

Illinois State Toll Highway Authority

SPECIAL PROVISION FOR DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PARTICIPATION

I. POLICY STATEMENT

It is the policy of the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority (“ISTHA” or “Tollway”) that qualified and *bona fide* Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs), as that term is defined herein, have maximum feasible opportunities to participate fully in the performance of all contracts funded and administered by the Tollway. The Tollway seeks to ensure non-discrimination in the award and administration of its contracts and associated subcontracts and that it is not a passive participant in a discriminatory marketplace; to create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for its contracts; to ensure that its Special Provision is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law; to ensure that only firms that meet the eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs; and to help to remove barriers to participation of DBEs in Tollway contracts and associated subcontracts. Consistent with this policy, it is the responsibility of all Contractors for general contracting work and a specific condition of all Tollway contracts to which they are parties to ensure full and fair opportunities for DBEs to compete in contracts funded and administered by the Tollway and to fully comply with this Special Provision.

II. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Special Provision, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Affiliate of a person or entity means a person or entity that directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the person or entity. In determining Affiliation, the Tollway shall consider all appropriate factors, including common ownership, common management, and contractual relationships.

Broker means a person or entity that fills orders by purchasing or receiving supplies from a third party supplier rather than out of its own existing inventory and provides no substantial service other than acting as a conduit between his or her supplier and his or her customer.

Commercially Useful Function means responsibility for the execution of a distinct element of the work of the contract, which is carried out by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved, or fulfilling responsibilities as a Joint Venture partner.

Contingency Work is the anticipated work within the scope of the project which is included in the project to cover the work of such an uncertain nature that the location or quantity could not be identified prior to awarding the contract.

Core Work is the anticipated work within the scope of the project which is included in the project to cover the work of such a nature that the location and estimated quantity could be identified prior to awarding the contract.

Disadvantaged Business Enterprise ("DBE") means a business currently certified by the Illinois Unified Certification Program ("ILUCP") pursuant to 49 C.F.R. Part 26, or a business currently certified by the City of Chicago, Illinois or the County of Cook, Illinois, as a Minority or Women-Owned Business ("M/WBE") pursuant to its M/WBE program for construction contracts, Art. IV, § 2-92-650, *et seq.*, as amended, or a business currently certified by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) pursuant to the Small Business Act as an SBA 8(a) business, owned and operated by a socially and economically disadvantaged person. A DBE is considered to have current certification if the firm is listed in the directory database of the pertinent certifying agency.

DBE Joint Venture means an association of two or more persons, or any combination of types of business enterprises and persons numbering two or more, proposing to perform as a single for profit business enterprise, in which each Joint Venture partner contributes property, capital, efforts, skill and knowledge, and in which the DBE is responsible for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the project and whose share in the capital contribution, control, management, risks, and profits of the Joint Venture are equal to its ownership interest. Joint Ventures must have an agreement in writing specifying the terms and conditions of the relationships between the partners and their relationship, risks and responsibility under the contract.

DBE Utilization Plan means the list of currently certified DBEs that the bidder commits will be utilized, including its own participation as a DBE, if applicable, in the scopes of the work and the dollar values or the percentages of the work to be performed pursuant to this solicitation and in conformance with this Special Provision.

Good Faith Efforts means actions undertaken by a Contractor to achieve a DBE contract goal, which, by their scope, intensity, and appropriateness to the objective, can reasonably be expected to fulfill the contract goal.

Mobilization means preparatory work and operations necessary for the movement of personnel, equipment and incidentals to the project site for the establishment of offices, buildings and other facilities necessary for work on the project and for all other work operations which must be performed or costs incurred when beginning work on the project.

Regular Dealer means a firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials, supplies, articles or equipment of the general character described by the specifications and required under the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold or leased to the public in the usual course of business. To be a Regular Dealer, the firm must be an established, regular business that engages, as its principal business and under its own name, in the purchase and sale or lease of the products in question. A firm may be a Regular Dealer in such bulk items as petroleum products, steel, cement, gravel, stone, or asphalt without owning, operating, or maintaining a place of business if the firm both owns and operates distribution equipment for the products. Any supplementing of a Regular Dealer's distribution equipment shall be by a long-term lease agreement and not on an *ad hoc* or contract-by-contract basis. Packagers, manufacturer representatives, or other persons who arrange or expedite transactions are not Regular Dealers.

