



**WORCESTER REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY  
DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (DBE) PROGRAM  
In compliance with U.S. DOT 49 CFR § 26 FINAL RULE**

**WRTA DBE Objective / Policy Statement - § 26.1, 26.23**

The Worcester Regional Transit Authority (WRTA) has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), 49 CFR § 26. The WRTA has received Federal financial assistance from the DOT and as a condition of receiving this assistance, the WRTA has signed an assurance that it will comply with 49 CFR § 26.

It is the policy of the WRTA to ensure that all contracts and procurements will be administered without discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or sex. The WRTA ensures that Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (DBEs) shall have an equal opportunity to compete for and participate in DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy to:

1. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for DOT-assisted contracts;
2. To ensure that the DBE program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
3. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR § 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
4. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in DOT-assisted contracts;
5. To assist the development of firms that can compete successfully in the marketplace outside the DBE program.

The Grants and Compliance Manager has been designated as the DBE Liaison Officer (DBELO). The DBELO has direct, independent access to the Chief Executive Officer (Administrator) concerning DBE program matters. The DBELO is responsible for implementing all aspects of the WRTA DBE Program. The WRTA has adequate staff, (including procurement, finance, etc.), to administer the program in compliance with 49 CFR § 26.

WRTA has circulated this Policy Statement to its Advisory Board, throughout our organization, and to the DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work on our DOT-assisted contracts. Distribution has been accomplished via our website [www.therta.com](http://www.therta.com), inclusion with procurement documents, and through outreach to community organizations.

Passed and adopted by the Worcester Regional Transit Authority this 18<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2022.

  
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Dennis J. Lipka, Administrator, Worcester Regional Transit Authority