



**ZOO INTERCHANGE STUDY  
I-94 NORTH-SOUTH MITCHELL INTERCHANGE PROJECT  
SE FREEWAYS MILWAUKEE COUNTY URBAN DBE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING SUMMARY  
TOMMY G. THOMPSON YOUTH CENTER-640 S. 84<sup>TH</sup> STREET, MILWAUKEE, WI  
THURSDAY MARCH 26<sup>TH</sup>, 2009 4:30P – 6:00P**

**ATTENDEES:<sup>1</sup>**

**WELCOME-INTRODUCTIONS**

**Kimberly Stephenson -WisDOT:** Kimberly welcomed everyone to the meeting. She requested that everyone introduce himself or herself. Handouts were provided to each committee member upon registration and discussed after the introductions. Kimberly also reviewed the previous Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Advisory meeting accomplishments. She then reviewed the agenda for the evening and introduced the first speaker, Darius Wright.

**Darius Wright-Edwards Engineering Consultants, LLC:** Darius shared the history of his organization including the founder of the company whom he mentioned was a very distinguished African American man. His company provides both professional design services that include Plans, Specifications, and Estimates (PS&E) and construction management services. Darius stated that their first major project with WisDOT included Fon Du Lac Avenue in Milwaukee, Wisconsin (WI) in 1999 and 2000. Edwards Engineering is currently providing design services in Racine and Kenosha Counties for the I-94 NS Corridor project. Lastly, Darius stated that work in the industry is very competitive and that you are judged by your qualifications. **Thomas Rave-Gateway to Milwaukee** inquired about the selection and evaluation process at WisDOT. **Bill Mohr-WisDOT** stated WisDOT has a set of qualifications and require plans to be submitted at a 30% completion rate, which are then reviewed by both WisDOT and local municipalities included to ensure that they meet expectations. Bill also mentioned that there is the possibility that corrections may be made for plans or consultants to be replaced. **Tracy Gilliam-WisDOT** stated that firms are selected from a larger group and narrowed down to 3 groups for final selection.

**Jaya Sharma-4N Consultants, Inc.:** Jaya informed the Committee that she is a lawyer by profession and provides consulting services to WisDOT, Milwaukee County, and local airports, to assist with compliance of the federal law as it relates to civil rights. Jaya has worked with WisDOT on the Marquette Interchange (MChange) Project and is also assisting with the I-94 NS Corridor. She has provided legal assistance to small DBE firms on behalf of WisDOT. She also reviews Environmental Justice data and impacts for alternatives on the Zoo Interchange Project. Lastly, Jaya suggests that Committee member's work with WisDOT to become involved with mega projects.

**Mathew Tharaniyil-Bloom Consultants, LLC:** Mathew stated that his first major project was to write a handbook for WE Energies construction projects. He mentioned that he became involved with WisDOT as a DBE and eventually graduated from the program. Bloom

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<sup>1</sup> Please see attendees at the end of document.

Consultants, LLC now has offices in Milwaukee, WI; Green Bay, WI, Chicago, IL; and St. Paul, MN, offering consulting services to a variety of clients for transportation, architectural, industrial, municipal and private projects. Please refer to <http://www.bloomcos.com> for more information regarding this company.

**Dick Platt-Platt Construction, Inc.:** Dick stated that he started his company at the age of 21 in 1972 in Kenosha, WI. He moved the business to Milwaukee, WI in 1978 and provided tunneling services and road-paving services for the Mchange Project, which was his first mega project. Dick mentioned that WisDOT allows opportunities for growth. **Crystal DuPont-WisDOT** inquired what advice would you give someone who is starting a business in the construction industry? Dick suggested that one needs a good business plan, accountants, lawyers, credit, and cash. He also suggested that companies should not accept work outside of their company's capacity.