III. CONTRACTOR ASSURANCE

The Contractor makes the following assurance and agrees to include the assurance in each subcontract that the Contractor signs with a subcontractor. The Contractor, sub-recipient or subcontractor shall not discriminate on the basis of any protected category identified by law in the performance of this contract. Failure by the Contractor to carry out these requirements is a material breach of this contract, which may result in the termination of this contract or such other remedy, as the Tollway deems appropriate.

IV. DBE CONTRACT GOAL TO BE ACHIEVED BY THE CONTRACTOR

This contract includes a specific DBE utilization goal of [REDACTED]% of the Core Work of the contract. The goal reflects the estimated availability of DBEs to perform the scopes of work of this contract, including as a prime Contractor. Consequently, in addition to the other award criteria established for this contract, ISTHA will award this contract to a bidder who either meets this goal or who demonstrates its good faith efforts to do so. The participation of DBEs will be calculated on the amount of the Core Work, not Contingency Work identified in the bid documents. **The Contractor's DBE commitment will be assessed for any and all Extra Work Orders (EWO) and Change Orders (CO) at the time such orders are issued.**

V. DBE, M/WBE and SBA 8(a) LOCATOR REFERENCES

Bidders should consult the Illinois Unified Certification Program ("ILUCP") DBE Directory as a reference source for DBEs and the City of Chicago, the County of Cook M/WBE directories as reference sources for M/WBEs in construction certified by the City of Chicago or the County of Cook, or the Small Business Administration SBA 8(a) directory for SBA 8(a)s certified by the Small Business Administration. Only firms certified by the IL-UCP, the City of Chicago, the County of Cook, or the Small Business Administration **at the time of bid opening** are eligible to be considered for contract award to either meet the contract goal or establish the bidder's good faith efforts to do so.

These directories are to be used as an informational source only. Certification does not mean that a firm is in any way prequalified to provide the products and/or services in its certification specialty. "Certification" means that the ILUCP, the City of Chicago, the County of Cook, or the Small Business Administration has determined, on the basis of information provided and the representations therein, that a business is a *bona fide* DBE. The ILUCP, the City of Chicago, the County of Cook or the Small Business Administration does not, as a result of listing, make any representation concerning the ability of any listed firm to perform work in the specialty listed. The Tollway does not, through its use of and referral to ILUCP DBE, the City of Chicago, the County of Cook MBE/WBE, and the Small Business Administration SBA 8(a) lists, make any representation concerning the ability of any listed firm to perform work in its certification specialty. The bidder must conduct its own due diligence regarding the capabilities of certified firms to perform the work of the contract.

VI. BIDDING PROCEDURES

Compliance with the bidding procedures of this Special Provision is required as provided in this Special Provision prior to the award of the contract. The failure of the as-read low bidder to comply will render the bid non-responsive.

A. Submission of the Disadvantaged Business DBE Utilization Plan

A bidder must submit a Disadvantaged Business DBE Utilization Plan on ISTHA DBE Form 2026 **with the bid submission.**

The only exception to this requirement is the case where a prime bidder is also a DBE, is certified to perform a portion of the contract work as indicated on the DBE's Certification submitted at time of bid, and will meet the DBE goal via a self-performance requirement on the contract greater than or equal to the DBE goal for the contract.

Otherwise, if the DBE Utilization Plan is not submitted at time of bid, then the bid will be deemed non-responsive. If the bid is deemed non-responsive due to a failure to submit a DBE Utilization Plan or failure to comply with the bidding procedures set forth herein, ISTHA may elect to cause the forfeiture of the penal sum of the bidder's proposal guaranty, and may deny authorization to bid the project if re-advertised for bids.

The DBE Utilization Plan shall indicate that the bidder either has obtained sufficient DBE participation commitments to meet the contract goal or demonstrate and document its good faith efforts to meet the goal. The DBE Utilization Plan shall further provide the name, telephone number, email address and telefax number of a responsible official of the bidder designated for purposes of notification of DBE Utilization Plan approval or disapproval under the procedures of this Special Provision. If the bidder is a DBE Joint Venture, each Joint Venture partner must provide the attestation to the DBE Utilization Plan.

