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INROADS

Paving the Way for Montana's Disadvantaged Business Enterprises

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DBE Program
Civil Rights Bureau
Montana Department of Transportation
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Solutions For Your Bonding Issues

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Small Business Administration**

As a small business, is your bonding limited, or are you having difficulty obtaining bonding? If so, SBA's Surety Bond Guarantee Program might be the solution to your dilemma.

The objective of this program is to provide and manage surety bond guarantees for qualified small and emerging businesses through a direct partnership with surety companies and their agents. SBA provides a guarantee to the surety company on bid, payment and performance bonds.

With the passing of the Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, the program was provided with some important revisions to assist small businesses. One of the most important revisions was to increase the guarantee amount on bonds from \$2 million to \$5 million, and up to \$10 million on federal contracts certified by the contracting officer. The guarantee amounts under the program are 70% for the Preferred Program and 80/90% for the Prior Approval Program. The small business pays a fee to SBA for the bond guarantee, which is approximately \$7.25 per thousand of the contract. Applications are submitted to the surety agent. With these new provisions, more small businesses will be able to compete for federal and state contracts.

In addition to the Surety Bond Program, SBA also has the CAPLines program that can help small businesses with contracting. The CAPLines loan is a line of credit designed for specific uses. The Contract Line of Credit and Builders Line are the two that are applicable to the construction industry. The Contract Line is used to obtain funds to perform on an awarded contract through a federal or state agency, and must solely be used for the labor and material costs of the specific contract(s) being financed. Proceeds cannot be used to cover overhead or general and administrative expenses. The Builders Line is used to finance direct expenses related to the construction and/or "substantial" renovation costs of a specific eligible project (residential or commercial buildings for resale), including labor, supplies, materials, equipment rental, direct fees (building permits, interim disbursement inspection fees, etc.), utility connections (above or below ground), construction of septic tanks, and landscaping. These loans currently qualify for SBA's 90% guaranty and can have a maturity of up to five years, which can be a great benefit, since the traditional line of credit usually matures every twelve months. For additional information on how SBA might be able to help your small business, contact the Montana SBA District Office at 406.441.1081 or log onto www.sba.gov.

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Disparity Study Info.

The Disparity Study that was conducted arrived at MDT on April 3, 2009. The study is being analyzed and reviewed. Results from the study will be out as soon as we have them!



Bid and Contracting Opportunities

MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MDT holds two bid lettings each month.

Proposed for letting May 28, 2009

UPN/UNIT	PROJECT ID	FINANCIAL DISTRICT	PROJECT DESIGNATION	TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION	LENGTH MILES
3833 000	STPP 13-3(4)83	2	SAPPINGTON JCT-SOUTH	RECONSTRUCTION – WITH ADDED CAPACITY	1.7
5188 000	STPP 45-2(8)38	5	HARLOWTOWN-SOUTH	RESURFACING-ASPHALT (THIN LIFT<=60.00MM) (SCHEDULED MAINTENANCE)	6.2
5853 000	HSIP 1-2(139)92	1	2003-SLOPE FLATTEN-W OF MARION	ROADWAY & ROADSIDE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	
5186 000	HSIP-STPP-STPE 4-2(26)54	5	LAUREL-NORTHEAST	ROADWAY & ROADSIDE SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS	3.9
4853 000	BR 9032(44)	1	MORRELL CR-EAST OF SEELEY LAKE	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT WITH NO ADDED CAPACITY	
4840 000	BR 9049(25)	5	SWEET GRASS CR-10KM SE MELVILLE	BRIDGE REPLACEMENT WITH NO ADDED CAPACITY	
5710 000	ARRA 16(73)	2	EAST BOZEMAN INTCH WETLAND MIT	ENVIRONMENTAL	
6517 000	ARRA 86-1(40)16	2	BATTLE RIDGE-N & S	RESUFACING – SEAL & COVER	4.4
4046 000	ARRA 3-4(13)101	3	19 KM NW OF GLACIER CO LINE-NW	RESURFACING-ASPHALT (THIN LIFT<=60.00MM)(INCLUDING SAF. IMP.)(PAVE PRES)	9.2
6268 000	ARRA 5802(12)	3	CUSTER-GREEN MEADOW-MT	RESURFACING – ASPHALT (THIN LIFT<=60.00MM)(INCLUDING SAF. IMP.)(PAVE PRES)	1.2
4138 006	ARRA-MT-PLH 323-1(29)35	4	40 KM S OF EKALAKA-S (PH III)	RECONSTRUCTION – WITHOUT ADDED CAPACITY	15.3

For further information on upcoming projects, visit MDT's website at:

www.mdt.mt.gov/business/contracting/upcoming_prj.shtml

Self-Employed Women Balance Work, Family Life, taken from www.sba.gov/advo

Self-employed women are able to spend more time with their children and families, compared to their wage-and-salary earning counterparts, according to a study released by the Office of Advocacy of the U.S. Small Business Administration. The study finds that self-employed women spend about 3.5 more hours per week in household activities than wage-and-salary earning women do, and six more hours than men do.

"Previous studies have established that women enter self-employment for reasons other than potential earnings and that life-style factors heavily influence their decision," said Shawne McGibbon, Acting Chief Counsel for Advocacy. "This study documents that self-employed women's time-use patterns are in fact different from those of wage-and-salary earning women. Self-employed women spend less time on work-related activities and more time on household activities and child care."

Advocacy released *Self-Employed Women and Time Use*, written by Tami Gurley-Calvez, Katherine Harper, and Amelia Biehl, at the National Women's Business Council's 2009 Women's Business Summit in Washington, DC. The report used data from the American Time Use Survey (2003-2006), sponsored by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau.

