



WISCONSIN
DOT

DBE REPORTER

2014 SUMMER ISSUE

A NEWSLETTER FROM THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY AND EQUITY COMPLIANCE

ZOO INTERCHANGE: Wisconsin's Oldest Interchange Under Construction



The Zoo Interchange is a freeway interchange on the west side of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. It was built in 1963, as one of the first Interstate highway projects in Wisconsin. It forms the junction of I-94, I-894 and US 45. It is nicknamed because of its proximity to the Milwaukee County Zoo. It is one of Wisconsin's oldest Interstate interchanges and is currently the busiest interchange in the state. The design of the Zoo Interchange was considered progressive for its time, featuring ramps on both the right and left sides of the roadways. This left-to-go-left, right-to-go-right scheme has since become obsolete, owing to the danger of merging into freeway traffic from the left. For this reason, plans for rebuilding the interchange include converting all the ramps to right-exit right-entrance ramps. Although WisDOT has maintained and rehabilitated the ramps, bridges, pavements and other structures, the interchange is nearing the end of its useful life and is in critical need of rebuilding.

WisDOT has coordinated closely with local and regional governments and agencies to develop reconstruction plans to meet the needs of the public. The overall goal for the Zoo Interchange project is to create a safer, more reliable transportation system to serve the state of Wisconsin. The goals for the design include: improving safety, reducing congestion, replacing aging infrastructure and outdated design, and investing in the future of Wisconsin's economy. The total expected cost is \$1.7 billion.



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Mission Statement: The Office of Business Opportunity and Equity Compliance (OBOEC) is dedicated to the assurance of civil rights and labor compliance, affirmative action, equal employment opportunity, and services for disadvantaged business enterprises for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation. It is the policy of WisDOT to support the fullest possible participation of firms owned and controlled by disadvantaged individuals in federal aid and state highway contracts within the state of Wisconsin. This includes assisting disadvantaged business enterprises throughout the life of contracts in which they participate.

Construction started in 2014 and will continue through 2018 because of the size and complexity of the project. In addition to the complete reconstruction of the I-894, US 45, and I-94 approaches and the interchange core as a four level system interchange, the project also includes improvements to service interchanges at North Avenue, Watertown Plank Road, Bluemound Road, 84th Street, HWY 100, and Greenfield Avenue, as well as major arterials HWY 100, Glenview Avenue and Watertown Plank Road. The core reconstruction is scheduled to take place from 2015 through 2017. The north leg of the interchange (US 45) is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2018.

A special Let for the Zoo Phase I project (Lincoln Avenue to Bluemound Road, 121st Street to 70th Street) resulted in two bid submissions by two joint ventures: Walsh/ZTI JV and Wisconsin Constructors II, LLC. The winning bidder was Wisconsin Constructors II, LLC at \$198,765,601. Wisconsin Constructors II consists of three Wisconsin companies: Lunda Construction, Michels Corporation and Edgerton Contractors. With \$48.5 million in federal funds on this project, it has an eight percent DBE assigned goal or \$16 million expected from DBE performance. As of September 15, 2014, the DBE committed amount is \$18 million, exceeding the DBE assigned goal by \$2 million.

Congratulations to Wisconsin Constructors II for winning the Zoo Interchange Phase I and exceeding the DBE goal. Mike Hanson, Vice President, Lunda Construction Company stated, "Wisconsin Constructors II and our highly capable team of subcontractors and suppliers are looking forward to getting started on the exciting Zoo Interchange Phase 1 project."

We also congratulate the subcontracting DBE firms listed below:

Arrow-Crete Construction: Ancillary Concrete
Cisco Distributing, Inc: Cast Iron Junction Boxes
Choice Construction: Iron Work
Con-Cor Company: Saw Cutting
Dolson, Inc.: Slotted Vane Drains
Interra, Inc.: QMP- Materials
Nuvo Construction: Ready Mix

Heider & Bott: Under drain and Pull Box Casting
Interstate Sealant & Concrete: Silane Joint Sealant
Arbor Green: Erosion Control and Overhead Sign Support Structures
Mega Rentals: Traffic Control/Pavement Mark and Crash Cushions

Each megaproject including the Zoo Interchange has a stakeholder advisory committee. The committees' purpose is to inform WisDOT of community's concerns and capacity while managing expectations. In addition, the committees' charge is to analyze opportunity to maximize DBE participation on each WisDOT megaproject. If you are interested in attending a megaproject stakeholder committee meeting contact Rosalind Roberson at (414) 438-2154 or Rosalind.roberson@dot.wi.gov to get your name added to the distribution list. The schedule below provides the location and meeting dates for each meeting.