Any agreement between a Contractor and a DBE or other subcontractor in which the Contractor requires that the DBE not provide subcontracting quotations to other Contractors is prohibited.

The Utilization Plan must include a DBE Participation Commitment Statement, Form 2025, for each DBE proposed for the performance of work to achieve the contract goal. The signatures on these forms must be original signatures. All elements of information indicated on Form 2025 must be provided, including but not limited to:

1. The name and address of each DBE to be used;
2. A full description, including pay item numbers for DBEs or associated pay items for trucking services, of the commercially useful function to be performed by each DBE. Descriptions such as "miscellaneous" and prices such as "lump sum" are not acceptable. Contingency Work must not be included under Pay Items and will not be approved toward DBE goal participation until such time that those pay items have been confirmed as required work of the contract.

Direct Allowance items will not be approved toward DBE participation in the DBE Utilization Plan.

Mobilization costs should be included in the cost of the pay item for which it is associated rather than as a separate pay item on the DBE Utilization Plan, DBE Form 2025 for DBE subcontractors.

If the DBE is the Prime Contractor, the Mobilization pay item may be approved toward DBE participation in the DBE Utilization Plan.

3. The price to be paid to each DBE for the identified work, specifically stating the quantity, unit price and total subcontract price for the work to be completed by the DBE. If partial pay items are to be performed by the DBE, the Form must indicate the portion of each item, a unit price where appropriate and the subcontract price amount;
4. A commitment statement signed by the bidder and each DBE evidencing availability and intent to perform a commercially useful function on the project; and
5. If the bidder is a joint venture comprised of DBEs and non-DBEs, the Plan must also include a clear identification of the portion of the work to be performed by the DBE joint venture partner(s).

If the bidder is unable to meet the goal, it must demonstrate it made good faith efforts to do so, as described in this Special Provision and detailed in subsection D below.

The contract will not be awarded until the DBE Utilization Plan, including if applicable, the bidder's good faith efforts to meet the goal, is approved by ISTHA. The DBE Utilization Plan will be approved if it demonstrates that DBEs will be used to perform a commercially useful function sufficient to meet the contract goal, or that the bidder made sufficient good faith efforts, as defined in this Special Provision, to meet the goal.

B. Counting DBE Participation

The DBE Utilization Plan's DBE commitments represent work expected to be performed and paid for upon satisfactory completion. ISTHA is only able to count toward the achievement of the contract goal the value of payments made for the work actually performed by DBEs. The Tollway will count DBE participation, and the Contractor will receive credit towards meeting the DBE contract goal, as follows:

1. The entire amount of that portion of work that the DBE is certified to perform, as indicated on the DBEs Letter of Certification, and that is performed by the DBE's own forces either as the Contractor or a subcontractor shall be counted, including the cost of supplies and materials obtained by the DBE for the work of the contract, and supplies purchased or equipment leased by the DBE (except supplies and equipment the DBE purchases or leases from the prime Contractor or the prime Contractor's Affiliate). **Work that the DBE subcontracts to a non-DBE does not count toward the DBE goal.**

2. The entire amount of fees or commissions charged by a DBE for providing a *bona fide* service, such as professional, technical, consultant or managerial services, or for providing bonds or insurance specifically required for the performance of a contract, shall be counted, provided the fee is reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily charged for similar services.

3. One hundred percent of the cost of trucking services utilized on the contract shall be counted, provided the DBE is responsible for the management and supervision of the entire trucking operation for which it is responsible. At least one truck owned, operated, licensed and insured by the DBE must be used on the contract. Credit will only be applied for trucking activity to and from the ISTHA job site. Credit will be given for the following: (1) the DBE may lease trucks from another DBE, including an owner-operator who is certified as a DBE. The DBE who leases trucks from another DBE receives credit for the total value of the transportation services the lessee DBE provides on the contract. (2) The DBE may also lease trucks from a non-DBE, including from an owner-operator. Goal credit will be limited to the value of the reasonable fee or commission received by the DBE for trucks that are leased from a non-DBE.

