

1. Increase DBE goals in the central Illinois area to at least 10-20%. Majority of contractors and sub-contractors currently bid and travel 1-2 hours to perform work. Send out a survey and ask this question. **Individual contract DBE goals are established through the goal setting process pursuant to FHWA operational guidance as it relates to transparency and ability to support the assigned goal.**
2. What will the DBE goal be increase to? **The Department's overall statewide aspirational goal has not been finalized yet. It is still in the public involvement phase of the process.**
3. Increase more SBI projects. **IDOT Districts recommends as many viable SBI projects as possible each letting.**
4. IDOT lettings are highly competitive. What is the current data on African American DBE firms being awarded a prime contract in the Illinois regions and geographical districts? **See attached.**
5. What is the current data on the mentor protégé program in construction? **See answer in question #6.**
6. What has been the benefit of IDOT recommending DBE contractors to partner with the prime contractors on lettings? What is the data on this? **Mentor/Protégé partnerships are encouraged, however, result data is not tracked on non-Mentor/Protégé projects. IDOT has not had a successful M/P project in several years.**
7. It is very visible to the African American community the lack of African American representation on IDOT projects. **Please clarify and/or provide examples to support this comment.**
8. Can IDOT provide the data of the number of new African American DBE firms by business category? **See attached.**
9. Explain how the DBE goals will be increased on the bundling of bridge projects? **DBE goals are set through a structured process that complies with State and Federal laws. We hope to increase awareness about the these bundling projects and how DBEs fit in. We provide training and assistance with the expansion process only, not specific training for work items. We hope that DBE participation can grow as we expand the number of projects that are available for the DBEs to pursue. Rebuild Illinois and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law will significantly increase the number of projects that will be let and we need DBEs to play a big part in the delivery of these additional projects. DBE goals will not be increased on the bundling of bridge projects.**
10. Where are the reports on the outcomes and measurements for the African American DBE firms? **See attached FFY 2021 – 2018 DBE Summary Report**
11. The standards that African American DBE firms are being held to are not the same standards that non-DBE firms experienced. You can't get the experience if not afford a real opportunity to gain the experience. **Please explain and give examples. The Department does not have any information, history, complaints related to this statement.**
12. From my experience, IDOT does require firms to estimate, bid, manage, supervise projects. **For expenditures to count toward DBE participation, the DBE must meet the criteria set forth in 49CFR26.55(c)**