Each Party to this Agreement shall retain primacy over the administration of its DBE certification decisions. Each Party to this Agreement shall have the authority to cite, discipline or remove DBEs working in the state where the project is executed in accordance with its required performance standards. As out-of-state DBEs will not be certified other than in their home state, only the home state may remove the firm's DBE certification.

DBEs operating under this Agreement are subject to all policies, statutes and regulations, including the DBE regulations under 49 CFR Part 26, governing the execution of construction contracts of the state in which the work occurs.

- c. Each Party retains the right to make all final determinations concerning the DBE eligibility of firms in its own state.
- d. This Agreement does not grant interstate certification to DBEs. DBEs working under this Agreement will only be listed in the DBE Directory of their home state.
- e. Each Party retains the right to consider a bidders' use of the reciprocity exchange as one component of a thorough good faith efforts analysis.
- f. This Agreement does not amend, alter, or affect the power of either Party to remove the certification of a DBE in accordance with 49 CFR §26.87. Further, within its own discretion, each Party to this Agreement shall be responsible for pursuing necessary discipline, sanctions or removals (as well as any resulting administrative proceedings or litigation) against DBEs certified by that Party. Each Party shall bear all costs associated with such proceedings that occur in regard to DBEs certified by that Party.

If a DBE certified in both Indiana and Kentucky has its certification removed for cause by one of the Parties, the DBE may not use this Agreement to retain its eligibility to work as a certified DBE contractor or subcontractor in the state that removed its certification.

5. **Notification.** The Parties agree to notify the other monthly with a list of DBE firms involved in any completed investigation as well as any DBE firm that has been suspended or removed from the home state's certification list. The Parties also agree to

notify the other as soon as practicable when a DBE is subject to a complaint pursuant to 49 CFR §26.103 or 49 CFR §26.87 and when a DBE firm has been suspended pursuant to 49 CFR §26.88.

6. **Procurement.** Certified DBEs seeking work under this Agreement must comply with the procurement and bidding requirements of the state in which the project is executed.
7. **Prequalification.** The Parties agree and acknowledge that issues related to prequalification are a separate matter not addressed by this Agreement. However, each DBE firm must be prequalified pursuant to the requirements of the state where a project is located.
8. **Compliance.**
 - a. In addition to federal standards, DBEs must comply with all applicable local and state guidance, statutes, regulations and policies applicable to the work performed in the state in which the project is executed. Sanctions for non-compliance shall be at the discretion of the transportation agency in which the work is executed.
 - b. DBEs shall comply with the policies and procedures of the state in which the project is executed. Work performed by DBEs shall be monitored in accordance with 49 CFR Part 26, Subpart F.
 - c. Each state shall have the authority to remove underperforming DBEs who fail to meet the state's regulatory performance standards from a project. For any project, a DBE may be removed from the project in accordance with the performance standards and requirements of each participating agency.
9. **Communication.** The Parties shall share all documents and any updates thereto, pertaining to the operation of its respective program that may impact implementation of this Agreement. At a minimum, the communication shall include:
 - a. State regulations supplementing 49 CFR Part 26;
 - b. Communications pertaining to issues related to potential decertification;
 - c. Updated DBE Program Directory as soon as practicable, including names of DBE firms removed, suspended, decertified and withdrawals.
 - d. All communications with representatives of FHWA regarding the execution and operation of this Agreement;

- e. All information concerning an investigation of inadequate performance, wrongdoing, malfeasance, or other misconduct by a DBE working under this Agreement; and
- f. The results of the routine monitoring of DBE performance.

10. **Notice to Parties.** The Parties agree the following, or their successors, are the designated persons for each Party:

- a. INDOT

Elizabeth Kiefner Crawford
Director, Business Opportunity Initiatives
100 North Senate Avenue, Suite N758
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
Phone: (317) 650-1689
Email: ekiefner1@indot.in.gov

And with copy to:

Chief Legal Counsel and Deputy Commissioner
100 North Senate Avenue, Suite N758
Indianapolis, IN 46204
Phone: (317) 232-5012

- b. KYTC

Tony Youssefi
Executive Director, Office for Civil Rights and Small Business Development
200 Metro Street, 6th Floor West
Frankfort, Kentucky 40622
Phone: (502) 564-3601
Email: tony.youssefi@ky.gov

11. **Drafting.** No Party shall be deemed to be the primary drafter of this Agreement, and the terms of this Agreement shall not be construed against any Party as the drafter of this Agreement. Each Party is equally responsible for this Agreement's terms and conditions.