4. When a DBE performs as a participant in a Joint Venture, only the portion of the total dollar value of the contract equal to the distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the Joint Venture's contract that is performed by the DBE with its own forces and for which it is separately at risk, shall be counted. A Joint Venture may also count the dollar value of work subcontracted to DBEs other than the DBE Joint Venture partner(s). Work performed by the forces of the non-DBE joint venture partner shall not be counted toward the DBE goal. The Tollway will evaluate the Joint Venture agreement, which must be submitted with the DBE Utilization Plan, for conformance with this Special Provision and eligibility for credit towards meeting the goal. The agreement must describe in detail the financial contribution of each partner; the list of personnel and equipment contributed and used by each partner; the responsibilities of each partner for each aspect of the joint venture; if applicable, the bonding capacity of each partner; if applicable, the prequalification status of each partner; the basis and distribution of all profits and losses; and any other elements deemed relevant by the Tollway.

5. One hundred percent of the cost of the materials obtained from a DBE Manufacturer, as that term is defined in 49 C.F.R. § 26.55(e) shall be counted towards the DBE contract goal. Sixty-percent of the cost of the materials or supplies obtained from a DBE Regular Dealer or Supplier, as those terms are defined in 49 C.F.R. § 26.55(e), shall be counted towards the DBE contract goal. One hundred percent of the fees or transportation charges for the delivery of materials or supplies required on a job site shall be counted towards the DBE contract goal only if the payment of such fees is a customary industry practice and are commensurate with fees customarily charged for similar services.

6. One hundred percent credit will be counted towards the DBE contract goal for the value of fees and commissions for the procurement of materials and supplies if the DBE is not a regular dealer or manufacturer, provided such fees or commissions are determined by the Tollway in its sole discretion to be reasonable and not excessive as compared with fees customarily allowed for similar services. No portion of the cost of the materials or supplies themselves shall be counted towards the contract goals.

7. If a firm's certification is revoked by its certifying agency during its performance on a contract, the dollar value of work performed under this contract with that firm after it has ceased to be certified shall not be counted.

If a DBE graduates from its respective certification program, based upon exceeding the firm size or personal net worth limitations after this contract is awarded, the firm's participation will be counted towards meeting the goal on this contract.

In determining achievement of the contract goal, the participation of a DBE shall not be counted until that amount has been paid to the DBE.

C. Demonstrating Commercially Useful Function

Only expenditures to a DBE that is performing a Commercially Useful Function shall be counted. To determine whether a DBE is performing a Commercially Useful Function, the Tollway will evaluate the amount of work subcontracted, industry practices, whether the amount the DBE is to be paid under the contract is commensurate with the work it is actually performing and other relevant factors. A DBE performs a commercially useful function when it is responsible for the execution of the work and is carrying out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved.

1. To perform a commercially useful function, the DBE must be responsible, with respect to materials and supplies used on the contract, for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity, ordering the material, and installing (where applicable) and paying for the material itself.

2. A DBE does not perform a commercially useful function if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction, contract, or project through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of DBE participation. In determining whether a DBE is such an extra participant, ISTHA will examine similar transactions, particularly those in which DBEs do not participate.

3. If a DBE does not perform or exercise responsibility for at least 30 percent of the total cost of its contract with its own work force, or the DBE subcontracts a greater portion of the work of a contract than would be expected on the basis of normal industry practice for the type of work involved, ISTHA will presume that the DBE is not performing a commercially useful function. When a DBE is presumed not to be performing a commercially useful function as provided in this section, the DBE and the Contractor may present evidence to rebut this presumption.

D. Extended Documentation Period for Low Apparent Bidders with a DBE Commitment Below the Advertised DBE Goal

Each Contractor identified as the low bidder who has a DBE commitment less than the advertised DBE goal shall be allowed, upon email notification from the Tollway, an extended documentation period which will extend until 5:00 pm CT on the second business day after the day the notification is sent (e.g. if a bidder is notified on Monday, extended documentation period concludes on Wednesday at 5pm). The extended documentation period allows Contractors solely to supplement their initial Utilization Plan to add DBE participation to meet the stated DBE participation goal or to demonstrate additional good faith efforts in obtaining DBE participation. The Contractor may take other action beyond any stated additional efforts in order to obtain additional DBE commitments. The Contractor shall submit an amended DBE Utilization Plan if additional DBE commitments to

meet the contract goal are secured by the end of the extended documentation period. If additional DBE commitments sufficient to meet the advertised contract goal are not secured, the Contractor shall report the final good faith efforts made during the extended documentation period along with a request for a waiver pursuant to subsection E of this section. All additional efforts taken by the bidder before and during the extended documentation period will be considered as part of the Contractor's good faith efforts.

