Department of Transportation and Drainage
City of Baton Rouge
Parish of East Baton Rouge
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Baton Rouge LA 70802

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February 6, 2020

Re: MOVEBR SBO Participation

Dear Local Engineering Community,

To further promote a vibrant economy and a strong small business environment in East Baton Rouge Parish, the City-Parish established a Small Business Outreach (SBO) Initiative within the MOVEBR program management. Our goal is to support minority, women and veteran owned companies and provide them a clear path to doing business with the City-Parish. Early participation in our SBO outreach workshops and networking meetings has been robust.

From its inception, the MOVEBR Program was designed to positively impact all areas of East Baton Rouge Parish and it is our intention to aspire to a 20% participation by minority, women and veteran owned businesses. The program management team, through its SBO initiative, provides outreach, education and technical assistance to these firms to assure they are informed and prepared to participate.

However, from our initial round of proposals submitted to work on MOVEBR projects, it is evident the capacity of local small, minority, women and veteran owned companies is not yet being fully utilized.

If your firm is considering submitting to provide professional services on a MOVEBR project, I encourage you to look for opportunities to team with these small businesses. The MOVEBR program is the single largest infrastructure investment in the history of our City-Parish and will be the industry standard for excellence in delivering transportation projects. We must ensure meaningful small business participation to realize our objectives and build a strong local economy.

Sincerely,

Fred Raiford
Director
Department of Transportation and Drainage