



**Metro**

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Metropolitan Transportation Authority

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**November 15, 2017**

**TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**THROUGH: PHILLIP A. WASHINGTON** *paw*  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**FROM: DEBRA AVILA** *Debra Avila*  
**CHIEF VENDOR/CONTRACT MANAGEMENT OFFICER**

**SUBJECT: DRAFT 2016 DISPARITY STUDY REPORT**

### **ISSUE**

A founding principle of Metro's Diversity and Economic Opportunity Department (DEOD) is to increase opportunities for minority and women owned small businesses. Periodically, a Disparity Study is commissioned to determine whether disparities exist for these small businesses and provide potential remedies. The most recent Disparity Study was completed in 2013. The current draft 2016 Disparity Study (Study) is complete and will be released for a 45-day public comment period, which will include three public hearings .

### **DISCUSSION**

The Study conducted by BBC Research & Consulting analyzed Metro contracting data over a five-year period from January 1, 2011 - December 31, 2015. The Study was conducted to determine whether or not there is continuing discrimination or its effects in Metro's transportation market and determine if disparities exist in the utilization of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (minority and women-owned underutilized groups) to support the use of narrowly tailored contract goals to remedy discrimination in the marketplace in the implementation of its DBE Program. The findings in the Study will be used to calculate the overall DBE goal analysis for Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2019-2021.

The public comment period will begin November 17, 2017. Metro will conduct three public hearings scheduled on December 6, 7, and 11, 2017, to be held at Metro Headquarters. Public comments will be accepted by US mail, electronically through the disparity study website and direct email, as well as, orally or in writing by attending a public hearing(s). Public notices and date of

hearings will be distributed via eblasts, published in minority and women-owned newspapers in various languages, through the Transportation Business Advisory Council and the Metro disparity study website. The public comment period ends on January 2, 2018.

The full draft Study report and public comment information can be accessed from the disparity study website link:

<https://www.metro.net/about/metro-disparity-study/>.

### **NEXT STEPS**

- Complete 45 day public comment period, inclusive of three public hearings
- Release final Study report - January 2018 (tentative)
- Present final Study report as Receive and File - January 2018 (tentative)
- Present Overall DBE Goal FFY 2019-2021 staff recommendation – March 2018 (tentative)