Megaproject	Meeting Location	Meeting Dates
Zoo Interchange	DBE Support Services Office 6150 W. Fond du Lac Ave., Milwaukee, WI	4th Wednesday, Bi-monthly, 3:30 pm to 5:30 pm Next Meeting: November 26, 2014
US 41 Corridor	US 41 Project Office 1940 W. Mason St., Green Bay, WI	3rd Wednesday, Quarterly, 2 pm to 4:30 pm Next Meeting: November 19, 2014
I-39/90 Dane County	Strand Associates 910 W. Wingra Dr., Madison, WI	1st Wednesday, Monthly, 5 pm to 7 pm Next Meeting: November 5, 2014
I-39/90 Rock County	Community Action Inc. 20 Eclipse Center, Beloit, WI	1st Thursday, Bi-monthly, 4 pm to 5:30 pm Next Meeting: February 5, 2015

Judgement Day: Largest DBE Fraud Case in Nation's History

The verdict of the largest DBE Fraud Case in the United States History continues with the sentencing of former chief operation officer, and co-owner of Schuylkill Projects Inc., Ernest Fink Jr. and former president and co-owner, Joseph W. Nagle. The fraud spanning 15 years encompassed 300 contracts worth more than \$136 million. Fink received 51 months imprisonment and Nagel was sentenced to 84 months. Fink and his co-conspirators' executed the scheme by using a small Connecticut highway construction firm known as Marikina Construction Corporation as a front company to obtain lucrative government contracts. Early this year Romeo Cruz, owner of Markina Construction and two other collaborators in this scheme were sentenced to imprisonment and ordered to pay \$119 million in restitution and serve two-years supervised release.

In handing down the sentence, Judge Rambo stated *"DBE fraud is pervasive in the construction industry and persons so inclined to commit the same kind of fraud need to be aware that they face serious consequences from DBE fraud."*

Read the full news release from the [U.S. Department of Justice, Middle District of Pennsylvania](#).

WisDOT DBE NEWS

WisDOT's Strategy on DBE Fraud Prevention

DBE fraud cheats eligible hard working DBE firms their opportunity to compete and win highway construction contracts, develop their technical skills and enhance their professional business relationships. With cases of DBE fraud reported repeatedly in the national news one must ask the question, "What strategies does WisDOT engage in to prevent DBE fraud in Wisconsin?"

The initial check and balance for fraud starts with the DBE certification process. When an owner of a company applies for DBE certification, the owner must meet specific certification requirements such as demonstrating proof of social and economic disadvantage. The WisDOT DBE program certification experts look for fraud in documentation submitted by companies seeking certification and ensure that the eligibility requirements for DBE certification are met.

Aside from verifying that the company's annual gross receipts is less than \$23.98 million and its personal net worth is less than \$1.32 million, the DBE technical experts verify that the owner has operational and managerial control of the business with no limits or restriction, owns at least 51 percent of the business, and that the business is independent from other firms. Depending on the response to requested document submission, the certification process can take at least three months to include an onsite visit to the business location. Along with the WisDOT DBE certification experts, Federal Highway Administration-Wisconsin Division is committed to preventing fraud in Wisconsin by supporting the strong and focused WisDOT emphasis on meeting U.S. DOT certification requirements.



Michele Carter
DBE Program Chief

Continued on page 4...

WisDOT's Equal Rights Officers (ERO) who are responsible for certain elements of contract compliance on WisDOT's projects also work to detect fraud. Equal Rights Officers stationed in all five regions perform labor compliance duties, which include investigating and enforcing labor standards and prevailing wage complaints, auditing employer payroll records and communicating with employers to resolve violations. Equal Rights Officers are frequently called upon to provide expert opinion and consultation. If fraud is detected, they sound the alarm by contacting the DBE Office, project staff, and/or supervisor.

Another precautionary measure put in place to prevent DBE fraud is WisDOT's DBE replacement policy. This policy allows the prime contractor to replace an assigned DBE who might not be performing up to standard, or a firm that has conflicts when project schedules change, with another DBE firm that is ready, willing, and able to do the work. This will prevent the prime from doing the DBE firm's work in cases where the DBE is unable or not available to perform his/her subcontractual duties.