The extended documentation period is intended to allow Contractors that have made a good faith effort to secure DBE participation an opportunity to meet the stated contract goal. Contractors are expected to have utilized good faith efforts in compiling their initial DBE Utilization Plan, and the DBE participation indicated in the initial DBE Utilization Plan should reflect the participation the Contractor could achieve through good faith efforts. The extended documentation period should not be used to secure significantly higher DBE participation only after being identified as the low bidder. In no case should a Contractor remove or replace a DBE listed in the initial Utilization Plan without prior written consent of ISTHA. Under no circumstances is the bidder allowed to change the amount of the core bid submitted or any other documentation unrelated to this special provision. When ISTHA determines that a Contractor, either through a pattern of conduct or with respect to a single bid, has failed to discharge its good faith efforts obligations in this intended fashion, ISTHA, in its discretion, may reject the bid outright without allowing the bidder to take advantage of the extended documentation period.

E. Good Faith Efforts Procedures

If the bidder cannot obtain sufficient DBE commitments to meet the contract goal, the bidder must document in the DBE Utilization Plan its good faith efforts to meet the goal, including any DBE participation secured as detailed in Form(s) 2025, using the Good Faith Efforts Contact Log and Checklist, DBE Form 2023. If the DBE contract goal was not achieved by a bidder, the bidder must submit its good faith efforts documentation, including the DBE Form 2023. Documentation submitted after bid opening, except as provided for in Section D above, will not be accepted or reviewed.

Demonstrating good faith efforts means that the bidder must show that all necessary and reasonable steps were taken to achieve the contract goal. Necessary and reasonable steps are those that could reasonably be expected to obtain sufficient DBE participation. ISTHA will consider the quality, quantity and intensity of the kinds of efforts that the bidder has made. Mere *pro forma* efforts are not good faith efforts; rather, the bidder is expected to have taken those efforts that would be reasonably expected of a bidder actively and aggressively trying to obtain DBE participation sufficient to meet the contract goal.

If ISTHA determines that the Contractor has made a good faith effort to secure the work commitment of DBEs to meet the contract goal, ISTHA will award the contract provided that the bidder is otherwise eligible for award and award is in the Tollway's best interest.

The following is a list of types of action that ISTHA will consider as part of the evaluation of the bidder's good faith efforts to obtain DBE participation. These listed factors are not intended to be a mandatory checklist and are not intended to be exhaustive. Other factors or efforts brought to the attention of ISTHA may be relevant in appropriate cases, and will be considered by ISTHA.