12. **Sovereignty.** The Parties have entered into this Agreement as sovereign entities and not as principal and agent or as a joint venture. Nothing herein shall be construed as consent by either state to suit in the courts of the other state, or waiver of that state's

sovereign immunity or rights under the Eleventh Article of Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

13. **Third party Claims.** This Agreement does not grant any rights to any party except the State of Indiana and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Nothing in this Agreement shall be deemed to create or give rise to any right of action in, or any liability to, any third party claiming to have suffered a loss, damage or injury by virtue of any alleged failure by either Party hereto to comply with the terms of this Agreement.
14. **Compliance with Laws.** The Parties agree to comply with all applicable laws of their respective states and with all federal laws.
15. **DBE Requirements and Nondiscrimination Assurances.** Pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, and the American with Disabilities Act the P covenants that it shall not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment relating to this Agreement with respect to the hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of the employee's or applicant's race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, disability, ancestry, status as a veteran, or any other characteristic protected by federal, state or local law. The Parties shall ensure that consultants incorporate similar requirements in all of their contracts for any of the work prescribed herein and will require all of consultant's subcontractors for any part of such work to incorporate such requirements in all subcontracts for such work.
16. **Funding Cancellation.** If either Party makes a written determination that funds are not appropriated or otherwise available to support continuation of performance of this Agreement, this Agreement shall be cancelled. A determination by the Director of the Indiana State Budget Agency or the Secretary of KYTC that funds are not appropriated or otherwise available to support continuation of performance shall be final and conclusive.
17. **Hold Harmless.** The Parties agree to exculpate and hold harmless each other and their officials and employees from any liability due to loss, damage, injuries, or other causalities of whatever kind, to the person or property of anyone arising out of, or resulting from the performance of this Agreement or the work connected therewith, or from the installation, existence, use, maintenance, condition, repairs, alteration or removal of any equipment or material, to the extent such liability is caused by the negligence of either Party, including any claims arising out f the Worker's Compensation Act or any other law, ordinance, order or decree. The Parties shall **not** provide indemnification to each other or to any other party.

18. **Unified Certification Program.** It is the intention of the Parties that this Agreement grant UCPs organized under 49 CFR §26.81 the discretion to utilize DBEs certified and in good standing pursuant to CFR Parts §23 or §26 for credit toward their individual goals.
19. **USDOT Approval Upon Execution.** Following execution of this Agreement, the Parties shall seek its approval by the United States Department of Transportation.

[REMAINDER OF PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK]

Non-Collusion and Acceptance

The undersigned attests, subject to the penalties for perjury, that the undersigned is the Contractor, or that the undersigned is the properly authorized representative, agent, member or officer of the Contractor. Further, to the undersigned's knowledge, neither the undersigned nor any other member, employee, representative, agent or officer of the Contractor, directly or indirectly, has entered into or been offered any sum of money or other consideration for the execution of this Contract other than that which appears upon the face hereof. **Furthermore, if the undersigned has knowledge that a state officer, employee, or special state appointee, as those terms are defined in IC § 4-2-6-1, has a financial interest in the Contract, the Contractor attests to compliance with the disclosure requirements in IC § 4-2-6-10.5.**

Agreement to Use Electronic Signatures

I agree, and it is my intent, to sign this Contract by accessing State of Indiana Supplier Portal using the secure password assigned to me and by electronically submitting this Contract to the State of Indiana. I understand that my signing and submitting this Contract in this fashion is the legal equivalent of having placed my handwritten signature on the submitted Contract and this affirmation. I understand and agree that by electronically signing and submitting this Contract in this fashion I am affirming to the truth of the information contained therein. I understand that this Contract will not become binding on the State until it has been approved by the Department of Administration, the State Budget Agency, and the Office of the Attorney General, which approvals will be posted on the Active Contracts Database:

<https://secure.in.gov/apps/idoa/contractsearch/>

In Witness Whereof, the Contractor and the State have, through their duly authorized representatives, entered into this Contract. The parties, having read and understood the foregoing terms of this Contract, do by their respective signatures dated below agree to the terms thereof.

STATE OF INDIANA

Signed by:


Lyndsay A.R. Quist - 00800 (for)
Lyndsay Quist
Commissioner
Indiana Department of Transportation

Date: 5/20/2025 | 8:59 AM PDT

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY

DocuSigned by:


9DC832F7B94544E...
Jim Gray
Secretary
Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

Date: 5/2/2025

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY

Signed by:



B681574AFBF664A9...

J. Todd Shipp, Esq., Special Assistant, Office of Legal Services

APPROVALS

Electronically Approved by: Department of Administration By: _____ (for) Commissioner <i>Refer to Electronic Approval History found after the final page of the Executed Contract for details.</i>	Electronically Approved as to Form and Legality: Office of the Attorney General By: _____ (for) Theodore E. Rokita, Attorney General <i>Refer to Electronic Approval History found after the final page of the Executed Contract for details.</i>
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Document Approval Status

SetID STIND
Supplier STATE OF KENTUCKY

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Agency Fiscal Approval

STIND/00000000000000000000093158:Approved

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Approved

✓ Michael Hopper-00800
Agency Fiscal Approval for SCM
05/20/25 - 1:14 PM

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IDOA Legal Approval

Approved  [Redding, Sandra-061-Procq](#)
IDOA Legal Approval for SCM
06/11/25 - 11:09 AM

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SBA Approval

Approved  **Gabriel Donnelly- 00057**
SBA Analyst Approval for SCM
06/17/25 - 2:01 PM

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Attorney General Approval

<p>Approved</p> <p> Rachel A Stark - 00046 Deputy Atty General Appr SCM 06/17/25 - 2:27 PM</p>		<p>Approved</p> <p> Adam J Harvey Inserted Approver 07/02/25 - 5:47 PM</p>
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