It will take everyone's involvement including the prime contractors, DBE firms, EROs, FHWA and the DBE office technical experts to work together to ensure it is not an on-going problem in Wisconsin's future. For more information on the WisDOT DBE Program certification process, DBE replacement policy and/or labor compliance contact John Franklin, Senior Certification Analyst at (608) 264-8721 or Jay Jerde, Labor Compliance Team Leader at (608) 267-7354.

WisDOT DBE CONSTRUCTION REPORT

WisDOT DBE Construction Summary Report Federal Contracts DBE Overall Annual Goal 11.9%	
Estimated Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2014 Federal Funds	\$537,595,128
FFY 2014 DBE Projection	\$63,973,821
Awarded Contracts Amount (Oct '13-Aug '14)*	\$1,063,928,712
Federal Contract Amount (Oct '13-Aug '14)*	\$504,905,274
Total DBE Committed	\$71,650,764
Total DBE Percent Committed (DBE/Federal)	14.19%

*Includes Zoo Interchange Special Let



Pictures are from the [Zoo Interchange Projects 511](#) Website

DBE PROFILE - CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

McDowell Construction Corporation

Sean L. McDowell is the president and founder of McDowell Construction Corporation and McDowell Affordable Concrete. With over 17 years experience, Sean prides himself on providing new asphalt and concrete construction, repair and maintenance services for government, commercial and residential customers in Southeastern Wisconsin. His companies use only the most up-to-date materials, products, techniques and equipment available. He constantly strives to improve the quality of his work and service to guarantee customer satisfaction.



Sean McDowell, President
McDowell Construction Corp and
McDowell Affordable Concrete

Sean is a three-time recipient of the Secretary's Golden Shovel Award from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for dedication to excellence in contract performance and demonstrating DBE expertise as a newly established small business. He has also received the Leadership Award from the Transportation Alliance for New Solutions (TrANS) program for courageous acts of faith in hiring graduates from WisDOT's labor development program.

Many of the TRANS graduates had the opportunity to work with Sean on many of his subcontracting projects with companies like Walsh, Zignego and Zenith Tech. His largest contract was over \$500,000 with Walsh Construction on the Marquette Interchange South Leg. When asked about his experience on the Marquette project Sean said, "It was not just a great opportunity but a learning experience that has help McDowell Construction grow as well as advance to become one of the best minority asphalt contractors in Southeastern Wisconsin."

Mike Dretzka, Vice President of UPI, LLC said, "We use McDowell Construction for a majority of our asphalt paving projects. He is always really reliable and accommodating, especially when I need something last minute."

David Bechthold, President of Zenith Tech, Inc. along with Vice President Scott Piefer agree that McDowell Construction does excellent work. David commented that Sean's company is handling a number of operations on their 45th Street project that include temporary asphalt, concrete curb and gutter, concrete approach slabs and earthwork (both excavations and backfill).



David stated, "What is nice with Sean is that our project manager can give him the schedule, and his firm responds quickly. They know what they are doing, are easy to work with, and perform with the tight schedules that this business brings. Sean's addition of McDowell Affordable Concrete makes his company extremely versatile."

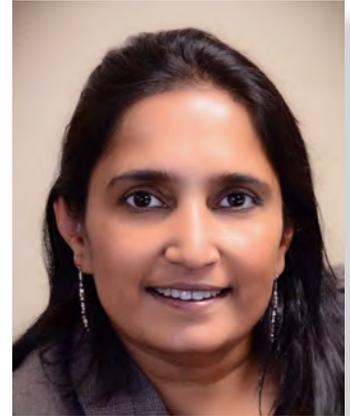
If you are looking for a reliable concrete and asphalt DBE subcontractor you can depend on McDowell Construction Corp. located in Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin. Contact Sean McDowell directly at (262) 395-4069 or sean@mcdowellcorp.com. His company website is www.mcdowellcorp.com.

DBE PROFILE - CONSULTANT SERVICES

M Squared Engineering, LLC

M Squared Engineering is a full service engineering and consulting firm that was founded in 2003 in Cedarburg, WI. Originally starting from one employee housed in an out-building in the back yard of a residential lot, the company now employs 11. September 2014 marks the 11th year in business. Since 2003, M Squared has grown to expand its capabilities, staff, and geographic presence throughout the Midwest. Its services include civil/site design, water resource management, transportation engineering, geotechnical engineering, technical support services and land surveying.