1. Soliciting through all reasonable and available means (*e.g.*, attendance at DBE Networking Sessions sponsored by ISTHA, pre-bid meetings, advertising and/or written notices) the interest of all DBEs that have the capability to perform the work of the contract. A list of certified DBEs in the trades considered to determine the contract goal may be provided by the Tollway, but should not be considered exhaustive, and other firms may be available for solicitation by the bidder. The bidder must solicit this interest within sufficient time to allow the DBEs to respond to the solicitation, but in any event, no later than 5 calendar days prior to the bid submission date. At least two methods of solicitation of DBEs must be used (*e.g.*, email and fax). The bidder must determine with certainty if the DBEs are interested by taking appropriate steps to follow-up initial solicitations.
2. Selecting portions of the work to be performed by DBEs in order to increase the likelihood that the DBE goal will be achieved. This includes, where appropriate, breaking out contract work items into economically feasible units to facilitate DBE participation, even when the prime Contractor might otherwise prefer to perform these work items with its own forces.
3. Providing interested DBEs with adequate information about the plans, specifications, and requirements of the contract in a timely manner to assist them in responding to a solicitation.
4. Negotiating in good faith with interested DBEs.
 - a. Making a portion of the work available to DBE subcontractors and suppliers and to select those portions of the work or material needs consistent with the available DBE subcontractors and suppliers, so as to facilitate DBE participation. Evidence of such negotiation includes the names, addresses, e mail address and telephone numbers of DBEs that were considered; a description of the information provided regarding the plans and specifications for the work selected for subcontracting; and evidence as to why additional agreements could not be reached for DBEs to perform the work.
 - b. A bidder using good business judgment would consider a number of factors in negotiating with subcontractors, including DBE subcontractors, and would take a firm's price and capabilities as well as contract goals into consideration. However, the fact that there may be some additional costs involved in finding and using DBEs is not in itself sufficient reason for a bidder's failure to meet the contract DBE goal, as long as such costs are reasonable. Also, the ability or desire of a prime Contractor to perform the work of a contract with its own organization does not relieve the bidder of the responsibility to make good faith efforts. Prime Contractors are not, however, required to accept higher quotes from DBEs if the price difference is excessive or unreasonable.
5. Not rejecting DBEs as being unqualified without sound reasons based on a thorough investigation of their capabilities. The Contractor's standing within its industry, membership in specific groups, organizations, or associations and political or social affiliations are not legitimate causes for the rejection or non-solicitation of bids in the Contractor's efforts to meet the contract goal.
6. Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining bonding, lines of credit, or insurance as required by the Tollway or the Contractor.

7. Making efforts to assist interested DBEs in obtaining necessary equipment, supplies, materials, or related assistance or services.
8. Effectively using the services of available minority/women community organizations; minority/women contractors' groups; local, state, and Federal minority/women business assistance offices; and other organizations as allowed on a case-by-case basis to provide assistance in the recruitment and placement of DBEs.

In determining whether a bidder made good faith efforts, ISTHA may take into account the performance of other bidders in meeting the contract goal or of bidders in meeting the goal on contracts of a similar nature. For example, when the apparent successful bidder fails to meet the contract goal, but others meet it, ISTHA will review whether, with additional reasonable efforts, the apparent successful bidder could have met the goal. If the apparent successful bidder fails to meet the goal, but meets or exceeds the average DBE participation obtained by other bidders, ISTHA may view this, in conjunction with other factors, as evidence of the apparent successful bidder having made good faith efforts.

A bidder that rejected a DBE based on price must provide to ISTHA all quotes received for the scope of work proposed by the DBE from all firms, including non-DBEs.

The bidder may request administrative reconsideration of a pre-final determination on its DBE Utilization Plan adverse to the bidder by filing a request within five working days after the notification date of the determination, by delivering the request to the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Diversity and Strategic Development Department, 2700 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515-1703, DBE@getipass.com, (630) 241-6800 ext. 3204. Submission via e-mail is acceptable. Deposit of the request in the United States mail on or before the fifth business day shall not be deemed delivery. The pre-final determination shall become final if a request is not received within the five-day period.

A request may provide additional written documentation and/or argument concerning the issue of whether an adequate good faith effort was made to meet the contract goal. In addition, the request shall be considered consent by the bidder to extend the time for award. The request will be forwarded to ISTHA's Chief of Diversity and Strategic Development. The Chief of Diversity and Strategic Development may extend an opportunity to the bidder to meet in person in order to consider all issues of whether the bidder made a good faith effort to meet the goal. Such meeting shall extend the time for a decision. After the review by the Chief of Diversity and Strategic Development, the bidder will be sent a written decision within 10 working days after receipt of the request for reconsideration or the date of the meeting, explaining the basis for finding that the bidder did or did not meet the goal or make adequate good faith efforts to do so. A final decision by the Chief of Diversity and Strategic Development that a good faith effort was made shall approve the DBE Utilization Plan submitted by the bidder and shall clear the contract for award. A final decision that a good faith effort was not made shall render the bid non-responsive. The administrative reconsideration procedures described in this section are not intended to allow a bidder to have an additional opportunity to submit a new DBE Utilization Plan or evidence of additional good faith efforts performed after bid submission.

VII. CONTRACT COMPLIANCE

A. Forms to be Submitted

All work indicated for performance by an approved DBE shall be performed, managed and supervised by the DBE executing the DBE Form 2025 - Participation Statement.