The authors found that the largest differences in time use between self-employed women and men were in the area of secondary childcare, where a parent is at the same location as the child but is primarily engaged in some other activity such as work or household chores. Moreover, they found that self-employed women also work about 10 fewer hours per week than self-employed men do. Interestingly, the authors also found that relative to men, higher-earning women are slightly more likely to enter self-employment than their lower earning peers are.



Remember...the summer season is right around the corner. Make sure you are watching out for the critters on the highways. Be safe and buckle up!

Montana Reinvestment Act

Montana Information Related to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

Generating Jobs with Infrastructure Investment

President Barack Obama signed a \$787 billion economic stimulus Act into law on Tuesday, February 17th, 2009. The Act will stimulate Montana's economy by creating or supporting thousands of transportation-related jobs and making long-term improvements and investments to our [highway](#), [public transit](#), [passenger rail](#), and [aviation](#) systems.

This Act provides over \$227 million for Montana's highway and transit transportation infrastructure. The Montana Department of Transportation (MDT) has identified 69 Highway Infrastructure Investment candidate projects as a starting point for the recovery effort which will more than meet federal requirements for obligating 50% of the highway stimulus funds within 120 days.

[Project List](#) | [Project Map](#)

Highway project criteria include:

- Project readiness
- Consistency with performance management tools
- Consideration of urban, rural, and tribal projects
- Consideration of geographic distribution, economically stressed areas, job savings or created, and project delivery

Priorities for Transit Capital Assistance funding are under review.

The Montana Department of Transportation is taking all necessary steps to ensure program transparency and encourage effective coordination with federal agencies, MPOs, Tribal Nations, transit providers and our many transportation stakeholders.

View the project list at:
www.mdt.mt.gov/recovery/docs/commission_approved_highway.pdf



What's with the DBE goal?

Calls come in daily regarding the DBE goal. Montana is currently running under a race neutral goal. Race-neutral is defined by the US DOT as:

Race-neutral measure or program is one that is, or can be, used to assist all small businesses. For the purposes of this part, *race-neutral* includes gender-neutrality.

What that means at MDT is that we have an overall project goal of 9.89% for DBE participation. We do not have project specific goals at this time. Other state agencies have other DBE goals and we are working hard to compile that information for you to distribute as soon as we can.

If, after the disparity study has been analyzed, the DBE goal needs to be changed, there is a period of public comment that will take place. We will make that information available as well.

Welcome, Recently Certified DBEs!

Lei Ann Cross
Absolute Contracting
Business Management

Lynn LeGrow
All-Green Services
Organic Pesticide Application

Stacey Robinson
Land Design Inc
Landscaping, Planning, Seeding

Navin Nageli
Navjoy Consulting Services Inc
Engineering

Julie Verellen
Gaston Engineering & Surveying Inc
Engineering

Lori Benner
Nittany Grantworks
Grant writing and management

William Morris
High Hill Howler
Drug Testing, Business Development

Wendy Stewart DBE Program Manager/Certifications	westewart@mt.gov	(406)444-6337
Shannon Hahn DBE Supportive Services Coordinator	shahn@mt.gov	(406)444-7287
Andy Hyatt-Marcucci Compliance Technician	ahyattmarcucci@mt.gov	(406)444-6331
Alice Flesch ADA Coordinator	aflesch@mt.gov	(406)444-9229
Bill Anderson Title VI & EEO Compliance Specialist	bianderson@mt.gov	(406)444-6334
Kathy Vert Acting EEO & Labor Compliance Specialist	kvert@mt.gov	(406)444-9270
Sheila Cozzie Civil Rights Bureau Chief	scozzie@mt.gov	(406)444-6335

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WHAT'S NEW WITH YOU?

Inroads, the Montana DBE Newsletter, is your tool to gain new ideas, meet new people, network with other businesses, blow your own horn, and move your business down the road to success.

- *Have you or an associate won an award or been promoted?*
- *Do you have an idea for an article, or would you like to have your firm profiled in the newsletter?*
- *Do you want to show off your contracting handiwork?*
- *Do you want to hire an employee or buy/sell a business-related item?*

Let us know what's new! Send questions, comments, ideas, photos, and want-ads to: Wendy Stewart at westewart@mt.gov or call (406)444-6337.

Meetings, Workshops, and Training Opportunities

May 7 DemocracyInAction Salsa Workshop
 Public Library Missoula, MT
 3 -5 pm
 How to get the most of Salsa. Great workshop to help you improve your organization's use of online organizing tools.
Free
 Contact: Jeannette Russell
 (406)880-5638

May 8 MATR Roundtable – (Making Money Online with Jesse Lakes)
 MonTEC Conference Room
 4:30 pm
 Are you maximizing the revenue potential of your website? While it's marketing your goods and services, is it also giving you a check or checks each month?
Free
 RSVP russ@matr.net

May 12-13 IEDC Business Retention And Expansion Course
 Missoula Hilton Garden Inn, Missoula, MT
 8:00 am
 Where economic development and business retention are today, customer relationship management and 1-to-1 database marketing
\$245
 Contact: Gloria O'Rourke
 Montana Economic Development Services
 118 E. Seventh St, Suite 2A
 Anaconda, MT 59711
 (406)563-5259

May 15 Staying On Top Workshop – Take Action on Opportunities
 Holiday Inn
 8 am
 Staying on Top is designed for the sole purpose of increasing profits for business and will cover an array of topics.
\$25
 Contact: Rebecca Engum
 mtsbdc.ecenterdirect.com
 (406)453-8834 ext 107

May 22 Patent & Copyright Legal Advice
 Montana World Trade Center – Gallagher Business Building, Suite 257, U of M Campus
 9 am to noon
 Receive legal advice on one of the most important subjects of business development.
 Contact: (406)243-6982