When asked about its services Minal Hahm, M Squared Engineering President, stated, "Every project leaves its mark on a community. We make it our priority to ensure that every community in which we have the privilege to work is improved. We accomplish this by continuously communicating with the key project stakeholders. Also, we compile the best team of engineers, planners and surveyors suited specifically for every project. M Squared Engineering has developed a reputation of providing high quality deliverables on every project. We continue to expand our services as we grow, thereby, improving our services to our clients."



Minal Hahm, P. E. CFM
President
M Squared Engineering, LLC

Some of M Squared's high profile projects include work at General Mitchell International Airport (GMIA), I-94 North-South Corridor (Construction and Design), Ozaukee County Fish Passage Program (8 sites), the US 41 corridor project in Green Bay, and I-94, I-90 and I-39 Flood Study for WisDOT. In addition, M Squared currently provides technical support services to DBE firms throughout Wisconsin and Illinois.

To do business with M Squared Engineering contact Minal Hahm at (262) 376-4246 or send an email to minal@msquaredengineering.com.



MEGAPROJECT DBE CONTRACTING UPDATE



Zoo Interchange Project
 Contract Execution to Completion: 2014 to 2018
 (Milwaukee County)

August 2014 Report	Construction Contracts	Design Engineering	Construction Management
Total Contracted Amount	\$215,361,564	\$99,108,091	\$15,959,629
DBE Contracted Amount	\$33,945,552	\$16,045,122	\$1,395,620
DBE Share	14%	16%	N/A
Total Paid Amounts	\$190,120,497	\$85,732,729	\$10,734,746
DBE Paid Amounts	\$24,786,023	\$12,382,899	\$977,386
DBE Share Paid	13%	14%	N/A



US 41 Corridor Expansion Project
 Contract Execution to Completion: 2009 to 2017
 (Brown County and Winnebago County)

August 2014 Report	Construction Contracts	Design Engineering	Construction Management
Total Contracted Amount	\$886,484,793	\$86,163,669	\$87,180,845
DBE Contracted Amount	\$70,952,225	\$18,342,795	\$38,245,631
DBE Share	8.0%	21.3%	43.9%
Total Paid Amounts	\$727,660,739	\$83,004,732	\$62,264,979
DBE Paid Amounts	\$61,326,787	\$17,297,176	\$28,403,816
DBE Share Paid	8.4%	20.8%	45.6%

MEGAPROJECT DBE CONTRACTING UPDATE



I-39/90 Expansion Project
 Contract Execution to Completion: 2015 to 2021
 (Dane County and Rock County)

August 2014 Report	Construction Contracts	Design Engineering
Total Contracted Amount	\$27,711,465	\$57,262,426
DBE Contracted Amount	\$1,301,692	\$10,045,754
DBE Share	4.70%	18%
Total Paid Amounts	\$19,197,075	\$33,240,830
DBE Paid Amounts	\$397,775	\$5,713,506
DBE Share Paid	2.07%	17%



Verona Road (US 41/151) Project
 Contract Execution to Completion: 2014 to 2021
 (Dane County)

August 2014 Report	Construction Contracts	Construction Management
Total Contracted Amount	\$26,251,882	\$1,703,909
DBE Contracted Amount	\$2,625,188	\$418,219
DBE Share	10.00%	25%
Total Paid Amounts	\$10,204,673	\$784,753
DBE Paid Amounts	\$790,130	\$243,664
DBE Share Paid	7.74%	31%

MEGAPROJECT DBE CONTRACTING UPDATE



I-94 North-South Freeway Reconstruction Project
 Contract Execution to Completion: 2008 to 2021
 (Milwaukee County)

August 2014 Report	Construction Contracts	Design Engineering	Construction Management
Total Contracted Amount	\$686,840,132	\$103,068,475	\$62,327,196
DBE Contracted Amount	\$125,904,710	\$29,655,106	\$15,453,929
DBE Share	18%	29%	25%
Total Paid Amounts	\$647,133,621	\$100,513,599	\$52,832,498
DBE Paid Amounts	\$121,280,728	\$28,671,979	\$13,917,358
DBE Share Paid	19%	29%	26%



Pictures are from the [Zoo Interchange Projects 511](#) Website

MEGAPROJECT WORKFORCE HOURS

	SE Region	NE Region	SW Region	SW Region
As of August 2014	ZOO IC	US 41	I 39/90	VERONA RD
Total Hours Worked	858,676	2,894,730	109,464	145,817
Total Minority Hours Worked	159,306	180,831	6,909	8,007
Minority Share	18.55%	6.25%	6.31%	5.49%
Total Female Hours	28,126	66,140	2,360	4,122
Female Share	3.28%	2.28%	2.16%	2.83%

BUSINESS MANAGMENT RESOURCES

WisDOT Design Opportunity Day

Annually, consultant firms on the [WisDOT's Roster of Eligible Engineering Consultants](#) are invited to present their design engineering qualifications and expertise to state staff in Madison, Wisconsin.