To receive a notice to proceed, the Contractor must submit for the Tollway's review signed subcontracts with all DBEs proposed to meet the goal within 20 calendar days of award.

A Contractor that seeks credit for the use of DBE trucking services must submit an affidavit attesting to compliance with this Special Provision for counting trucking costs on Form 2024. Form 2024 must be submitted when the contract is 25 percent, 50 percent, 75 percent and 100 percent completed. The Contractor must issue separate checks to trucking firms for each Tollway project by job number and associated pay item, not include multiple contracts on one payment.

B. Changes to the DBE Utilization Plan

The Contractor may not make changes to its contractual DBE commitments, substitute a DBE subcontractor or make any other changes to the DBE Utilization Plan without the prior written approval of the Tollway's Diversity and Strategic Development Department. Unauthorized changes or substitutions, including performing the work designated for a subcontractor with the Contractor's own forces, shall be a violation of this Special Provision and a breach of the contract.

If a Change Order or Extra Work order is issued by the Tollway or Contingency Work is authorized, the Contractor, in ISTHA's discretion, may be required to amend its DBE Utilization Plan to reflect the recalculated DBE dollars and any percentage change in the goal. The DBE contract goal may change in the Tollway's discretion to reflect a Change Order or Extra Work Order or the authorization of Contingency Work.

The facts supporting the request for changes to the DBE Utilization Plan must not have been known or reasonably could not have been known by the parties prior to entering into the subcontract. The Contractor must negotiate in good faith with the subcontractor to resolve the problem. If requested by either party, the Tollway shall facilitate such a meeting. Where there has been a mistake or disagreement about the scope of work, the DBE can be substituted only where agreement cannot be reached for a reasonable price or reasonable schedule for the correct scope of work.

Substitutions of a DBE subcontractor shall be permitted only under the following circumstances:

1. Unavailability after receipt of reasonable notice to proceed;
2. Failure of performance;
3. Financial incapacity;
4. Refusal by the subcontractor to honor the bid or proposal price or scope or schedule;
5. Material mistake of fact or law about the elements of the scope of work of a solicitation where a reasonable price cannot be agreed;

6. Failure of the subcontractor to meet insurance, licensing or bonding requirements;
7. The subcontractor's withdrawal of its bid or proposal; or
8. Decertification of the subcontractor as a DBE, other than on the basis of its exceeding firm size or personal net worth limits.

If it becomes necessary to substitute a DBE or otherwise change the DBE Utilization Plan, the Contractor must notify the Diversity and Strategic Development Department in writing of the request to substitute a DBE or otherwise change the DBE Utilization Plan. The request must state specific reasons for the substitution or change. A letter from the DBE to be substituted or affected by the change stating that it cannot perform on the contract or that it agrees with the change in its scope of work must be submitted with the request. Any refusal by the DBE to provide such a letter must be documented by the Contractor. The Diversity and Strategic Development Department will approve or deny a request for substitution or other change in the DBE Utilization Plan in writing within 5 working days of receipt of the request.

Where the Contractor has established the basis for the substitution to the Tollway's satisfaction, it must make good faith efforts to meet the contract goal by substituting a DBE subcontractor. Documentation of a replacement DBE, or of good faith efforts, must meet the requirements in Section VI.D. If the contract goal cannot be reached and good faith efforts have been made, the Contractor may substitute with a non-DBE.

If the Contractor plans to hire a subcontractor for any scope of work that was not previously disclosed in the DBE Utilization Plan, the Contractor must obtain the approval of the Diversity and Strategic Development Department to modify the DBE Utilization Plan and must make good faith efforts to ensure that DBEs have a fair opportunity to bid on the new scope of work.

A new subcontract, a new Form 2025 for the substituted DBE (if applicable) and an amended DBE Utilization Plan must be executed and submitted to the Diversity and Strategic Development Department within 5 working days of the Contractor's receipt of the Tollway's approval for the substitution or other change.

C. The submission of the DBE Payment Report

Form 2114, the DBE Payment Report, or such other form or format as specified by the Tollway, must be submitted as specified in the DBE Form 2114 instructions. Payment will not be accepted nor processed without a completed DBE Form 2114 as part of its submission as required.

