



## DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE POLICY STATEMENT

The Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA), a recipient of federal financial assistance from the Federal Transit Authority (FTA), has established a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) in accordance with regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT), 49 CFR Part 26. As condition of receiving FTA funding, COTA signed an assurance agreement that it will comply with 49 CFR Part 26.

It is the policy of COTA to ensure that DBEs defined in Part 26.1 and 23 have an equal opportunity to receive and participate in US DOT-assisted contracts. It is also our policy:

1. To ensure non-discrimination in the award and administration of federally-assisted contracts;
2. To create a level playing field on which DBEs can compete fairly for federally-assisted contracts;
3. To ensure the DBE Program is narrowly tailored in accordance with applicable law;
4. To ensure that only firms that fully meet 49 CFR Part 26 eligibility standards are permitted to participate as DBEs;
5. To help remove barriers to the participation of DBEs in US DOT assisted contracts;
6. To assist in the development of firms that can compete successfully in the market place outside the DBE Program.

COTA's Chief Diversity Officer has been delegated as the DBE Liaison Officer and in that capacity is responsible for implementing all aspects of the program. While the DBE Liaison Officer reports directly to the Deputy Chief Executive Officer, he/she has direct, independent access to the Chief Executive Officer on all matters concerning the DBE program. The requirements of the DBE program are accorded the same priority as compliance with all other legal obligations incurred by the Authority in its financial assistance agreements.

It is hereby directed that this DBE Policy Statement be posted for all COTA employees to read and be disseminated to all DBE and non-DBE business communities that perform work for COTA on US DOT-assisted contracts. This policy statement will be distributed electronically (i.e. COTA webpage) and included in all US DOT-assisted bid opportunities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Monica S. Jones".

Monica Jones, Chief Diversity Officer/DBELO

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joanna M. Pinkerton".

Joanna M. Pinkerton, President/CEO

2/05/24

Date