Design Opportunity Day will take place on March 12, 2015 in the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Center, 1919 Alliant Energy Center Way, Madison, Wisconsin.

Additional design and related services links:

- [Consultant design selections](#)
- [Consultant registration](#)
- [Consultant extranet](#)
- [Previous solicitations](#)



WisDOT Construction Fair

The Construction Fair allows firms on WisDOT's Roster of Eligible Engineering Consultants to present their qualifications and expertise in construction and related services to WisDOT staff from all five regions in a centralized location. The 2014 Construction Fair was held on September 23, 2014 at the Exhibition Hall at the Alliant Center, Madison, Wisconsin. The 2015 Construction Fair will be in September as it has been in previous years.



United States Department of Transportation

Procurement Forecast for Fiscal Year 2015

The Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization (OSDBU) is pleased to announce the availability of the Department's [Fiscal Year \(FY\) 2015 Procurement Opportunity Forecast](#). The Procurement Forecast is prepared annually in accordance with Public Law 100-656, to assist small businesses in planning their federal government marketing efforts. The FY 2015 forecast provides information on anticipated procurements over the simplified acquisition threshold and can be searched by quarter, industry category, Operating Administration and keywords.

OSDBU works with Small Business Specialists from each Operating Administration to ensure that adequate procurement opportunities are made available to small businesses. If you wish to discuss a specific opportunity on the forecast with a Small Business Specialist, please find their contact information [HERE](#).



BUSINESS MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

American DBE Magazine *HOT TOPICS*

- National DBE Certification Under Consideration
- 45th Annual NAMC Conference Celebrates Legacy
- Innovative Compliance Tools Help DBEs Succeed
- 10 Top Tips to be a Successful DBE Professional
- McHugh Pays \$12 Million to Settle Contract Fraud Claims

Read any of the above hot topics from the [American DBE Magazine Summer 2014](#).



U.S. Small Business Administration



Your Small Business Resource

Access to Capital for Underserved Wisconsin Markets Expanded

WWBIC, WHEDA Leverage SBA Loan Guaranty

Milwaukee, WI--With an innovative agreement aligning financing to small businesses, the Wisconsin Women's Business Initiative Corporation (WWBIC) and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority (WHEDA), are expanding access to capital by leveraging the U.S. Small Business Administration's (SBA) Community Advantage loan guaranty.

WHEDA is providing a one million dollar match of WWBIC loan dollars to small businesses as long as the deals meet WWBIC's criteria and have the SBA Community Advantage guaranty. This SBA program enables borrowers to access loans up to \$250,000 from community-based lenders, while its guaranty protects the lender in case of borrower default. WWBIC is one of four Community Advantage lenders in Wisconsin.

To read the entire article, go to: www.sba.gov.



NEW HORIZONS

Enhancing Partnerships & Creating New Opportunities

2014 Wisconsin Tribal Transportation Conference

Hosted by: Oneida Nation

October 20-21, 2014 | Radisson Hotel & Conference Center | 2040 Airport Drive | Green Bay, WI

To register for the conference, please [CLICK HERE](#) or go to <https://2014wttc.eventbrite.com>

Registration Deadline: October 10, 2014

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact:

Kelly Jackson, Statewide Tribal Liaison
Wisconsin Department of Transportation
kelly.jackson@dot.wi.gov
(608) 266-3761

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



SMALL BUSINESS ACADEMY

**AT MARKETPLACE 2014
OCTOBER 22 8:00AM – NOON**

A special half day program focused on providing entrepreneurs and start-up businesses an opportunity to connect with financial and technical resource providers, learn the tools needed to start and grow their businesses and network with other businesses.

POTAWATOMI CONFERENCE CENTER ~ 1721 WEST CANAL STREET, MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN
[AGENDA and ONLINE REGISTRATION](#)

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DIRECTOR: E. AGGO AKYEA
DBE PROGRAM CHIEF: MICHELE CARTER
Send comments to the DBE Reporter Editor: Rosalind Roberson at rosalind.roberson@dot.wi.gov