The Contractor shall maintain a record of payments to DBEs and all other subcontractors and suppliers for work performed. The records shall be made available to ISTHA for inspection and copying upon request. After the performance of the final item of work or delivery of material by a DBE and final payment to the DBE by the Contractor, but not later than thirty (30) calendar days after payment has been made by ISTHA to the Contractor for such work or material, the Contractor shall submit a DBE Final Payment Report on ISTHA DBE Form 2115 to the Construction Manager. If full and final payment has not been made to the DBE, the Report shall indicate whether a

disagreement concerning the final payment exists between the Contractor and the DBE or if the Contractor believes that the DBE's work has not been satisfactorily completed.

ISTHA reserves the right to withhold payment to the Contractor to enforce the provisions of this Special Provision. Final payment, including retention, shall not be made on the contract until such time as the Contractor submits DBE Form 2115 in accordance with this Special Provision or as otherwise directed by the Tollway.

VIII. SANCTIONS

The Tollway will periodically review the Contractor's compliance with this Special Provision and the terms of its contract with the Contractor, including the DBE Utilization Plan. Without limitation, the Contractor's failure to comply with this Special Provision or its DBE Utilization Plan, failure to cooperate in providing information regarding its compliance with this Special Provision or its DBE Utilization Plan, or provision of false or misleading information or statements concerning compliance, certification status of DBEs, good faith efforts or any other material fact or representation shall constitute a material breach of this contract and may result in damages to the Tollway. Such breach or damages entitle the Tollway to declare a default, terminate the contract, impose liquidated damages or exercise those remedies provided for in the contract or at law or in equity.

Sanctions may include, but are not limited to, monetary sanctions, including non-release of retainage; the monetary cost of audits resulting in findings of noncompliance; liquidated damages based on the damage to the Tollway from the Contractor's lack of good faith efforts and failure to meet the other requirements of this Special Provision in an amount up to the monetary difference between the amount committed to by the Contractor in its DBE Utilization Plan and the amount actually paid to DBEs; deeming the Contractor non-responsible with respect to future business with the Tollway; and any other sanctions as are permitted by law.

In imposing sanctions, the Tollway will consider the *bona fide* efforts of the Contractor to meet the DBE goal, its history of good faith efforts on other Tollway contracts, the size of the contract, the degree to which the Contractor fell below the DBE goal, and other factors deemed relevant by the Tollway.

The Contractor may appeal the decision to impose sanctions within 5 working days of its receipt of the written decision by filing an appeal in hard copy or electronic format with the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority's Sanctions Committee. Actual delivery of the hard copy and electronic formats within the 5 business days is required and mere posting by mail within that period is not sufficient. An appeal may provide additional documentation and/or arguments and request an oral presentation to the Tollway's Sanctions Committee. The Tollway's Sanctions Committee shall notify the Contractor in writing of the final determination and the basis for the determination within 10 working days after receipt of the appeal or after the date of the oral presentation by the Contractor, whichever is later. The Contractor may appeal an adverse decision within 5 working days of receipt of the final determination to the Executive Director by filing an appeal in hard copy and electronic format to the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority, Executive Director, 2700 Ogden Avenue, Downers Grove, Illinois 60515-1703, DBE@getipass.com. The Executive Director or his/her designee, which designee shall not be employed within the Tollway's Diversity Department, may solicit information from the Contractor, the Diversity and Strategic Development Department, the Chief of Diversity and Strategic Development, the Law Department, Internal Audit, the Procurement

Department, and anyone else in his/her discretion, and shall render a final decision on the Contractor's appeal within 30 calendar days

IX. INACCURATE OR FRAUDULENT REPORTING

The Contractor has a duty to accurately report information pursuant to this Special Provision. A Contractor who fails to supply accurate information is subject to sanctions imposed by the Tollway. A Contractor who intentionally supplies inaccurate information may be subject to civil and/or criminal sanctions.

X. OTHER REGULATIONS

The adherence to the DBE goal does not abrogate other responsibilities of the Contractor to comply with affirmative action requirements under federal or state law, municipal ordinance, prevailing government regulations or terms contained elsewhere in the Contract.