**Michele Carter, Civil Rights and Compliance Manager-WisDOT:** Michele mentioned that the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has financial assistance for bonding. She also stated that WisDOT would not recommend DBE's for work outside of their capacity. Michele stated Bid LET's are done on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month except in October in which more information can be found at the following website:

(<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/business/engrserv/docs/bidding/adv20090414022.pdf>)

She also stated that WisDOT looks for the lowest responsible bidder on LET's. Michele stated that DBE certification does not guarantee contracts; therefore DBE's must know how to be competitive. **Thomas Walker-** Wisconsin Transportation Builders Association (**WTBA**)

complimented Michele on her summary and stated that prime contractors as well as the DBE community are struggling to earn contracts and make a profit considering today's economy.

**Thomas Burse-Buveck Consultants** mentioned that the Wisconsin Department of Commerce offers grants to assist in developing business plans. Please refer to the following website for more information regarding assistance with the start up of a new business in the state of Wisconsin: <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us>

**Tracy Gilliam-Zoo Interchange Supervisor-WisDOT:** Do to time constraints Tracy will provide the Committee with an update at the next meeting. For Zoo Interchange Project update, please refer to the following website for information regarding the Zoo Interchange:

(<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/sefrefreeways/zooindex.htm>.)

**Bill Mohr-I-94 North-South Mega Manager-WisDOT:** Bill stated that construction has started and mentioned the groundbreaking event was held on March 24, 2009, which attracted 130 people with Governor Jim Doyle presiding. Bill announced the new website for the I-94 NS Corridor project which features information regarding closures, news, traffic, directions, updates, construction schedule, and much more at the following website: (<http://www.plan94.org/>) Lastly, Bill informed the Committee about the April 16<sup>th</sup> mandatory pre-bid meeting at the Tommy G. Thompson Youth Center, 640 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street, Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214 from 1-4 p.m. This meeting will allow DBE's an opportunity to network with prime contractors while gaining a better understanding of the project.

**Donna Brown-Zoo Interchange Study Director-WisDOT:** Donna reviewed impacts of starting as a DBE with WisDOT. She indicated that the next meeting would be on April 23, 2009. Michele Carter will discuss the Bid Letting Process and how to properly submit Bids to

WisDOT. In May of 2009 the education phase of the Committee will be completed and the committee will split. One group focusing on business concerns and the other group would be focusing on labor issues.

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**Monthly Meetings: NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, April 23, 2009

4:30-6:00pm

Tommy G. Thompson Youth Center, Banquet Room 2

640 South 84<sup>th</sup> Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53214

**ATTENDEES:** Roberto “Bob” Gutierrez- I-94 NS Corridor Project Director, Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT); Wafa Elqaq, WisDOT; Dewayne Johnson-SE Region Director-WisDOT; Donna Brown-Zoo Interchange Study Director-WisDOT; Michele Carter, Civil Rights and Compliance Manager-WisDOT; Rosalind Roberson, Labor Development Specialist-WisDOT; Patricia Reikowski-WisDOT; Crystal DuPont-WisDOT; Kimberly Stephenson-WisDOT; Roman Martinez-WisDOT; Andrey Moore-WisDOT; Marlina Williams-WisDOT; Jessica Gluckman-Mortenson Construction; Donna Eurick-USDOL; David Helton-USDOL; Kathy Lorrigan-USDOL; David Poppert-USDOL; Greg Lewis- St. Gabriel's C.O.G.I.C; Tom Rave- The Gateway to Milwaukee; Ola Baiyewu -First Choice Pre-Apprenticeship Training; Bill Mohr-I-94 North South Project Manager; Tracy Gilliam-Zoo Interchange Supervisor; David Harris-Local 113; Hector Lerma-United Migrant Opportunity Services (UMOS) INC; Samer Abulughod- Bid 40 ABGA; Leni Siker- SFS Group Ltd. Warner Jackson-Social Development Commission (SDC); Thomas Walker-WTBA; Earl Hill-Hill Monuments; Darius Wright-Edwards Engineering Consultants LLC; Jaya Sharma-4N Consultants, Inc.; Mathew Tharaniyil-Bloom Consultants, LLC; Dick Platt-Platt Construction, Inc.; Alicia Griffin-Serendipity Communications; David Guerrero-Leadership Solutions INTL; Wenbin Yuan-Dakota Intertek Corp.; Jake Barger-Marketing; Jerome Powell-JP Landscaping; Ugo Nwagbaraocha-Diamond Disks International